

DAVID HERMAN THEATRE
in Melbourne

presents



ISRAEL'S 25th ANNIVERSARY

דוד הערמאן טעאטער
אין מעלבורן
פרעזענטירט

לכבוד די יובל-פייערונגען פון 25 יאר מדינת ישראל

„די משפחה כהנא“

דראמע אין 2 אקטן און 6 בילדער

באצארבעט און רעזשי:

שיע טיגעל



אין דער הויפט-ראל:

רחל האלצער

“THE FAMILY CAHANA”

STIRRING DRAMA OF ISRAELI HEROISM

PROGRAMME



פראגראם

מעלבורן, מאי — יוני 1973

עפ"פ

די אַנטיילנעמער אין דער פאַרשטעלונג



19 רעכטס צו לינקס :

ערשטע ריי: רחל לעוויטא, רחל האלצער, שיע מיגעל, גיטל זיידנבערג.
צווייטע ריי: מענדל שמערלינג, פאלא קאכען, מאיר צעפראָוו, מירא פפאָו, י. כאַבערמאַן.
דריטע ריי: שמואל שוואַרץ, אברהם וויגושין, יאשא שער, משה קעניגשמין.

דאָס ערשטע און זעקסטע בילד שפילט זיך אָפּ אין ירושלים אין יאָר 1968
דאָס צווייטע, דריטע, פערטע און פינפטע בילד אויך אין ירושלים אין יאָר 1946

דוד הערמאן טעאָטער

בײַ דער „קדימה“ אין מעלבורן

פּרעזענטירט

„די משפחה כהנא“

דראַמע און 2 אַקטן און 6 בילדער

פון משה שמעינארב און דוד הארט

מיט דער בינע-קינסטלעריין

רחל האַלצער

עס שפילן לויט זייערע אויפטריטן:

שושנה ווייסבלום	רחל לעוויטא
יצחק	אברהם וויגושין
שמעון ירוק	שמואל שוואַרץ
הערץ לופטגלאַס	מאיר צעפראָוו
מרים כהנא	רחל האַלצער
חנה כהנא	גיטל זיידנבערג
רות כהנא	פאַלאַ קאַכען
מיסטער ראָזען	יאָשאַ שער
דוד ווייסבלום	מענדל שמערלינג
קעטי	מיראַ פפאָו
קעפטן ברעקס	שיע טינגעל
צבי לבן	משה קעניגשטיין

★ ★ ★

באַארבעט און רעזשי: שיע טינגעל ● דעקאָראַציעס: שטינגעל
ליכט־עפּעקטן: דאניעל צעפראָוו ● בינע־לייטער: משה פיינבוך

מיר דאַנקען אלע פירמעס וואָס האָבן זיך אַנאַנסירט

DAVID HERMAN THEATRE

AT THE "KADIMAH" IN MELBOURNE

PRESENTS

"THE FAMILY CAHANA"

DRAMA IN TWO ACTS AND SIX SCENES

BY MOSHE SHTEINARB AND DAVID HART

with the distinguished actress

RACHEL HOLZER

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

SHOSHANA WEISBLUM	RACHEL LEVITA
YITZCHAK	ABRAHAM WIGUSZYN
SHIMON YAROK	SHMUAL SZWARC
HERTZ LUFTGLASS	MAIR CEPROW
MIRIAM CAHANA	RACHEL HOLZER
CHANA CAHANA	GITL ZAJDENBERG
RUTH CAHANA	POLA KOCHEN
Mr. ROSEN	JASHA SHER
DAVID WEISBLUM	MENDEL SZMERLING
KETI	MIRA PFAU
CAPTAIN BRECKS	SHIA TIGEL
TZVI LAVON	MOSHE KENIGSZTAJN

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★

★

Directed by: SHIA TIGEL

●

Decor by: SHTIGEL

Lighting by: DANIEL CEPROW

●

Stage Manager: M. FAJNTUCH

ערמיט געהאלפן אונדו ארויסגעבן דעם פראגראם.



“THE FAMILY CAHANA”

ACT 1 — SCENE 1

The place is Jerusalem. It is May, 1968 — the day before “Yom Haatzmoot”. We are in the home of Miriam Cahana whose husband and son have sacrificed their lives many years ago in the struggle against the British forces in Palestine, and whose grandson has most recently fallen in the Six-Day War. Present for the celebration are Actor Hertz Luftglass, Yitzchak and Shimon Yarok — all old family friends — and of course, the Cahana family, including Miriam, her daughter Shoshana, her daughter-in-law Chana and her late grandson’s widow, American-born Ruth. Also, joining the gathering is Ruth’s father, a visiting Philadelphia business man, on his first trip to Israel. He insists that Ruth and her infant son return with him to America — an idea which all the Israelis are against. Miriam sums up their feelings by stating that three generations of the Cahanas have given their lives so that Ruth’s home can be in Israel. Yitzchak has a surprise for Miriam. Twenty-two years before, when he was a member of the Underground struggle against the British, he had taken the family picture album away, lest it be used to help identify Miriam’s son, Yisrael. Now, after so many years, he returns the album. Miriam opens it. Old memories flood into the room, and the stage is set for the next scene, which takes us back twenty-two years.

