

# Voytsek

By George Buchner

**Play no.** 321

**Opening:** 06/04/1978

**Translation:** Shimon Sandbank

**Adaptation:** David Levin

**Director:** David Levin

**Assistant Director:** Jossi Weiler

**First Assistant Director:** Dora Porath

**Set Designer:** Etan Levi

**Costume Design:** Etan Levi

**Production Manager:** Yossi Rodan

**Production Supervision:** Itzhak Bozer

**Stage Manager:** Benyamin Farin

**Technical Supervision:** Yaacov Doron & Yosef Katan

**Lighting Execution:** Ouri Polazek

**Scenery Execution:** Shlomo Tabuch

**Painting:** Shlomo Leibovitz

**Costume Execution:** Denis Lengi

**Men's Costumes:** Moshe Rogovski

**Wigs:** Lilia Boroshovski

**Props:** Albert Segal

**Make-up:** "Helena Rubinstein"

## CAST

**Voytsek:** Nissim Azikri

**Maria:** Sandra Sadeh

**Captain:** Nachum Buchman

**Doctor:** Avraham Ronai

**Drum-Major:** Rolf Brin

**Andres:** David Stern

**Barber:** Baruch David

**Grandmother:** Ada Tal

**Public crier:** Moscu Alaklay

**Karl:** Doron Ovadia

**Officer:** Dan Ronen

**Old Jew:** Dan Ronen

**Margret:** Shifra Millstein

**Policeman:** Israel Treistman

**Painter:** Israel Treistman

**Horse:** Dudi Mayan

**Soldier:** Dudi Mayan

**Child:** Tom Taylor

## SYNOPSIS

The play is so called after its hero – Voytsek.

It is the story of a simple soldier living in abject poverty on the fringe of German society at the beginning of the last century. The story of a man's desperate struggle to preserve the last vestiges of human dignity as he dares to walk at the edge of the abyss of the human jungle surrounding him, but refuses to succumb and sink into it. Refuses, despite the pressures made on him of an enforced code of ethics, pressures of the cold, inhuman reasoning of the upper classes. Voytsek invents his own moral code, he serves his commanding officer overtime, sells his body for a pittance to the pseudo-

scientific, inhuman experiments of the local doctor,- in order to maintain the one and only thing he worships and cherishes in the world, his common law wife Maria, and – born out of wedlock – his son Christian.

But poverty destroys the frame of Voytsek's life. Maria succumbs and submits to the crude advances of the regimental drummer for a pair of coveted golden earrings; with him she sinks into the mire. Wife and mother are swallowed into the pit – the tormented Voytsek watches aghast.

He cannot accept Maria's downfall which threatens to destroy his world and faith – and he decides to descend to the pit and redeem her. To this end he discards his personal identity and past. Childhood souvenirs, uniform and identity card are cast away as he parts from his son.

He takes Maria to the forest. There he confronts her and by the light of the moon – he cuts her throat.

He has redeemed her. Voytsek tries to rise again and rejoin the human race but here the paradox of his tragic fate overtakes him. For him there is no way back. His hands are blood-stained. The mark of Cain is upon him.

Terror-stricken he flees once more to the forest to wash away the blood stains – but in vain.

Only Maria's purified body remains to tell the tale.