

The Living Corpse

By L. N. Tolstoy

Play no. 128

Opening show: 09/01/1954

Hebrew : Leah Goldberg

Directed by: Israel Becker

Designed by: Genia Berger

Music by: Joseph Kaminski

Conducted by: Zvi Rozen

The Cast

Anna Pavlovna: Bat-Ami

Sacha: Ada Tal

Servant: Naava Shan

Victor Karenin: Alvin Epstein

Liza: Miriam Zohar

Feodor Protasov: Ari Kutai

Ivan Pertrvitch: Shmuel Rodensky

Korotkov: Avraham Hizkiahu

Afremov: Avram Aviram

Masha: Pnina Perach

Ivan Makarovitch: Yehuda Rubinstein

Anastasia Ivanovna: Shoshana Duer

A Young Gipsy: Zvi Borodovski

A D. Karenina : Tamar Robbins

Prince Abreskov: Yehuda Bertonov

Footman : Yoel Silberg

Petrushkov: Avraham Hizkiahu

Artemov: Itzchak Bareket

Investigator: Ari Varshaver

Clerk: Joseph Rodan

Guard: Zvi Borodovski

Petrushin : Yehuda Rubinstein

A Woman : Nava Shan

A Young Lawyer : Yoel Silberg

Gipsy chorus:

Aliza Plotnik, Rachel Harzaz, Esther Izchaki, Yonah Keren, Simcha Wasserman, Zvi Borodovski, Yokhanan Perles.

Act 1

Scene I

Fedia Protasov's home. The play opens after Fedia has abandoned his home and wife, Liza, when her attempt to bring him back calls in Victor Karenin, an old friend of the family, and gives him a letter to deliver to Fedia. Karenin, although in love with Liza himself, promises to do all he can. Liza's mother, Anna Pavlovna, openly favours a break with Fedia and marriage to Karenin, and is infuriated by Liza's faithfulness to her husband.

Scene II

A Gipsy tavern. Drinking and music continue through the night as Fedia makes love to Masha, a gipsy girl. Karenin appears, delivers Liza's letter and then tries to convince Fedia who refuses to return.

Act 2

Scene I

At the home of Karenin's mother. She is opposed to marriage between her son and Liza, who hopes to divorce Fedia, and calls in an old friend, Prince Abreskov, for his advice. The prince, after having spoken to Victor, believes the marriage inevitable. Liza arrives for a first meeting with Victor's mother who, favourably impressed by Liza, finally agrees to the union.

Scene II

Masha comes to Fedia in his hotel room, but her parents have followed her and drag her away by force. Prince Abreskov, who has come to sound out Fedia's feelings for Liza, witnesses this scene. Later Fedia agrees to a divorce but is unwilling to take upon himself the guilt of the false charges necessary to obtain it. Abreskov leaves and Fedia decides to commit suicide and thus free Liza. Masha returns in time to stop him and convinces him to feign suicide by leaving his clothes on the river bank and then going away with her.

Act 3

Scene I

Two years later. Fedia drunk in the back street bar, tells the story of this disappearance to his friend, the painter Petushkov. Artemov eavesdrops on the conversation and after failing to extort money from Fedia, betrays him to the police.

Scene II

The investigator's office. Liza and Victor, husband and wife now for two years, are accused of having married knowing that Fedia was still alive.

Scene III

The vestibule of the court. During a recess in the trial Fedia, realizing that he is bringing disaster to Liza and Victor, shoots himself to make them finally free.