

The End Of Days

By: Haim Hazaz

Play no. 277

Opening show: 07/09/1972

Directed by: David Levin

Setting by : Arie Navon

Costumes by : Ruth Dar

Music by : Poldi Shaetzman

Lighting by : Natan Panturin

The Cast

Olek: Yael Yaacov

Dolze: Batya Lancel

Yuta: Michal Bat-Adam

Joel Rost: Alex Kutai

Yost: Avraham Ronai

Blind Man: Eliezer Yung

Brainle: Rahel Panet

Yuspeh: Itzhak M. Shilo

Woflein: Rolf Brin

Lemlin Merkil: Itzhak Bareket

Menchin Picklehering : Shai Danon

Anshel Hahn : Baruch Barkin

The Rabbi : Israel Becker

The Play

The seventeenth century, the days of Sabbatai Zevi was a period wherein the suffering of Israel and the national awakening, the pangs of the Messiah and the dream of redemption, are all interwoven. After the disturbances in Poland and the Ukraine there appears the Messiah from Izmir who calls the nation to self-redemption. Many are prepared to follow him, even those living in peace and security. But they feel that the time for actual redemption is still far off and there are many ties that bind them to their countries of exile in the main, the poor, the beggars who have nothing to lose, are those who are prepared to assume the sufferings of redemption immediately. This is the background of the play and its main contents.

Sabbatai Zevi does not appear in the play but his image, his theory and, in some way, is destiny are portrayed in the figure of the leading character, Yuspeh a Cabbalist, the son-in-law of one of the rich Jews in town. The Jews of this city believe that Sabbatai Zevi is the Messiah and that redemption is close by. The spiritual drunkenness of "The End of Days" affects everyone and the accepted moral foundation are shaken. Only the old Rabbi, who observes traditional customs denies that Sabbtai Zevi is the Messiah and is thus considered an atheist.