

Stempeniu

By: Shalom Aleichem

Play no. 272

Opening show: 08/03/1972

Hebrew Version by: Jaacov Shabtai

Directed by: Shmuel Bunim

Set by : Arie Navon

Costumes by: Adina Reich

Music by: Dov Seltzer

Lightning by : Natan Panturin

The Cast

Stempeniu: Nissim Azikri

Rochele: Levana Finkelstein

The Badchan (Entertainer); Raphael Klatzkin

Mahtche The Drummer: Shmuel Segal

Shaika The Clarinetist: Israel Rubinchik

Leibush The Bassit: Shai Danon

Friedel, Stempeniu's Wife: Shlomit Nativ

Zipora Stempeniu's M. In Law: Dina Roitkop

Malka, Rochele's M. In Law: Ada Tal

Moishe Menashe, Rochele's Husband: Ishak Kluger

Avreml: Alex Kutai

Chaia Etel, his wife: Toni Sach

Chaim Glick: Eliezer Joung

Rivka: Pnina Gari

Elick, The Bridegroom: Pinchas Goldberg

Perele, The Bride: Pnina Wilcher

Zirl, The Maid: Jael Bassis

Girl in Rosa: Ora Frosh

Girl in Green: Aluma Shalom

Girl in Yellow: Ester Orgad

Guest in Brown: Zeharia Tubi

Guest in Beige: Benny Apolo

Guest in Green: George Hashaviah

The Play

Stempeniu inherited his name from his late father who was a "Klesmer" called Berl-Bass or Berl from Stempeniu, a little village near Mazepovke. Not only the name but the profession has been passed down from father to son for generations. Stempeniu is a violinist – not another charlatan scraper. He is a master! A miracle-worker! To hear Stempeniu play is a great privilege for every Jew. Stempeniu is already marriage he was known in every town and village where he played with his company as a great woman chaser, and has left broken hearts and sad eyes everywhere.

A wedding in Mazepovka – Haim Glick is giving away his daughter Perele to Elick the son of Isaac and Malka. In honour of this occasion Stempeniu and his company are invited to play. At the wedding Stempeniu meets Rochele

who is married to Moishe Menashe the other son of Isaac and Malka, and falls in love with her as first sight, as they say. He begins to court her, comes to her house on the Sabbath after lunch when all the people of Mazepovka are asleep and invites her to go for a walk down Monastery Street in the evening. He passes in front of her window with all his Klesmers. Rochele, who has never known love, tries to escape his attentions, but slowly he wins her heart. Stempeniu's love for Rochele grows and grows. He decides to run away with her to Odessa, which in his eyes is the symbol of the great outside world – and to discover the great music there. He feels smothered in Mazepovka – married to the despotic Freidel – and sees the beginning of a new chapter in his life in Rochele.