

## S. AN-SKY

Shlomo Zanvil Rappoport, who wrote under the pseudonym of S. An-sky, was born in Vitebsk, Russia, in 1863. A master collector of the folktales of his people, which he gathered in his wanderings to and fro among the cities and villages of Russia, *The Dybbuk* is the only complete dramatic work he ever wrote. He presented the first version which he wrote in Russian to the famous Stanislavsky, the great Russian director of the Moscow Art Theatre, who gave it high praise, and advised that it be rewritten in Yiddish and that it be performed by a Jewish troupe. It was translated into Hebrew by the late poet laureate of the Hebrew Renaissance, Chaim Nachman Bialik, and into several English versions.

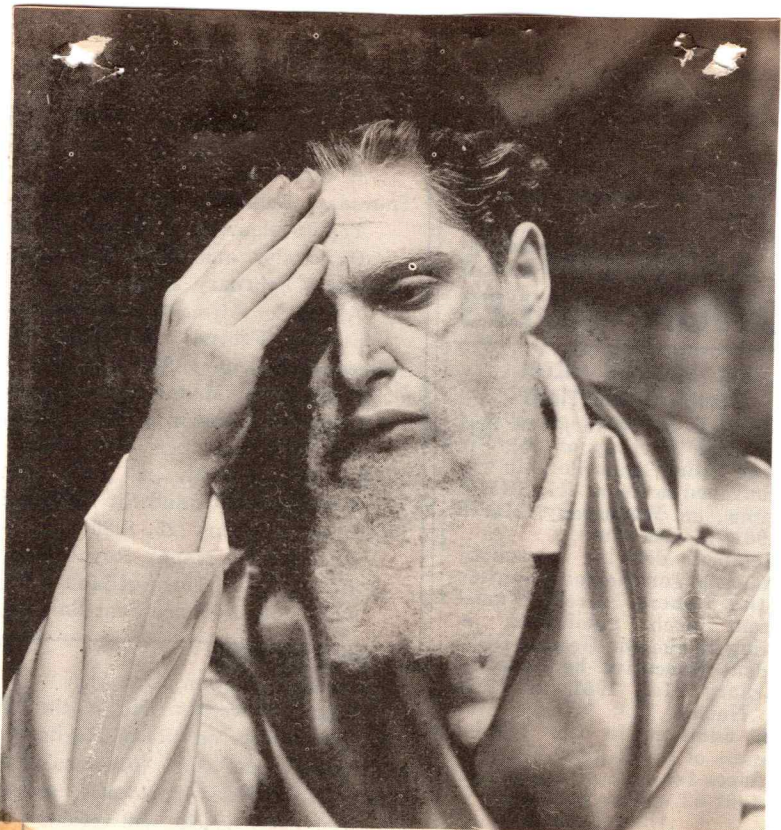
First performed in 1920 by the famous Habimah Theatre, *The Dybbuk*, extremely popular with theatre goers, has been presented by professional and amateur troupes throughout the world.

The Hebrew word, "*Dybbuk*", literally means "attachment". In Jewish folklore it designates "a migrant soul which enters the body of a living person and refuses to leave it unless exorcised by a religious rite". In the passion of Channon, the young, poor Talmudical scholar, for the lovely Leah, An-sky has used this popular folk conception to dramatize what has been characterized as "the best and also the worst elements of the experiences of an entire people; their suffering, their superstitions, their culture and their soul . . . In this play . . . life itself is made to speak its disturbing and soul-stirring drama." (S. M. von Engel).

The English version being presented by the Hillel Theatre Players is an adaptation made by the eminent Canadian playwright, director and producer Mac Shoub, whose work in theatre, radio and television dramatizations have earned for him great public acclaim.



Leah (Eva Roskies) pleads with the Dybbuk which has possessed her.



The weary Rabbi Azrael (Seymour Heisler) ponders on the coming exorcism of the Dybbuk

