

# The Rockefeller Family

By Rene Ben-Nahum

Play no. 274

Opening show: 03/06/1972

Hebrew by: Ada Ben-Nahum

Directed by: Radu Miron

Set and Costumes by : Joseph Carl

Lightning by : Michael Liberman

The Cast

**John-Emery Rockefeller:** Shimon Finkel

**Caroline (his wife):** Stella Avni

**Pamela (their daughter):** Toni Sach

**Tom (their son):** Alex Kutai

**William Butler:** Nissim Azikri

**Carlos:** Itzhak M. Shilo

**Miriam:** Tikva Mor

**Cook's Eye:** Rolf Brin

**Cat's Eye:** Rolf Brin

**Cowboy-Girl:** Karol Mirski

## The Play Part One

The story takes place in the house of a poor family of colonials Kentucky, at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Everyday life – work – family squabbles – prayers to the good God – all is suddenly brought to a halt by an attack of savage Indians... desperate fights, poison arrows, bloody injuries, people killed... looks like a real drama... in fact these wretches are the ancestors of today's famous American families – the Rockefellers etc. and the story we hear and see today is the shining start of the journey up the ladder – as it looks to their offspring. And so, at out Rockefeller's everything starts as usual, just like any other day, at lunch.

Around the table – Father, Mother, the two children and a guest – a slightly crazy drunken doctor. They eat, they drink, they chat. Outside is the endless pampas. It looks like the quiet before the storm because Mother Rockefeller reads a not very bright future in her crystal ball. An Indian Chief – a friend of the Rockefellers – appears to give them warning of an impending attack by a tribe of bad Indians and a band of white robbers. Father Rockefeller asks his Indian friend to ride at full speed to get help from the nearest military camp... Suddenly a girl bursts into the house. She is frightened to death – the only surviving inhabitant of a city which has been entirely wiped out by the savage Indians. She is a whore with a golden heart. Besides this she has other advantages – she is a champion shot and b chance just happens to be an illegitimate daughter of Father Rockefeller. With the re-inforcement of such a good rifle-woman the family is ready to fight to defend their llives, house and property against the enemy.

## **Part Two**

The first attack is rebuffed by the Rockefellers and their friends, but their joy is mingled with sorrow. Miriam, the brave whore, is wounded by a poison arrow and all the doctor's efforts cannot save her. Meantime a charming unknown cowboy arrives and tells them of the catastrophic murdering going on in the neighbourhood by the Indians. The new guest, Carlos, makes a big impression on the young Pamela but father suspects that he is one of the white robbers who joined the savage Indians. Meantime Miriam is dying and to give her some joy and happiness during her last moments on earth the doctor proposes marriage to her. The wedding takes place immediately with Father Rockefeller officiating at the ceremony – after a short while he also has to make the funeral oration when the bride passes away!

Pamela has fallen in love with Carlos but she is stronger than anything! Carlos leaves to call for help from the army. Back at the ranch they are all impatiently waiting for the return of the good Indian who has earlier gone to fetch the army. But alas! Another Indian arrives – the Chief of the tribe that has been creating havoc – and he asks for young Pamela, who he finds very attractive, in exchange for the family's safety. The Rockefellers refuse him but Pamela heroically agrees – to save her parents. But at the moment of the sacrifice the Indian is killed by Carlos and the family prepares to face the Indians again just as Colonel Wallace's soldiers arrive... Everything comes to an end in an unexpected burst of pleasant surprises and as usual in a western – with a happy ending.