

# The Taming Of The Shrew

By William Shakespeare

Play no. 113

Opening show: 06/03/1952

Hebrew Version : Rephael Eliaz

Directed by : Julius Gellner

Designer: Joseph Karl

Music by: Fordhaus Ben-Tzissy

## Introduction

Christopher Sly, a tinker is found drunk by a nobleman who, for amusement, has him carried away to chambers and dressed up in rich clothes. To induce merriment a company of itinerant players perform before him this comedy of The Taming Of The Shrew.

## Part 1

Baptista Minola, a rich merchant of Padua has two daughters, the Elder, Katherina, is notorious far and wide as a Shrew while the younger, Bianca, is famed for sweetness. Bianca has many suitors, but her father refuses to admit a bid for her hand until he has a husband for the elder. Lucencio, a student from Pisa, falls in love with Bianca and resolves to change clothes with his servant Tranio, when overhearing Baptista's request to send his younger daughter school maters. He offers himself as a tutor. Meanwhile Gremio and Hortensio, disappointed suitors of Bianca, join forces to find a husband for the Shrew and in good time Hortensio find his friend Petruchio, come from Verona to seek his fortune, who agrees to woo her when hearing of her dowery, All three agree to defray his expense in wooing Katherina for the opportunity it may give them of wooing the younger sister.

When Petruchio succeeds, untaunted by her violent tongue lashing, to set his wedding day for next Sunday, Gremio and Tranio, playing for his master Lucencio, make Baptista promise to give Bianca to the one who can assure her of the grater dowery. Baptista agrees to accept the supposed Lucencio if he can present his father to vouch for the agreement. Tranio therefore starts to look for some one impersonate Vincentio, the real Lucencio's father. In the meantime Hortensio, masked as a tutor and Lucencio, also impersonating a tutor, try to get Bianca's encouragement and Lucencio wins. On the wedding day Petruchio. He "Madcap" carries away his bride in disreputable apparel, inspite of her violent protests, to his country house.

## Part 2

Once home, under the pretext of loving consideration for her, he curses the servants, throws the food because it is badly cooked, rejects some fine dresses and keeps her awake all night finding fault with the bed. As a result, poor Katherina is completely worn out and ready to do anything to keep her husband quiet. With the cure almost complete, the newly weds return to Padua, meeting on the road old Vincentio, Lucentio's father, on his way to visit his son. In Padua, meanwhile, Tranio bullies an old pedant into impersonating his mater's parent, so that the wooing of Bianca may thrive. When the true

Vincentio arrives he is confronted by the imposters. Fearing the life of his son, he is about to have them all arrested, when the real Lucentio appears with Bianca, with whom he has eloped, and receives his father's blessings. Hortensio, having lost his heart long ago, has meanwhile consoled himself with a widow and at the triple-wedding feast Petruchio demonstrates that his Kate is the most gentle and obedient of the three brides, by having her lecture the other two brides on the duty they owe their husbands.