## CHAYELE GROBER

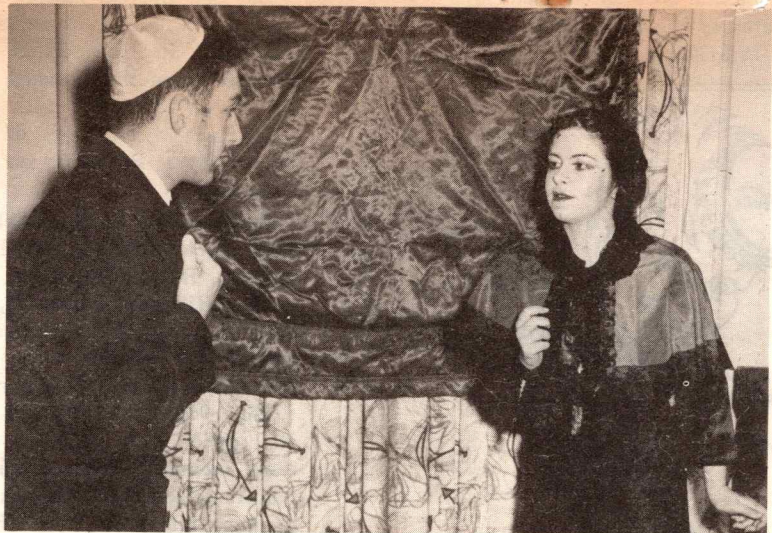


The Hillel Theatre Workshop is again pleased and honoured to have as its director for the forthcoming production of *The Dybbuk*, a

person distinguished in the theatre and internationally acclaimed as a stage personality. In Europe and America, in Australia, England and Israel she has enchanted audiences with her art, her scholarship and her important reminiscences of great men and great movements in the world of theatre.

Born and educated in Bialystok, Poland, Chayele Grober was uprooted by the First World War and transplanted to Moscow where she started her dramatic and musical training. For five years she studied drama under the master K. S. Stanislavsky and E. B. Vachtangoff, the first producer of the world-famous *Dybbuk*. She studied music under the leading professors of the Moscow Philharmonia and the rhythmic arts and plastic movements at the Dalcrose School. She was later one of the founders and leading actresses of the famous Habimah Theatre of Israel, with which she made her first tour of Europe and North America.

In 1930, she established her own "One Woman Show", a repertoire of dramatic sketches, folksongs, and mime. Her Habimah Studio productions in Montreal have been received with enjoyment and praise by theatregoers. Chayele Grober brings to her direction of *The Dybbuk* the inspiration of the original productions communicated to her by her celebrated teachers, as well as her vast experience in the theatre and her wide range of talents. All these she has communicated to our student actors in *The Dybbuk* now being presented for your enjoyment.

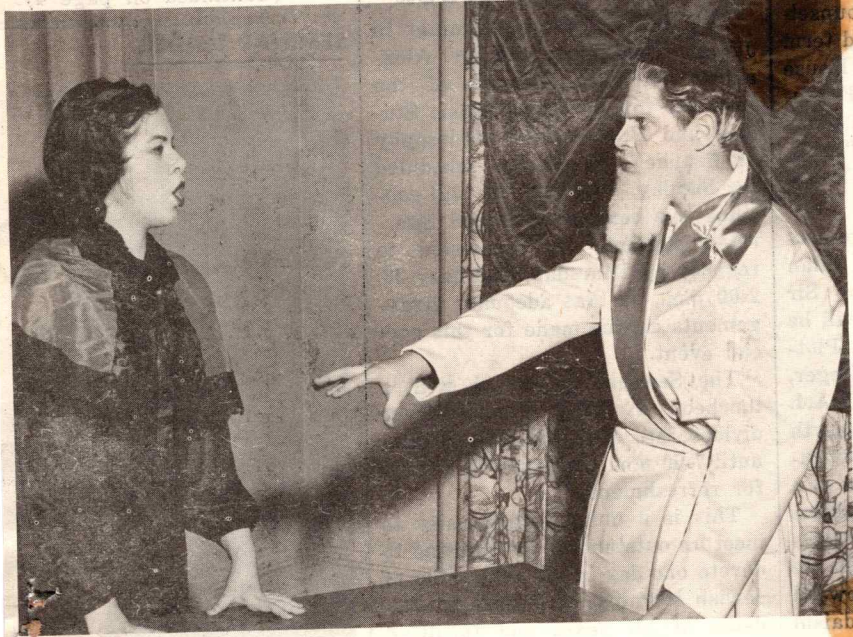


With pounding hearts Channon (David Gurberg) and Leah (Eva Roskies) meet after years of separation.

Awed, Freda (Arlette Blaustein), (left), Leah (Eva Roskies), (centre), and Gittel (Anne Joffe), (right), enter the synagogue,



"Dybbuk! I command you to leave the body of the maiden Leah!" Leah (Eva Roskies) and Rabbi Azrael (Seymour Heisler).





Channon (David Gurberg) (left) is oblivious to Chennoch (Andrew Geller) (right) as he involves himself in mysticism in his passion for Leah.



Teena Garelick listens to criticisms, while working on one of the many posters for the productions.

Director Chayele Grober with her production staff  
 and cast bend to the task of interpreting the subtle  
 humor of Sholom Aleichem.

