

The Crucible

By Arthur Miller

Play no. 132

Opening show: 03/07/1954

Hebrew : Aharon Amir

Directed by: Abraham Asseo

Designed by: Tom Lingwood

Music by: Fordhaus Ben Zisi

The Cast

Reverend Parris: Ari Kutai

Betty Parris: Adina Feldman

Tituba: Shoshana Duer

Abigail Williams: Tova Pardo

Susanna Walcott: Beronike Gurari

Mrs. Ann Putnam: Nava Shan

Tomas Putnam: Shlomo Bruk

Merci Lewis: Rachel Timor

Mary Warren: Ada Tal

John Proctor: Nachum Buchman

Rebecca Nurse: Ina Govinska

Gilles Corey: Yehoshua Bertonov

Reverend John Hale: Israel Becker

Elizabeth Proctor: Miriam Zohar

Francis Nurse: Yehuda Rubinstein

Ezekiel Cheever: Menachem Biniamini / Shmuel Atzmon

Marshal Herrick: Itzchak Bareket

Deputy Governor Danforth: Shmuel Rodensy

Judge Hathorne: Albert Chizkiah

Act One

Salem, a village in Mass, in the year 1692.

The house of Reverend Parris, whose daughter Betty has been stricken by a strange illness. In the village it is rumoured that witches' spirit have harmed the child. Amongst those to visit the house, is a farmer John Proctor, who is more concerned with the stricken child's cousin Abigail, at one time in the service of his Household – where the two had had a love affair. Another visitor to the child's bedside is Hale, a Priest from Beverly summoned to question the girl, her cousin Abigail, and a Negro servant Tituba, in search of a cause of Betty's illness. The village has been engulfed in a wave of suspicion, talk of witches is rife and accidents, once taken at their worth, are now attributed to the doings of the devil. Feelings reach a new pitch with the admission of Parris by Tituba and Abigail of contact with the Devil. They blame village women for practicing witch-craft. Aroused, village authorities undertake an investigation and prepare for a trial.

Act Two

John Proctor's house on the outskirts of Salem;
Mary Warren, a servant in the Proctor Household, shatters the Household's calm. Returning from court where she gave testimony in the proceedings to determine the guilt of those charged with engaging in witch-craft, the servant girl tells anxiously of the investigation and arrests made in the village. Mary reveals that Proctor's wife, Elizabeth, has been named in court by Abigail as a practitioner of witch-craft. Hale arrives to probe the extent of the family's belief in the Christian faith. Minutes later a court clerk appears to arrest Elizabeth. The charge: practicing witch-craft.

Act Three

A room next to the court-room in Salem:
Sessions are under way as John Proctor and Mary Warren arrive. Proctor informs the court that Mary desires to give testimony. Mary startles the court with her revelation that she, and the other girls had spoken fabrications. Proctor substantiating the servant girl's testimony, admits to his love affair with Abigail and attributes the girl's testimony to the jealousy of Elizabeth. Though facing punishment for alleged witch-craft, Elizabeth conceals her husband's affection for Abigail attempting to protect his honour. This frightens Mary and after she confesses Proctor is arrested.

Act Four

A cell in Salem prison, three months later;
In a move to avert the death sentence for the witch-craft suspects, Deputy Governor, Danforth, summoned to the prison, joins the two priests Parris and Hale in a final plea to Proctor urging him to confess his dealings with the Devil and thereby avoid hanging. After considerable pleading, including a visit with Elizabeth, Proctor is persuaded to sign a false confession intended to save him from the gallows. Only the appearance of Rebecca Nurse haughty and determined, moves Proctor to reverse his decision to bear false witness against himself. Indignantly he rips the confession to shreds, and faces a hangman's noose at dawn.