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# The Guide

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## Bad boys at sea

Johannes Mannov (center) in Benjamin Britton's "Billy Budd" page 12

Music at the Israel Festival page 13 ■ What's doing on Shavuot page 22

# Theater

## Michael Handelzalts

### As You Like It

**Cameri production**  
Dan Almagor found a brilliant Hebrew idiom in translating this romantic-erotic comedy; Omri Nitzan's direction and Ruth Dar's design are no less inventive. The Duke's court is a metallic, totalitarian regime; Arden Forest is composed of white cotton-wool – stuff from which dreams are made. But in Nitzan's version the ending is not only bitter, it is frightening – as befits a truly good comedy. A very good performance from the whole company, with special mention due to Itschak Hizkia as Jacques, and Anat Waxman as a charming Rosalind (one of the best and most beautiful epilogues I've ever heard in this play).

### Good

**Beit Lessin production**  
A play written in the early eighties by C. P. Taylor and set in 1930s Germany, recounts how a good-intentioned but emotionally confused intellectual can become a Nazi. But director Rony Pinkowitz "overplays" the Nazi card. The audience sees from the start where the production is headed: Nathan Dattner, as the main character, loses the audience's sympathy, on which the play's effect largely depends, and comes over as anything but "good." A sad misinterpretation with some good acting (Ilan Dar, Anat Zamsteigman).

### Herod

**Cameri production**  
An ambitious undertaking: Edna Mazya strives to rehabilitate the reputation of the Jewish king, and has chosen a modern theatrical idiom: modern day dress, contemporary language, etc. The result is less than satisfying, the play's action unfolds in a rather stilted manner and the actors (Gil Frank as the king, Limor Goldstein as the femme fatale Cleopatra) are left with speeches to recite, but no parts to act.

### Kiss of the Spiderwoman

**Habima production**  
Manuel Puig's play (which was also a successful film) features a political activist (played by Yoram Hattab) and a homosexual (the charismatic Juliano Mer) who share a prison cell. The actors do their best, but the staging (by Itzik Weingarten) stresses the obvious, highlights their male nudity and misses the nuances of the power games featured. Between scenes, there is music and a woman dancing.

### The Memory of Water

**Beit Lessin production**  
This play by Sheila Stephenson brings three sisters together on the eve of their mother's funeral. Family feuds, former husbands and lovers and bitter-sweet memories are aired, while the character of the deceased mother hovers over the proceedings. The play has poetic qualities, missed completely by director Hillel Mittelpunkt. Tiki Dayan over-acts wildly as the eldest sister and turns the event into stand-up comedy, but Daphna Rechter saves the evening with a fine, touching performance as the middle sister, the emotional center of the play.

### News Flash

**Beit Lessin production**  
Goren Agmon's play sounds like a magazine story or a soap-opera: A successful but over-worked woman surgeon, who is also a single mother (Limor Goldstein) with a teenager, has an affair with her boss (Ami Weinberg) at the hospital. She is also confronted with a visitor from abroad (Avi Oria), who harassed her in the past and now tries again. There is also a comic, loyal nurse (Levana Finkelstein).

### Blue/Orange

**Habima production**  
A play written by Joe Penhall,

which questions our definitions of sanity and madness. A young black boy (Shai Zabiv) who behaved strangely in public is detained in an asylum for observation. One of the psychiatrists (Igal Naor) wants to keep him in, the other (Alex Peleg) thinks he should be set free, as the bed is needed for others. A struggle and rank-pulling between mental health professionals in which "the other" is left out. Director Gadi Rol pushed the actors to energetic performances, but all three somehow seem miscast.

