

# Mr. Israel Sheffi's Independence Eve

By Abraham Raz

Play no. 269

Opening show: 13/01/1972

**Directed by :** Misha Asherov

**Set Designed by:** Joseph Karl

**Costumes by:** Gideon Oberson

**Lighting by:** Michael Lieberman

Cast

**Israel Sheffi:** Misha Asherov

**Elisha Sheffi:** Dudu Yardeni

**Nurit Gutman:** Bilha Mass

**Hannah Sheffi:** Lia Konig

## The Play

Eve of Independence. Israel Sheffi, a teacher at a teacher's training college, and his wife Hannah are waiting at home for their soldier son who hasn't been home for weeks and who has promised to come for the holiday.

Hamsin. Sheffi is at the moment busy correcting his pupil's exercises. The radio announcer is reporting on the holiday events in different parts of the country together with communiques coming in about clashes on the border with terrorists. Both parents become more and more anxious. Hannah goes into the other room to rest. Israel Sheffi goes on waiting until his son arrives. Father hopes that he will stay to enjoy the holiday with them, but to their surprise Elisha asks them to leave the house so that he can invite his friends home for a party, who he calls on the telephone. When his parents oppose the idea he asks them for the key of their splendid Chevrolet. Which Chevrolet?

Father says he's a teacher and no car at all, but he's ready to lend him the bicycle that he rides to the college every day. Hannah gets a phone call inviting her to celebrate the Eve of the holiday with the sparkling society in a fashionable villa in Ceasaria. She accepts and is going to put on an elegant evening dress and asks her husband to wear the new suit that he bought on their last visit to London. The both leave the room.

Elisha's friends arrive. A psychedelic party. Petting between Elisha and his girlfriend Nurit. Meanwhile the father returns, sits at the desk wondering what is going on with the youngsters. He finds Nurit's skirt that she lost on the way to the bedroom. His wife Hannah returns for Ceasarea and tells him about the bizarre party to which she has been. Elisha comes out of the bedroom followed by a half-clothed Nurit. Father is shocked by everything that is going on around him. He explodes and throws the party out. Elisha runs after his guests and Nurit follows him after staying for just a while to argue with Israel about the bad report he has given her at the college.

Sheffi and Hannah are now alone. The radio announcer continues his report on the holiday celebrations and the clashed on the border. Several notes and telegrams are slipped under the door. The contents are not very clear. Elisha arrives in civilian clothes and a kind of re-union ceremony takes place

between parents and son after he has fallen in battle. Nurit arrives and the parents want her to take part, but she refuses. They struggle with her. Elisha and Nurit disappear.

Israel Sheffi sits alone at the desk, busy with his pupil's exercises books. The radio continues to report on the festivities all over the country and the clashed still going on at the border. Hannah comes back into the room. They are both very tired. The door-bell rings. Elisha arrives in dusty army uniform – extremely worn out. His parents propose that he has the flat to hold a holiday party with his friends. Elisha wants only one thing – to take a shower and to go to sleep. To rest from battles and wars.