MELB. YOUTH GROUP

**PRESENTS** 

## DINA HALPERN

AS GUEST STAR AND DIRECTOR

TOGETHER WITH AN
ENSEMBLE OF 40 ARTISTS
AND ORCHESTRA



ITZIK MANGER'S POETIC MUSICAL FANTASY

### "DIE KISHEFMACHERN"



PROGRAMME

#### (In Order of Appearance)

CHANELE (Child in front of mirror)	
MIRELE (Child in front of mirror)	
FIRST WITCH'S ASSISTANT	FREDA GOLDGERG
SECOND WITCH'S ASSISTANT	MIRIAM SLUCKI
THIRD WITCH'S ASSISTANT	
BOBE YACHNEH (The Witch)	DINA HALPERN
REB AVRENCHE	ALEX DAFNER
ELIYOKUM (The Witch's Apprentice)	LEON GRYFENBERG
FIRST DAUGHTER	
SECOND DAUGHTER	AIDA LUSTIG
THIRD DAUGHTER	
FIRST HOTZMACH	SHIA TIGEL
MIELE (An Orphan)	
BASYA (A Stepmother)	
FIRST SALESMAN	
SECOND SALESMAN	JERRY DINER
SECOND HOTZMACH	MEYER CEPROW
THIRD HOTZMACH	JASHA SHER
BUTCHER (In The Market Place)	TIMINE OCCUTORT
BOY (In The Market Place)	
GIRL (In The Market Place)	
MAN (In The Market Place)	
BAYLE (The Ghost Of Hotzmach's Wife).	
LYEH (A Gypsy)	
FIRST GUEST (In Turkish Cafe)	
SECIND GUEST (In Turkish Cafe)	
WAITER (In Turkish Cafe)	
MUSIC BY HENOCH KOHN	DECOR: HAIMY SLADE

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: BEN SOGULOF

LIGHTING: DANIEL CEPROW

#### SYNOPSIS OF "DIE KISHEVMACHER'N"

Act I, Scene 1: Chanele and Mirele peer into The Magic Mirror to see there the story of The Witch and another Mirele-Mirele, The Orphan. Chanele assures Mirele that the Magic Mirror will reflect a fascinating tale, if they but repeat the proper magic formula.

Scene 2: The Witch arrives, interrupting her assistants' singing about her occult powers. She tells them that she is greatly disturbed at Reb Avremche's betrayal of her trust. For, she has taught him her Magic Melody on condition that he reveal it to no one else. He has taught it to his daughter, Mirele. Now, he must be punished, reduced from riches to poverty cursed with amnesia and sent wandering aimlessly over the face of the earth. "The Bobe Yachneh," as The Witch is called, instructs her apprentice, Eliyokum, to lure Mirele away from her stepmother so that she can be sold to a gypsy who will take her far away. Her father will never see her again.

Scene 3: Again, in front of The Magic Mirror, the children repeat the magic words, and ask to see more of the story.

Scene 4: Hotzmach's three daughters are at home, plucking feathers to earn the living which their poor father cannot provide. After singing of the injustice of it all, they awaken Hotzmach from his dream of finding "a hundred thousand golden coins," they betrate him as an impractical dreamer. Tearfully, they plead that they, respectively, need a pair of shoes, a dress and a boy-friend. He plays a blindfold game with them, promising to provide the needs of the daughter who eludes him. Then, filled with optimism, he dashes off to The Market Place to try his luck.

Scene 5: Back in front of The Magic Mirror, Mirele asks Chanele how it is that she (Chanele) seems to know so much about this story beforhand. Chanele explains that her grand-mother, having once seen this drama at Mr Goldfaden's theatre, told her all the details.

Scene 6: Mirele, the orphan, longs for her vanished father Her stepmother, Basya, appears and orders her to bring water from the well. Basya muses over the Witch's recent advice as to how she can get rid of Mirele. She acts on this advice, for when Mirele returns, she sends her off to The Market Place, first taking away her scarf and shoes, and warning her that she had better not come home if she loses the money for the butcher.

Scene 7: Shochrayevich & Schvindelsohn, dry good merchants, sing in their stall of the virtues of their merchandise and of their policy of cash - no credit! Hotzmach appears in front of their stall, running smack into two other impoverished fellows who also claim to be Hotzmach. At first, they accuse each other of being impostors. However, they find that they have everything in common. Each has three daughters who respectively require a pair of shoes, a dress and a boy-friend. Each wears a little goat's beard, each has a yellow patch on his sleave and not one of them has a means of livelihood. Finally, it dawns on them. They are the universal Hotzmachs - all in the same boat. They sing, "All Of Us Are Hotzmachs!" They convince the hardhearted dry goods merchants to let them have samples, on consignment, and they're in business.