### The Return to the Desert

**The Khan**  
The play by Koltes, a French playwright, tells a story of a Frenchwoman (Liora Rivlin, in a fine comic performance) who comes back from Algiers to the mansion of her brother (Doron Tavori in a tour de force of acting) in France. The problems of relatives who want to claim back their share of land is strangely familiar, and the show is well directed by Ophira Henig the character of the deceased mother hovers over the proceedings. The play has poetic qualities, missed completely by director Hillel Mittelpunkt. Tiki Dayan over-acts wildly as the eldest sister and turns the event into stand-up comedy, but Daphna Rechter saves the evening with a fine, touching performance as the middle sister, the emotional center of the play.

### River

**Gesher production**  
Yevgeni Arye's version of Ostrovski's classic play about a girl without a dowry who is being married off. Efrat Ben Zur is disappointing as the girl and Alexander Demidov is impressive, as usual, as one of the suitors. But the real star of the show is set designer Alexander Lisiansky, whose set moves up, down and sideways, and does almost everything except sing and dance.

### Sephardi Orchard

**Habima production**  
An entertaining performance about the simple and charming life of the Sephardic community in Jerusalem at the beginning of the 20th century. Devised by Itzhak Navon in the '70s, the play was revived as a money-maker with star performances by Galit Giat and Yaakov Cohen. The music makes you hum, but

the blatant commercial quality of the evening makes you wonder if this is a repertory fit for the National Theater.

### Servant To Two Masters

**Young Vic Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company**  
An import from Great Britain, courtesy of the British Council, this version of Carlo Goldoni's famous comedy, directed by Tim Supple, focuses on the genuine plights (hunger and love) of its heroes, but leaves the audience laughing. It also highlights the differences in the English social strata to convey some larger meanings. This makes for a rather slow and long evening, with one huge asset: Jason Watkins in the title role is funny and sad, entertaining and heartwarming. In this role and outside of it, he is a comedian worth watching.

### Slihot

**Beit Lessin production**  
A play by Hanna Azoulai Hasfari about four daughters who convene in their mother's flat after she mysteriously disappears. This work seems to be a study of the Israeli Sephardi woman – in which each of the daughters represents a different type: Levana Finkelstein is the submissive mother; Azoulai Hasfari is the Shas wife and mother of eight; Orna Fitoussi is the liberated businesswoman; and Dorit Bar-Or is the mixed-up film student. Some good lines, and enough melodrama to supply seven soap operas.

### Strangers

**Habima production**  
Yehoshua Sobol, one of Israel's best writers, brings together two themes: getting old and living with foreign workers. Moni Moshonov creates the unforgettable character of Getzel, an Alzheimer's patient, who wanders on stage, sometimes "out" or sometimes faking it. Sandra Sade (his wife in real life) is the foreign worker who takes care of him, but also tries to have a life of her own. The play loses track with another plot strand – Russian immigrants –

but on the whole it is a touching, sad and funny evening at the theater. Nola Chilton, always a marvelous acting coach, directed.

### Twosomes

**Habima production**  
Another show by the young troupe from Habima, which performs under the guidance of Ilan Ronen in eight short stories about relationships. A group of young and talented people, who sometimes get carried away with over-direction, the overuse of film projection, etc. (by Gerard Alon). The actors chose the playlets, all by different writers, most of whom are thirty-something. But there are too few human moments for the audience to relate to, and the outlook on the life of couples, either heterosexual or homosexual, is pretty depressing.

### Village

**Gesher production**  
A story of a village in 1940s Israel through the eyes of an innocent child (played beautifully by Israel Demidov, the company's star): Jews, Arabs, Holocaust survivors, love, suffering and death. Yehoshua Sobol's play, based on his childhood memories, closely follows the structure of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town." The company is enthusiastic and fully committed, and Yevgeni Arye directs with his trademark revolving stages and continuous movement and noise.

### The Witch

**Habima production**  
Abraham Goldfaden's classic musical of Yiddish theater hovers in this production, directed by Micky Gourevitz, between two clashing styles. The first is a nostalgic bow toward the Yiddish theater and actors, as a play-within-a-play performed by camp survivors and old-style Yiddish comedians. The second has the manic energies of Shlomo Bar Abba in the title role, an actor who takes over whatever production he is in, and carries it away with him. Lot of laughs in rather dubious taste and a missed opportunity.

