

The Blue Bird

By **Maurice Maeterlink**

Play no. 118

Opening show: 06/10/1952

Hebrew by: Shimon Halkin

Directed by : Renato Mordo

Designed by: Dr. Paul Levy

Music by: Frank Pelleg

Choreography : Gertrud Krauss

Conductor: Fordhaus Ben-Zissy

The Cast

Tyltyl: Shoshana Ravid

Mytyl: Batia Kantor

Mother Tyl: Ba-Ami

Father Tyl: Yehuda Rubinsein

Fairy Berylune: Ina Govinska

The Bread: Slomo Bruck

The Fire: Shlomo Bar-Shavit

The Dog: Yehoshua Bertonoff

The Cat: Raphael Klatchkin

The Water: Pnina Perach

The Milk: Shafrira Zackai

The Sugar: David Vardi

The Light: Miryam Zohar

The Tree: Nira Soslavsky

Grandfather Tyl: Avraham Baratz

Grandmother Tyl: Tmima Yudelevitz

The Night: Hanna Rovina

The Rheum: Avraham Halperin

The Big Happiness: Menachem Beniamini

The Vulgar Joys: Yemima Ben-Gal, Eliezer Plotnik, Joseph Ben-Gal,
Uri Levinsky

The House

Happiness: Rahel Timor

The Houser Joys: Nira Soslavsky, Uri Shoken, Zvia Blechan
Haddassa Avni, Ahuva Inbari, Aviva Krakovsky

The Beautiful

Joys: Yehudit Amir, Shullamit Lavi

The Mother's Love : Bat-Ami

The Blue Child : Ada-Tal

The Lovers : Leo Filer, Yehudit Amir

The Inventor : Eliezer Plotnik

The Blind : Yoseph Ben-Gal

The Honest : Nira Soslavsky

The Brother : Avraham Halperin

The Time : Israel Becker

The Neighbour Berlingot : Ina Govinska

The Daughter : Miryam Zohar

The play may be considered as just a fairytale, which, reminds us to a certain extent of the story of "Hansel and Gretel". Two children, the son and daughter of poor parents, who work in the forest, walk about in the woods and – through many adventures – meet bad and good spirits, living in the forest, and in the end are saved from all dangers.

But in Maeterlinck's play we do not deal with just an innocent fairytale, although all its actions are in the form of a legend. The main idea of this play is a symbol. The children are looking for the "Blue Bird" and that bird symbolizes happiness, which no man can ever attain in all his adventures on earth, for happiness has its place in man's heart.

First Scene

The woodcutter's house, where Tyltyl and Mytyl, brother and sister, live. A neighbour enters, telling the children that her little daughter is ill and will not recover unless given the Blue Bird, that imaginary bird, which brings its owner happiness and gives him power over the forces of nature. The children have never heard of the bird and do not know where to look for it. Here it becomes evident that this meeting with the neighbour, as all the other scenes of the play, are taking place in the children's dream. Only at the play's end do the children awake from their sleep.

In their dream the old neighbour appears as a witch, but the children do not see her as a terrifying creature of the old formula, but as a good-natured fairy. She gives Tyltyl a hat containing a diamond, which while turning round reveals all objects in the house not in their everyday light, but in their soul's reflection. These souls of all the objects in the house and of the animals will help the children to look for the Blue Bird.

In the next scene we find out that this is not so easily done. Only the "Light" comes to their aid and the "Dog" also remains loyal. The "Cat" plots evil devices and turns hostile. She is afraid lest man find the Blue Bird and thus gain more power to rule the world.

The following scenes show the escort (except the "Light" and the "Dog") turns from our small heroes' side. Thus, by the poet's charming drawings, we learn the souls of the bread, the milk, the sugar, the fire, the water etc. In the beginning the children look for the "Blue Bird" in the "Land of Memory" then with the horrors and monsters of the "Night" further in the "Gardens of Happiness" full of brutal joys and beautiful ones, among them "Mother's Love", which appears as a fine and pure happiness, then the children come to the cemetery and continue towards the "Kingdom of the Future", where unborn babies await their turn to be born. In the end it becomes evident that the Blue Bird has flown away and disappeared. And yet the small neighbour recovers: Tyltyl and Mytyl have brought her great happiness by giving her an ordinary, small bird a gift of true love.