

The King's Clothes

By: Nissim Aloni

Play no. 180

Opening show: 09/12/1961

Directed by: Nissim Aloni

Set and Costumes by : Yosel Bergner

Music by : Gari Bertini

Lightning by : Michael Liebermann

The Cast

Bobo Fortuna: S. Bar-Shavit, B. David

Count Forto: I. Efrony

Dr. Pitz: H. Amitai

Bishop Colero: I. Bareket

Lili Minerva: D. Friedland

A Young Man: A. Almog

Timoti Sponto: I. Beker

Baron Zoom: S. Finkel

King Casper VIII: A. Hiskiyahu

Lucy: Ayala Adini

Duke Adrian Corvo: M. Asheroff

Duke Alexander Torno: S. Segal

Rabinovitch: Z. Avraami

Cezaro: I. Rubintzik, I. Rubinstein

First Woman: Bat-Ami, S. Kaplanski

Second Woman: S. Duer, P. Perach

Street Cleaner: I. Bareket

A Blind Musician: H. Amitai

Hector Bassona : I. Banay

Zborov: H. Amitai

Felix: A. Almog

A Client: I. Bareket

1st Poet: N. Shimoy

2nd Poet: I. Rubintzik, I. Rubinstein

3rd Poet: I. Efrony

Joko: Z. Avraami

Demophony: S. Rudenski

Marie: Esther Eshed

Prof. Calvino: I. Efrony

Lupus Bertholdy: I. Bareket

Finch: Z. Avraami

Guard to Hector Bassona: N. Shimoni

Secretary to Corvo: Osnat Sade

1st Journalist: I. Bareket

2nd Journalist: A. Almong

3rd Journalist: N. Shimony

4th Journalist: I. Efrony

A Woman Journalist: Osnat Sade

A Detective : J.Efrony
Guards, Ministers, A Horse

The play begins where Anderson's tale leaves off. The factories in the contemporary monarchial-democracy are busily producing the regal cloth under the direction of Duke Corvo and Duke Torno, the two tailors.

The announcer Bobo Fortuna reports that during a parade in which King Casper VIII displayed for the first time his new clothes a boy shouted that the King was naked. The police know, he says, that the boy is an agent of the Underground. The crowd attempted to lynch him but he was rescued by the police and put in jail.

When the curtain rises Bobo interviews infuriated court dignitaries, The King declares the head of the Underground in one of his court.

The tailors discuss the situation. Torno is frightened while Corvo is determined to carry on with the enterprise. Baron Zoom, the Prime Minister, interrupts with a telephone call asking them to come to his office. In his office he discloses to the tailors that he heads the Underground and demands 50% Of the profits of "King's Clothes Enterprises". He is refused.

Outside the castle, two prostitutes comment the awful weather, love, the King's Clothes and the doomed boy and his girlfriend Marie, separated from him, at the time of his arrest

In the Prime Minister's office, Zoom summons the youngster Hector Bassona, only to find out that he is a poet and has nothing to do with the Underground. This is confirmed by a note Zoom gets from his secretary. Zoom tries to shake the poet's subversive conviction by showing him the King's portrait, and, failing, threatens to arrest Marie if Hector doesn't agree to announce at a press conference that he is a member of the Underground.

Two newspapers boys shout out the latest news: The boy confesses.

In the next scene Bobo tells the audience of his every day troubles and introduces the Poet's Scene in Café Panassus. Sponto, the poets Laureate tells his fellow poets of the party in the palace the night before in honor of the King's clothes. Marie enters asking for help to get an audience with the King. A coachman, Demophony, egged on by Sponto, brings in his horse. The poets try to throw out the horse and its owner, but when another customer claims there is no horse present the poets try to prove that the horse is a horse.

Meanwhile Maie sings to the audience. Bobo overhearing her offers his help promising to make her a star, in an set together with the coachman and the horse.

Act II

It is winter, The King who has ordered all windows in the palace open, receives various dignitaries at the celebration on Forest Battle Day. While the bargaining between Zoom and the tailors continues, the poet is presented to the King and still claims that he is naked. Princess Lucy orders him to come to her apartment. Zoom suggests war to the two tailors, as a means of solving the economic crisis and stopping the growing rebelliousness in the Underground.

The poet, although having been forced to comply with Zoom, promises himself to protect Marie.

Since the first appearances of the Trio were unsuccessful, the prostitutes advise Marie and the coachman to wear the new clothes.

In the King's apartment a state of national emergency is proclaimed by the three new partners; Zoom, Corvo and Torno, one of the foreign ambassadors Lupus-Bertholdy, having been "revealed" as the head of the underground.

The King having already obtained a 25% cut from the tailors demands half of Zoom's interest share in the clothing industry and that he, Zoom, should wear the new clothes.

The Prime Minister solves the problem by appointing himself Commander of the Armed Forces and wearing a uniform.

In the next scene Lucy waits for Hector who finally arrives drunk, together with Sponto. He has learned from Sponto that Marie, the horse and the coachman are successful stars. He asked Lucy to let him out of the palace, but she refuses. The fifth scene is in the television studio, where the program "Hour of Love" is being broadcast. Hector meets the naked Marie, and, disillusioned runs away.

In the office of "King's Clothes Enterprises" Corvo, enraged by Zoom's uniform and his plan to get Hector into the Princess' bed – the King is very sick – demands that Hector dresses in the new clothes. The act ends with Zoom's announcement to journalists that the war has been avoided, at least for the moment.

Act III

It is spring in the park. The coachman informs the two prostitutes that the popular trio will appear at the fashion show in the palace.

In the palace, the King is about to die. A transformed Hector, knowing that he will replace the dying Casper, demands of the tailors 75%. The Prime Minister rejects Hector's proposal to stay in office, tears the poet's clothes off and resigns.

The fashion show opens with a performance by the Trio. During the show Hector arrives naked; the King delivers a final speech and fails, mortally ill.

As Casper dies, - his last moments described by Bobo – Marie makes a last effort to convince Hector to come with her. Hector refuses.

The coronation follows – Marie intervenes with the cry: You are naked! We are all naked the king is naked!