

Peer Gynt

By Henrik Ibsen

Play no. 115

Opening show: 01/06/1952

Hebrew by: Leah Goldberg

Directed and Designed by : Sandro Malmquist

Music by : Edward Grieg

Conductor: Fordhaus Ben-Tzissy

Choreography and Movement by: Gertrude Krauss

The Cast

ACT 1

Peer Gynt: Shimon Finkel

Aase, his mother: Shoshana Duar / Hana Hendler

1st Old Woman: Leo Filer

2nd Old Woman: Eliezer Plotnik

The Bridegroom: Shlomo Bar-Shavit

The Bridegroom's Mother: Tmima Yudelevitz

The Bridegroom's Father: Mordechai Bar

Aslak, The Smith: Ari Varshaver

Villager: Azaria Rapoport

1st Youth: Amos Aricha

2nd Youth: Eliezer Plotnik

3rd Youth: Uri Levinsky

4th Youth: Joseph Ben-Gal

The Cook : Joseph Rodan

Solveig: Miryam Zohar

Solveig's Mother: Ina Govinska

Solveig's Father: Yehuda Rubinstein

Helga: Batyia Kantor

Ingrid: Shoshan Ravid

1st Cowherd-Girl: Shafrira Zackai

2nd Cowherd-Girl: Uli Shoken

3rd Cowherd-Girl: Nelly Ben-Sofer

Helga: Batyia Kantor

A Woman in Green: Navah Shaan

The Dovre King: Haim Anitai

The Voice of the Boyg: Israel Becker

An Ugly Boy: Avraham Halperin

Kari: Rahel Timor

ACT 2

Peer Gynt: Shimon Finkel

Trumpeterstraale: Shraga Fridman

Herr von Eberkoff: Raphael Klatchkin

Monsieur Ballon: David Vardi

Mr. Cotton: Ari Varshave

1st Slave:

2nd Slave: Joseph Ben-Gal
Chief Eunuch: Leo Filer
Thief: Shlomo Bar-Shavit
Receiver: Amos Aricha
Anitra: Rahel Timor
Solveig: Miryam Zohar
Dr. Begriffenfeldt: Israel Becker
Huhu: Shmuel Segal
Hussein: Haim Amitai
Fellah: Shlomo Bar-Shavit
Keepers: Leo Filer, Amos Aricha, David Kalderon, Moshe Reiner

ACT 3

Peer Gynt: Shimon Finkel
Captain: Azaria Rapoport
The Watch: Avraham Ninio
Cook: Uri Levinsky
1st Mate: Eliezer Plotnik
Boatswain: Mordechai Bar
Passanger: Israel Becker
Aslak: Ari Varshaver
Mads Moen (The Bridegroom): Shlomo Bar-Shavit
A Representative of the Law : Yehuda Rubinstein
Solveig: Miryam Zohar
Button-Moulder: Ari Kutai
The Old Dovre King: Haim Amitai
Thin Man: Raphael Klatchkin

Peer Gynt, a youth of a small Norwegian village situated far in the north, lives with his mother Aase in a dilapidated cottage left them by his father, a spendthrift and Wayward man who had squandered all the wealth owned by this once very respectable family. Peer Gynt indulges in reveries, builds castles in the air and led by his fancies in often caught telling lies. His lofty dreams and aspiration to greatness, contrasting sharply with his humble state, bring upon him and his mother the mockery of their neighbours and their abuse. The fiery nature of Peer Gynt, embittered and vexed, often finds vent in quarrels and clashes. Only the women understand his world of fanciful cravings and are attracted by his poetic nature. "He was shielded by women" has been said of Peer Gynt. And indeed, were it not for the devotion of a mother and the loving faithfulness of a woman, he would have perished.

Ingrid from Heggstad farm, the prettiest and wealthiest of farm maids, has a passion for Peer Gynt who rapes her on her wedding day, only to abandon her soon afterwards, as he has fallen in love with Solveig, a maiden pure and fair, whom he met at the wedding ceremony. The raging fury of the villagers drive Peer Gynt from his homeland and he embarks on his route of wanderings which mark his way of life throughout the play.

His first steps land him in the kingdom of the "hobgoblins of the hills", the trolls, where he is forced to strike a bargain with the monster signifying the morbid element of human nature. Then comes his encounter with the Great

Boyg, the symbol of sinister forces driving man into vice. "Go round about" ordered Boyg, and Peer Gynt proceeds with his wanderings to cleanse himself of "insidious thought and deeds that are best forgotten". He leaves Norway and sails to America where the trade in negroes and idols makes him rich and prosperous. He reaches the North of Africa in the company of international speculators whom he intends to cheat but who succeed in double crossing him instead. Stripped of his wealth he wanders in the desert, appears to the natives as a prophet only to fall prey to a cunning young woman, Anitra, and she too deserts him after having robbed him of his jewels.

Peer Gynt, floating down the stream of time, finds justification in his mind to all the vicissitudes of his erring soul. In all his deeds, be they most abominable, he believes he is true to himself. In Cairo, at a lunatic asylum, he is confronted with the insanity of radical individualism; he meets people who have identified themselves with their hallucinations to the point of madness. But even this experience does not sober him. Thus he continues on his weary path and old, lonesome and cheated he returns to his native land. He has gone round about, as the Boyg has ordered, and has come back to the starting point. It seems as if he has come to nought. But the ever faithful love of Solveig who in her little cottage in the hills has been patiently waiting for him resotes the weary wanderer to peace and salvation.