

The Egg

By Felicien Marceau

Play no. 155

Opening show: 07/12/1957

Hebrew : Nissim Aloni

Directed by : Andre Brasacc

Designed by: Jacques Noel

The Cast

Magis: Raphael Klatchkin

The Doctor: Chaim Amital / Pesach Gutmark

Barbedart: Israel Rubinchik

Tanson: Naftali Binshtok

First Woman: Yona Atari

Second Woman: Tania Peres / Dalia Fridland

Third Woman: Elisheva Michaeli

The Young Girl: Gila Almagor

Mlle Duvant: Hanna Hendler

The Client at Dufinquet's: Yaakov Ben-Bassat

Dufinquet: Yehuda Rubinstein / Shlomo Bertonov

The Mother: Niura Shein / Ruth Schalk / Tamar Rubins

Justine: Elisheva Michaeli

Gustave: Baruch David

Georgettie: Yona Atari

The Waiter: Yaakov Ben-Bassat

Rose: Elisheva Michaeli

Eugene: Baruch David

First Client at the Cafe: Shraga Fridman / Yehuda Ephroni

Second Client at the Cafe: Israel Rubinchik

M. Berthoullet: Chaim Amitai / Shmuel Rudenski

Mme Berthoullet: Hanna Hendler

The uncle from Montsuban: David Vardi / Shlomo Bertonov

Hortense Berthoullet: Miriam Zohar / Tania Peres

Lucie Berthoullet: Tania Peres / Dalia Fridland

Charlotte Berthoullet: Gila Almagor

Raffard: Nachum Buchman

Joseph: Naftali Binshtok / Shmuel Segal

Dugommier: Shraga Fridman / Yehuda Ephroni

The Conderge: Hanna Hendler

The Chief of Court: Yehuda Rubinstein / Shlomo Bertonov

The Lawyer: Nachum Buchman

The Prosecutor: Israel Rubinchik

When the curtain goes up, Magis has already experienced his great adventures, which have taught him his own truth and given him his mental equilibrium. Now, he turns back and shows us, by what adventures – or, rather, comic misadventures – he has reached his present state.

At 19, Magis finds a job as sales clerk at M. Dufiquet's stationery shop. He dreams of a liaison; after a number of failures he succeeds in becoming the love of an old spinster, Mlle. Duvant. Dismissed, he experiences the pangs of being jobless. Finally, he is given work at M. Rivet's wallpaper shop, and also he comes to lover of Rose.

By and by, Magis discovers what seems to him to be the secret of the world: It is governed by a system of principles, reasons, and conventions. This system imprints upon man a certain image – in which Magis is unable to recognize himself. His conclusion is that the system is at fault, and that the man stands alone, forsaken to his fate, before a world which is closed like an egg.

At this stage, Magis is invited to the home of M. Berthouillet, vice chief clerk of one of the government offices. He believes to hear the call of true love, and marries one of Berthouillet's daughters.

But marriage teaches him only a new kind of loneliness: that of the deceived husband. The world is again rejecting him.

Yet, after long mediation, Magis reacts neither according to the conventions, nor according to the system, but according to his own logic. Moreover, he succeeds in turning the hitherto hostile system into an ally not only liberating himself, but also for illustrating his own doctrine.

Turned criminal, Magis succeeds at least to find his place in society – to penetrate the closed egg.