

The Shoemakers' Holiday

By: Thomas Dekker

Play no. 249

Opening show: 01/03/1970

Hebrew Version by: Dan Almagor

Directed by: David William

Set and Costumes by : Adrian Vaux

Music by : Noam Sherif

Dance by: Rina Shaham

Singing Directed by : Poldi Shaetzmann

Lighting by: Michael Lieberman

The Cast

Earl Of Lincoln: Doryan Aroyo

Sir Roger Oteley (Lord Mayor of London): Avaham Ronai

Lovell: Baruch Barkin

Rowland Lacy (otherwise Hans): Israel Biderman

Askew: Rolf Brin

Simon Eyre: Shraga Friedman

Margery Eyre: Lia Konig

Hodge: Eli Yung

Frik: Yaakov Bodo

Jane: Naomi Gruenbaum

Ralph Dampport: Haim Bashi

Cicely Bumtrinket: Ada Tal

Dodger: Pinchas Goldberg

Rose: Aviva Epel

Sybil: Yael Druianov

Peter: Sammy Ohayon

Hammon: Yehiel Amir

Warner: Asher Tsarfati

Dutch Sea-Captain: Ari Kutai

Scott: Chaim Amitai

Servants to Hammon: Shai Danon, Itzhak Kluger Rafi Goldwasse, Moshe Yanai

The Play

London, 1600. England is at war with France.

Among those about to depart on active service are Rowland Lacy (nephew to the powerful Earl of Lincoln), and Ralph Dampport, a young shoemaker, apprenticed to Simon Eyre. Simon Eyre (accompanied by his wife Margery, and Hodge and Frik, two of his journeymen) asks Lacy to release Ralph because he has been recently married. Though sympathetic, Lacy is in no position to grant such a request, and Ralph departs for the battlefield. Lacy secretly delays his own departure as he is in love with Rose, the daughter of the Lord Mayor of London. Both Lincoln and the Lord Mayor are aware of this attachment and seek to discourage it. Lacy disguises himself as a shoemaker

and, assuming the name of Hans Meulter, gets a job in Simon Eyre's shop. The Lord Mayor encourages Rose to consider marriage with a member of her own class and suggests a citizen of London called Hammon. Rose rejects Hammon.

Simon Eyre is enabled to invest in trading venture and quickly grows rich. He is elected a Sheriff of London and hands over the management of his shop to Hodge. Meantime, news reaches Lincoln that Lacy has not arrived in France; Lincoln immediately suspects the truth and appoints spies to find where he is. Ralph returns from the war, having lost a leg. He resumes his old job at Simon Eyre's, but they cannot help him find his wife Jane who has disappeared. Unknown to them, she is working as a seamstress and is now courted by Hammon. Constant to Ralph, she discourages Hammon who discovers her husband's name and shows her a list of casualties in which Ralph's name appears. In her grief and shock Jane agrees to marry Hammon if Ralph is dead.

Simon Eyre is elected Lord Mayor of London; he assists Rose and Lacy-Hans to marry in secret; Lincoln and the ex-Lord Mayor discover the plot too late and fail to prevent it. Ralph and Jane are happily re-united.

Simon Eyre gives a great banquet for all the shoemakers. In the midst of it, the King arrives. As a result of Eyre's intercession on the lovers' behalf, the King pardons Lacy for deserting his duty in France.

In the spirit of general festivity the King grants Simon Eyre special trading privileges and joins the shoemakers at the banquet. All ends happily.