## Theater

## Theater listings

### Tel Aviva

#### HABIMA THEATER

**The House of Bernarda Alba** (by Federico Garcia Lorca) Saturday at 21.00; Monday, Wednesday, Thursday at 20.30  
**Little Devil** *Shed Katan* Saturday at 21.00  
**Stones In His Pocket** (by Marie Jones, directed by Dan Ronen) Saturday, Monday at 21.00; Thursday at 20.30  
**Blue/Orange** (by Joe Penhall) Monday, Tuesday at 21.00  
**Strangers** *Zarim* (by Yehoshua Sobol) Tuesday, Wednesday at 20.30  
**Johnny Returns from the Battlefield** Wed at 21.00  
**Naomi** Thursday at 21.00

#### CAMERI THEATER

**As You Like It** (by Shakespeare, directed by Omri Nitzan) Saturday, Monday at 21.00; Tuesday, Wednesday at 20.30

#### BEIT LESSIN

**Slihot** *Repentance* (by Hanna Azulai-Hasfari) Friday at 21.30; Sunday at 21.30; Monday at 21.00; Tuesday at 20.30  
**Enigmatic Variations** (by Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt) Thursday at 20.30

#### GESHER THEATER

**Miss Julie** (by August Strindberg) Monday, Tuesday at 20.30

#### ERETZ ISRAEL MUSEUM

**Defending the Caveman** (Beit Lessin production, by Rob Becker) Sunday at 21.30  
**Good** (Beit Lessin production, by C.P. Taylor) Tuesday-Thursday at 20.30

#### Z.O.A. HOUSE

**Rabbi Kameah** (Cameri production, by Shmuel Hasfari) Saturday, Monday at 21.00; Tuesday-Thursday at 20.30

#### TZAVTA

**Look at Me** (Fringe production) Saturday at 21.00  
**Man, Woman, Words** (Fringe production) Monday at 21.00  
**Jungol** (Fringe production)



The Haifa Theater presents "Masked Ball."

Wednesday at 20.30  
**The Toads** (Fringe production, by Ilan Ganani and Eran Shadar) Wednesday at 21.00  
**Mother's Muluhia** (by and with Nissim Zohar) Thursday at 20.30

#### OHEL SHEM THEATER

**Twosomes** *Zugiut* (based on a collection of stories by Israeli authors, edited and directed by Ilan Ronen) Saturday, Monday at 21.00; Tuesday-Thursday at 20.30

#### TMUNA THEATER

**The Road to the River of Silence** (by Galit Mayor, directed by Sarit Larry) Friday at 13.00  
**Judy Darling** (by Nava Zukerman and Yael Dar) Friday at 21.30; Sunday at 13.00  
**Lice** (by Ido Bornstein & Shlomo Plessner) Friday at 21.00  
**The Boys of Summer** (by Roy Smiles, directed by Lee Gilat) Saturday at 20.00  
**No Fear** (by Amnon Abutbul, Martin Mugliner, directed by Martin Mugliner) Tuesday, Wednesday at 20.30

#### HOLON THEATER

**Omelet and Salad** (Tmuna production, by Michael Moris, directed by Hanoach Re'im) Tuesday at 20.30

#### HASIMTA THEATER

**Meta-Rabin** (created and

performed by The Orto-Da Group) Wednesday at 20.00

#### DUHL AUDITORIUM

**Masked Ball** (by Yehoshua Sobol, directed by Avi Malka) Wednesday at 20.30

#### BEIT HACHAYAL

**The Rise and Fall of Little Voice** (Beit Lessin production, by Jim Cartwright) Saturday at 21.00  
**Defending the Caveman** (Beit Lessin production, by Rob Becker) Monday at 21.00; Tuesday at 20.30

