

# The Island Of Aphrodite

By A. Parniss

Play no. 186

Opening show: 30/06/1962

Hebrew by: I. Oren

Directed by : A. Kabatchnik

Décor by : L. Pincus-Gani

Lighting : M. Liberman

Cast

George Maclay: R. Klachkin

Vicky: A. Tal

Kate Peterson: E. Eshed

Gloria Peterson: E. michaell

Davy Peterson: N. Azikri

Lambrini Kiryakulis: H. Rovina

Ralph Owens: B. David

Richard Keats: Y. Efroni

Nixon Cooper: I. Bareket

Edward Wilson: A. Warshauer

Anastasis: I. Rubintchik

Theofilis: S. Brook

## Scene 1

Lady Gloria Peterson, her daughter Kate and her son Davy have arrived from London to be guests in the house of British Officer, Ralph Evans in Cyprus. Kate is Ralph's fiancée. Davy is a young and promising scientist.

Kate does not heed the warnings of her Scottish Uncle, George Maclay to be careful of the crowds of Revolutionary Cypriots and mocks him in conjunction with the maid Vicky.

Lady Peterson, Kate and Davy are reminssing while Lambrini Kiryakulis, a native woman dressed in black is entering the house and begs Lady Gloria o intervene and obtain permission for her to visit her son, an underground Cypriot fighter, captured by Ralph. Lady Peterson replies "There is not, and never will be any common language between me and the mother of a bandit", and the Cypriot woman leaves full of threats.

While preparing for the arrival of the Vice Governor Wilson, the officer Richard Keats, who was once intimate close to Kate, arrives, it is understood that he cannot reconcile himself to the fact that he has to fight and kill Cypriots while in the days of the World War "We fought with them and celebrated victory together".

The Vice Governor arrive together with Secret Policeman Nixon and they all make merry drinking, when a telephone call announces that the "Cypriots have kidnapped Davy just a few steps from the house".

## **Scene 2**

After a 2 days search. Davy's kidnapers have no yet been discovered. They happy visit to Cyprus has turned into nightmare to is close friends. Lambrii Kiryakulis asks for an interview with Lady Peterson during which she gives an ultimatum" A son for a son".

## **Scene 3**

Lady Peterson declares, to the astonishment of all: "This is a hard blow to mother's heart, but those who imagine that I can forget the pride and honour of my family are mistaken". She asks that the Governor be informed that he should fulfil his duty and bring the Cypriot to the scaffold, in spite of the fact that by this she signs her son's death sentence.

However, in the course of a conversation with Ralph, it is understood that her declaration was not quite like that. She asks of Ralph that on his way to take the Cypriot to the scaffold he should allow him the opportunity to escape.

Ralph, who is afraid for his military career, finds another solution: Keats is not too keen on a military career and barter that for a "small act of kindness" from Kate, he will give the Cypriot a chance to escape.

## **Scene 4**

Keats casts aside Kate's favour but agrees to deliver the Cypriot for reasons of his own conscience. After his meeting with old Kiryakulis. George Maclay tells Keats: "Give Kiryakulis a chance to escape when you pass by the wooden bridge. Tell him his mother is waiting for him out of town at the 3<sup>rd</sup> kilometer". Secret Policeman Nixon succeeds in extracting from George he details of the plot and Keats to arrested. At first Lady Peterson denies any connection with the failed attempt to escape but finally the heaviness of "The giant machine which the Petersons have created and now is crushing Davy" is broken. The cold military functioning which has no personal considerations.

## **Scene 5**

Davy is imprisoned in a small hut. He becomes friendly with his guard, Anastasis, a Cypriot agronomist. Suddenly, the ringing of the Church bells is heard announcing death.

"The underground man Theofilis enters and relates to them the hanging of Kiryakulis and threatens Davy "Now we'll season the "meal of comfort" with blood".

Lambrini Kiryakulis enters. She orders Vicky, who has come to meet her at the 3<sup>rd</sup> kilometer, to come in. Vicky, declares her love for Davy and begs for his life because "He is kind, educated, and will do good to people".

Anastasis, too, speaks well of Davy while Theofilis demands "blood vengeance".

Kiryakulis decides to let Davy free and remains alone with the knowledge that her decision will plague her to the end of her days.

