

La Mandragola

By Yaacov Shabtai after Nicolo Machiavelli

Play no. 494

Opening: 14/12/1996

Adapted and Directed by: Ilan Ronen

Designed by: Micki Ben-Cnaan

Masks: Yehudith Grienspan

Music: Ori Widislawsky

Lighting: Natan Panturin

Acrobatics: Ilan Gazit

Vocal Coach: Ricki Bogatin

Stage Manager: Yardena Asulin

Assistant Director: Nesia Raz

Assistants to the Designer: Daphna Peretz-Kuk & Zohar Ati

Photography: Gadi Dagon

Graphic Design: Magen Chalutz

CAST

Nicia, a wealthy merchant: Ilan Ganani

Lucrezia, his young wife: Revital Snir

Sostrata, her mother: Sigalit Fuchs

The Widow, a mature woman: Michal Dror

Fra Timoteo, a priest: Alon Dahan

A Novice/ Zanni: Guy Mesika

Callimaco, a Floretine Noble: Guy Loel

Siro, Callimaco's servant: Yossi Eini

Ligurio, a procurer: Michael Weigel

Musician: Boris Sichon

SYNOPSIS

Callimaco, a wealthy Florentine, has returned to his hometown and is captivated by the beautiful Lucrezia. But Lucrezia is a devout church-going woman and faithful to her husband, Nicia. The couple are childless and desperate for an heir. Nicia has made his wife undergo endless treatments.

Ligurio, a swindler who has sold Nicia quack medicines, is now trying to help Callimaco in finding a way to the lady's bed. After an abortive scheme to lure her to a spa, Ligurio advises Callimaco to pose as a famous physician who prescribes mandrake (Mandrogola) as a cure for Lucrezia. However, he warns Nicia that the first man to sleep with a woman taking this potion, will die.

They offer to find a suitable candidate to absorb the potion. After much doubt, Nicia agrees to this plan, but Lucrezia refuses firmly.

Ligurio bribes her confessor, Fra Timoteo, to convince her and Callimaco, disguised again, is put into Lucrezia's bed. The following morning everyone is happy; Nicia, with the prospect of an heir, Fra Timoteo and Ligurio with their financial dealings, Callimaco with a night to end all nights, and Lucrezia having learned the pleasures of a young lover.