ACT 1 — SCENE 2

It is 1946. We are in the Cahana home. Shoshana berates her husband, David Weisblum, for continuing to work in an office of the British administration. Miriam also questions her son-in-law’s wisdom. He defends his refusal to quit his job, saying that his clerical work has no connection with politics. After he leaves the house, an electrician arrives, presumably to fix a blown-out fuse. It develops that the Underground had cut the wires outside to provide him with a seemingly legitimate reason for entering the house. He has come to take away any photographs or other material through which the British might identify Miriam’s son, Yisrael Cahana, who he reveals has secretly returned from abroad — in response to a call from the Underground — under an assumed name, and carrying a false passport. The British have arrested him, but while they are almost certain of his identity, they cannot prove it. They have no photograph of him in their files, and certainly no Jew will “finger” him, for it is known that the British intend to hang him. He stubbornly insists he is somebody else — the person in the passport. After informing Miriam of the situation, the electrician (Yitzchak) leaves with the family album in his tool case.

ACT 1 — SCENE 3

We are in the office of British intelligence, where Captain Brecks, is attempting to cajole David Weisblum into identifying his own brother-in-law, Yisrael Cahana. David refuses. Although frightened and distraught, David lasts out the painful interview and is angrily dismissed. Now, the captain interrogates the suspect himself. Yisrael insists that he is indeed the Hersch Goldblatt of the passport, a citizen of Marseilles, and a first-time visitor to Israel. The captain confronts him with a cable from the French police, stating that Hersch Goldblatt died six weeks ago. Still, Brecks cannot break him down and Yisrael is returned to his cell. Now, in succession, Editor Yarok and Actor Luftglass are called in. Both deny that the man in the passport photograph can possibly be Yisrael. After they leave, Brecks plays

- ENGLISH SYNOPSIS

his trump card. He confronts Yisrael with his mother in a face-to-face meeting. But the British officer has not reckoned on the superb self-control of the boy and the strength of the Israel-style "Jewish Mother". Neither betrays any outward emotion. Both deny any relationship and as the scene ends, the captain is filled with rage and frustration.

INTERMISSION

ACT 2 — SCENE 4

Several days have passed. Shoshana and David, while awaiting Miriam's return from her third interrogation, discuss the case. David expresses doubt that Yisrael will succeed in fooling the British. Shimon and Hertz arrive. They, too, are anxious. Miriam returns, and reports nothing really new. Shoshanah suggests that David use his connection with the British to find out what is happening. Miriam vetoes this. David tells Shimon and Hertz that their Underground movement should never have brought Yisrael back at this time, and they counter with their suspicion that David may in some way betray them. Shoshanah expresses resentment at this, and Miriam calms her. Yitzchak comes in with Attorney Lavon who advises Miriam to convince her son to confess and to throw himself on the mercy of the British. Miriam refuses to urge Yisrael to take this step, even though his life is at stake.

ACT 2 — SCENE 5

Two weeks have passed. Yisrael has been condemned to hang. It is the hour of his execution. Attorney Lavon comes to the death cell and pleads with Yisrael. He could save his life. He has only to sign — to petition the British crown for mercy. Rock-like, he refuses. When Miriam arrives, Lavon begs her to intercede with her son. She does not, and in the moments before he is taken off to be executed, she speaks to Yisrael with tenderness about his childhood. Miriam learns from Lavon that her son-in-law, David Weisblum, has been killed in an heroic but unsuccessful attempt to break into the prison and to deliver Yisrael from his captors. Captain Brecks enters. When he learns from Lavon that Yisrael has not signed the papers, he orders the guard to proceed with the execution. Yisrael is taken off to be hanged and Miriam remains alone in the cell with Brecks who expresses amazement at her seeming calm at such a moment. The heroic Israeli mother replies that in her son's place stand thousands of other boys, "They are all my sons".

ACT 2 — SCENE 6

It is now twenty-two years later — May 14th, 1968, "Yom Haatzmoot". All the dramatic personae of the play's first scene are present, including Mr. Rosen, who is told flatly by his daughter, Ruth, that she will not return with him to America — but she will bring up her son in his own country, Israel. Lavon, now Chief Justice of Israel's Supreme Court, comes to escort Miriam to meet the President of Israel, in recognition of the sacrifices which three generations of the Cahana family have made for their country.

Synopsis by: DANNY NEWMAN, Chicago, U.S.A.