Act II, Scene 1: The Market Place Vendors singingly implore the customers to buy. Hotzmach sets up shop, and in his desperation, cheats a young girl who buys needles from him, and an elderly man who purchases linen. Eliyokum steals the money from Mirele's pocket and she turns, tearfully, to the people of The Market Place, and sings her plea for help. The Witch appears at her side, representing that she is a long lost Aunt, and offers her protection. Mirele goes with her.

Scene 2: Hotzmach, a widower, dreams that he is visited by his wife's ghost. She demands that he fulfill his fatherly obligations. The dream sequence continues as, in his troubled sleep, he is visited by the young girl and the old gentleman he had cheated in The Market Place. Finally, Mirele appears in his dreams, charging him with the mission of rescuing her and helping to find her father. In return for this service, she promises to teach him The Magic Meldy, the possession of which will bring him all he seeks. He awakens and vows to find Mirele and thus gain gain the world.

Scene 3: Hotzmach snoops around the Witch's hut, gaining her assistants' confidence with the ruse that he's trying to find Mirele to collect a bill she owes him for "two pairs of stockings and one garter." He sees her for a moment. Now, he knows that she is in The Witch's clutches, and he runs off. The Witch arranges with Lyeh, The Gypsy, to take Mirele away, on the condition that he will never permit her to escape. The Gypsy is satisfied with the bargain. He will play his fiddle and Mirele will sing.

Act III, Scene 1: Hotzmach, in search of Mirele, dashes over the countyside on his valiant steed. He decides to refresh both himself and his charger, dismounts, and lies down in the shade of a tree. He sleeps. This time, his dreams are sweet, for he sees his daughters provided for at last, and indeed, they seem ecstatic about their good fortune - in the dream, of course. Hotzmach awakens to overhear the passing gypsy and if Mirele talking about being on their way to Istanbul. He begins to follow, but suddenly the other two Hotzmachs appear, demanding to be taken into partnership in whatever his current enterprise might be. He agrees, but tells them that the whole thing is still a secret, and convinces them to return to the home town, where the customers "cannot be left without a Hotzmach!" Jubilantly, he heads for the exotic Turkish capitol.

Scene 2: Hotzmach enters a Turkish cafe, in search of new markets and Mirele. He approaches a be-fezzed denizen of the cafe, only to discover that this "Turk" is none other than one of his fellow Hotzmachs, who declares that he is fed up with the disabilities and difficulties of being a Hotzmach. He has become a Turk! Suddenly, Hotzmach hears Mirele's voice, for she has just entered the cafe, accompanied by The Gypsy. With the collaboration of the Turkish Hotzmach, The Gypsy is tricked into taking his eye away from Mirele. She escapes to an appointed rendezvous where Hotzmach is to meet her.

Scene 3: The Witch, is an inn on the road to nowhere, is making her last stand against the reunion of Mirele and her father, Reb Avremche. Eliyokum, disguised as the innkeeper, hovers in the background. The second and third Hotzmachs have been driven into the inn by the gathering storm outside. The Witch studies her playing cards for portents of what the next minutes will bring. She sees, in the cards, that her evil plans are doomed to failure, and that Mirele, guided by Hotzmach, is at the inn's threhold, and that Reb Avremche, too, despite every obstacle which she can set up through her powerful witchcraft, is also relentlessly on his way. She calls upon all the elements of nature to turn him back and to frustrate this reunion. But her pleas prove futile. First Mirele and Hotzmach arrive at the inn, and very shortly therafter, Reb Avremche staggers in. Father and daughter are re-united. Thus, the Magic Melody, long jealously guarded by The Witch, is now in the public domain, so to speak. All will benefit from knowledge of it. All except The Hotzmachs of The World, that is. For The Witch advises them that they must find their own special melody in order to achieve their fulfillment.

1974



קדימה". דוד הערמאן טעאטער מעלבורנער יוגנטיטרופע

פרעזענטירן

# דינה האלפערן

אלס גאסט־ארטיסטין און רעזשיסארין

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כישופמאכעריו

מוזיקאלישע פאלקס־שפיל פון איציק מאנגער.



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