

The Eternal Husband

By: F. M. Dostoyevsky

Play no. 287

Opening show: 15/09/1973

Adapted by: W. Lieblein

Hebrew by: Zvi Rosen

Directed by: Edna Shavit

Set and Costumes by : Eli Sinai

Lightning by : Michael Lieberman

The Cast

Velchaninov: Nissim Azikri

Pavel Pavlovitch: Shlomo Bar-Shavit

Liza: Tony Sach

Maria Sissojevna: Dina Roitkop

Katia - Lipochka: Tehia Shmueli

Mitenka - Pimp: Gad Kenar

The Play

1) The gentleman with crape on his hat.

At 3 o'clock in the morning, a forgotten friend, Pavel Pavlovitch Trusotsky breaks into the house of Velchaninov, one of Petersburg's Idle noblemen. He tells Velchaninov about his wife's death, a few months ago. Velchaninov wonders whether Pavel knows the truth; that his wife deceived him and was Velchaninov's mistress eleven years ago.

2) The wife the husband and the lover. Liza

In the old decrepit hotel where Pavel Pavlovitch lives, Velchaninov discovers a 10 years old girl, Liza. He was the feeling she is his daughter. Pavel torments the weak and sick child. Velchaninov suggests that Liza be sent to his friend's home in the country where she can be take care of. Pavel agrees in spite of the girl's objection.

3) A new fancy of an idle man.

4) The husband and the lover kiss each other.

Pavel Pavlovitch puts himself in the role of the betrayed husband without directly attacking Velchaninov who feels himself more and more entrapped in a love-hatred relationship. Velchaninov tries to free himself from Pavel and his obscure schemes, but he cannot.

5) Liza ill.

Velchaninov comes to fetch Pavel Pavlovitch so as to bring him to the sick Liza who is asking for him. Pavel is not to be found. The owner of the hotel tells Velchaninov that Pavel is living a life of dissipation.

6) An apparition.

Having lost all hope of finding Pavel, Velchaninov finally discovers him in his own flat. He forces him to stay for the night, intending to take him to Liza the next morning. Together, they spend a night of horror, terror, reconciliation, and ... apparitions. In the morning Pavel succeeds in escaping.

7) In the cemetery.

Liza dies. Velchaninov finds Pavel in the company of a prostitute and her pimp and tells him that Liza is dead. Pavel reacts with seeming indifference and throws into Velchaninov's face that Liza was another lover's daughter. Velchaninov hurls himself at Pavel but is incapable of striking him.

8) Pavel Pavlovitch means to marry.

Some time later. Pavel reappears in Velchaninov's home and asks him to come with him to call on his fifteen year old bride. Velchaninov complies, almost against his will.

9) The account is settled.

The call at the young bride's home has not been a success. She is disgusted with the old and tiresome Pavel. Back at strained. Velchaninov's home the relationship between the husband and the lover becomes strained. Velchaninov suddenly falls sick. Pavel looks after him like a devoted mother, but when Velchaninov is asleep, Pavel attacks him with a bare razor. Velchaninov succeeds in overcoming his friend – enemy. Pavel leaves – The account is settled.

10) The eternal husband.

Two years later. Velchaninov meets Pavel Pavlovich and his young wife at a railway station, accompanied by a young officer; clearly, the young wife's lover. Velchaninov, the eternal lover again finds himself in a tragic comical confrontation with the eternal husband.