

# Othello

By William Shakespear

Play no. 220

Opening show: 10/091966

Hebrew version: Nathan Alterman

Directed by: Petrick Dromgoole

Designed by : Joseph Carl

Costumes: Lydia Pincus Gani

Lighting by: Nathan Panturin

Cast:

**Roderigo:** Nissim Azikeri**Lafont:** Y. Efroni

**Iago:** Misha Asherov

**Brabantio:** Ari Kutai

**Othello:** Nachum Buchman

**Desdemona:** Tikva Mor

**Cassio:** Alexander Peleg

**Duke of Venica:** Yehuda Efroni

**Senator A:** Leo Yung

**Senator B:** Zvi Stolper

**Montano:** Josef Shalom

**Emillia:** Dalia Fridland

**Bianca:** Yael Druyanov

**Lodovico:** Ilan Toren

**Gratiano:** Alex Ansky

**Messenger:** Jechiel Amir

**Officer:** David Semadar

**Sailor:** Rafi Nathan

The Play

Othello, the Moor, and commander of the Venetian Army, has wed Desdemona, the daughter of a Senator, who has fled from her father's house. Iago, Othello's Ancient, who hates his master, had promised Roderigo, a Venetian nobleman, that he would help him to pay court to Desdemona. When the news of Othello's marriage becomes known, Iago tries to appease Roderigo. Together they arouse Brabantio, Desdemona's father and inform him that his daughter has escaped with the Moor.

Brabantio demands the judgment of the Duke for Othello's act. Othello tells the whole course of his love and how he won the heart of Desdemona, and his wife confirms the purity of their union, in which witchcraft has no part. The Senate justifies Othello and appoints him Governor of Cyprus. Desdemona asks to be permitted to accompany her husband to Cyprus, and her request is granted. Roderigo is desperate, but Iago, who wishes to use him as a tool, consoles him. The plot begins to take form in Iago's mind: he will cause Othello to suspect that Desdemona is enamoured of Cassio, Othello's lieutenant. Thereby he will achieve a double purpose: he will destroy the Moor's happiness and step into Cassio's place.

Cassio, Iago and Desdemona arrive in Cyprus, and Othello follows shortly after. The Turkish fleet has foundered in the storm and there is general rejoicing in the garrison. Iago persuades Cassio to become intoxicated and involves him in a quarrel with Roderigo and Montano, the former Governor of Cyprus. Othello punishes Cassio and dismisses him from his office. Iago induces Cassio to appeal to Desdemona for intervention on his behalf with her husband.

Desdemona urges Othello to be lenient with Cassio. But Iago has sown the horrible suspicion in Othello's heart that Desdemona has betrayed him with his handsome young lieutenant. Through his wife Emilia, Iago obtains Desdemona's embroidered handkerchief, the Moor's first finds it to her. He then further poisons Othello's mind by whispering to him that he had found the handkerchief in Cassio's chamber. In a fury of rage and jealousy, Othello vows that he will pluck from his heart all his love for Desdemona, that he will destroy her and wipe away her betrayal from the face of the earth.

Desdemona again begs Othello to forgive Cassio. Othello asks her for the handkerchief, and is dismayed when she tells him that she no longer possesses it. Cassio, who has found the handkerchief in his room, where Iago had left it intentionally, gives it to Bianca, his mistress. Iago continues to stir up Othello's jealousy, and arrange for him to overhear the conversation between himself and Cassio. Cassio tells Iago about Bianca, and Othello thinks he is speaking of Desdemona and her love.

Othello asks Emilia about Desdemona's behaviour with Cassio. Emilia swears that she has never seen any trace of sin in his wife who is altogether pure and faithful. But her plea is in vain. Othello calls Desdemona and in a torment of suspicion and anger he hurls accusations of betrayal at her. Iago incites Rodrigo to set an ambush for Cassio by night and murder him.

After a feast in honour of the representatives of Venice, Othello goes with his guests. He asks Desdemona to lie down on her bed and to send Emilia away. Desdemona waits for Othello.

Roderigo lies in wait for Cassio and wounds him, but is himself attacked by Iago. Othello strangles Desdemona. Emilia, on hearing that it was Iago who had incited Othello, realizes that she has unwittingly aided her husband in the plot, and she reveals his treachery to Othello. Iago stabs Emilia and is committed to trial. Othello falls upon his sword and dies. Cassio takes over the government of Cyprus and the command of the army in his place.