

# Maayanna

By Moshe Politi

**Play no. 143**

**Opening show: 21/01/1956**

**Hebrew by:** Chaim Guri

**Directed by:** Israel Becker

**Design by:** Yosef Carl

**Setting and Sculpture:** Baruch Kadari

**Music:** Gary Bertini

Cast

**Alexander:** Aharon Meskin

**Chaim:** Shraga Fridma / Shmuel Rudensky

**Shlomo:** Albert Chizkiyahu

**Carmela:** Bat-Ami

**Amos:** Yosef Banay

**Ruti:** Yona Atari

**Rivka:** Shoshana Duer / Nyura Shein

**Maayanna:** Henya Suchar

## Act 1

### Scene 1

Alexander, a sculptor and a veteran member of the kibbutz, has completed a new statue which he calls Maayanna. He refuses to show it to the two friends who call on him, and invites them to return the next day.

Carmela, Alexander's friend of many years standing, tries to encourage him by reminding him that his work has always been liked by the members of the kibbutz since it always symbolized the strength and heroism of man and society. Alexander confesses to her that in all his previous work there had always been something lacking that he could not express, something of the joy of life without which the whole truth could not be revealed, Alexander shows Carmella the statue which he has just finished. Carmella is shocked. She accuses him of having betrayed all the values and common ideals of the group by creating the image of a woman who is utterly different from the women of the kibbutz whom he should have represented. Alexander, mortified, asks Carmella to go. Amos and Ruthie come in. Ruthie makes it evident that while serving as model for Alexander she had fallen in love with him. But Alexander rejects the love of the young girl.

### Scene 2

The members of the kibbutz give a party in honour of the dedication of the statue. Alexander tries to tell them that he has nothing to show them. Carmella attempts to help him by telling the members that Alexander regrets having made the statue because it does not represent the pioneering spirit and puritanism of the kibbutz. Alexander shows them the statue which

bewilders them, as it had done Carmella. Chaim tells Alexander that hitherto the sculptor has answered questions in his creation. With this statue he had posed a question that could not be answered. He had produced an image that was alien and immoral from their point of view. Left alone, Alexander decides to destroy the statue. At that moment Naayanna's jar fails.

### **Scene 3**

And Maayanna comes to life. She urges Alexander to share with her the joy of life which he had lost. When he refuses she complains that she has appeared too late, and when Amos comes in she suggests that he go with her.

### **Scene 4**

The members of the kibbutz are gathered in front of Rivka's house and are discussing the statue. Should it be permitted to adorn their new House of Culture? Alexander appears and announces that his previous statue have been destroyed. Amos, suspected by Alexander of having broken his sculptures, bitterly protests against the conservation of the older generation.

### **Scene 5**

Maayanna tries to persuade Amos to break one of Alexander's statues. Carmella restrains him. Amos through Maayanna's voice replies that these statues should be destroyed because they do not express the true nature of Alexander. Carmella protests that a whole lifetime has been sunk in the sculptures, and if they are destroyed, Alexander's life will be destroyed. Ruthie appears beautifully dressed, with painted lips, on her way to Alexander's studio. Amos tries to declare his love to Ruthie, but Maayanna distracts him, and turns him against Alexander.

### **Scene 6**

Alexander is working on a statue of Ruthie. She tells him that she is leaving for the city the next day to study drama at the theatre. She promises to return to him. Once again Alexander rejects her.

Carmella tells Alexander that the reason she has not married him before was on account of her son. Amos, rushing in, accuses Alexander of having robbed him of everything, mother and sweetheart. That was why he had tried to destroy Alexander's work and leave him empty-handed. In his fury he throws a hammer at Alexander but misses him. Maayanna enters and again attempts to entice Alexander but again resists.

The members come into Alexander's room, and he awakens from his dream. They inform him that they have decided not to place his statue in the House of Culture. He agrees with them, and remains with Carmella, and with the kibbutz.