#### HERZLIYA MUNICIPAL THEATER

**Copenhagen** (Cameri production, by Michael Frayn) Thursday at 20.30

#### Jerusalem

#### KHAN THEATER

**Transient Shadow** *Tzel Holef* (written and directed by Michael Gurevitch) Saturday at 21.00  
**Simon** (by Yitzhak Bar-Yosef) Saturday at 21.00  
**The Return to the Desert** (by Bernard-Marie Koltes) Monday at 21.00; Tuesday, Wednesday at 20.30  
**Glengarry Glen Ross** (by David Mamet) Thursday at 20.30

#### THE HIRSCH THEATER

Beit Shmuel, (02) 620-3427  
**Guys & Dolls** (The Capital Musical Theatre, by Abe

Burrows, music & lyrics by Frank Loesser) Friday at 14.00

#### Haifa and the North

#### HAIFA MUNICIPAL THEATER

**Masked Ball** (by Yehoshua Sobol, directed by Avi Malka) Saturday at 20.30  
**Kiss of the Spiderwoman** (Habima production, by Manuel Puig) Tuesday-Thursday at 20.30

#### HATZAFON THEATER

Kiryat Haim  
**News Flash** *Mivzak Hadashot* (Beit Lessin production) Saturday at 21.00

#### MATNAS

Tivon  
**Collected Stories** (by Donald Margulies) Tuesday at 20.30

#### KIBBUTZ YAGUR

**Herod** *Hordus* (Cameri production, by Edna Mazya) Tuesday at 21.00; Wednesday at 20.30

#### BEIT YIGAL ALLON

Safed  
**Slihot** *Repentance* (Beit Lessin production, by Hanna Azulai-Hasfari) Wednesday at 21.00

#### Other Locales

#### HEICHAL HATARBUT

Netanya  
**The Memory of Water** (Beit Lessin production, by Sheila Stephanson) Thursday at 20.30

#### KIBBUTZ GAN SHMUEL

(04) 632-0316  
**Village** (by Yehoshua Sobol) Saturday at 20.30

#### HEICHAL HATARBUT

Rishon Letzion  
**Defending the Caveman** (Beit Lessin production, by Rob Becker) Saturday at 21.00

#### MOFET

Rishon Letzion, (03) 964-5711  
**Defending the Caveman** (Beit Lessin production, by Rob Becker) Thursday at 21.00

#### HEICHAL HATARBUT

Nes Ziona, (08) 940-1881, 940-4470  
**River** (by Alexander Ostrovsky) Wednesday, Thursday at 21.00

#### BE'ER SHEVA MUNICIPAL THEATER

Box Office: (08) 620-6222  
**Proof** (by David Auburn, directed by Eyal Goldberg) Monday at 20.30

#### HEICHAL HATARBUT

Be'er Sheva  
**White Heart** (written and directed by Ilan Hatzor) Wednesday, Thursday at 20.30

#### HEICHAL HATARBUT

Ashkelon  
**The Witch** (Habima production, by Avraham Goldfaden) Tuesday-Thursday at 20.30

#### YAD LEBANIM

Ashdod  
**Sephardi Orchard** (Habima production) Wednesday at 21.00

## Israel Festival Jerusalem

### JERUSALEM THEATER

**Cabin Pressure 2** (by Anne Bogart and performed by Sifi Company, New York) Friday at 15.00; Saturday at 21.00

**A Servant To Two Masters** (by Carlo Goldoni) Tuesday-Thursday at 20.00

Tickets at 1-700-500-567

## Where to Find it

### TEL AVIV & AREA

**Barbi Club** 40 Salame St, (03) 681-6757  
**Bat-Dor Theater** 30 Ibn Gvirol St., (03) 696-3175  
**Barklay's Coffee** 1 Jabotinsky St., Ramat Gan, (03) 575-9008  
**Beit Daniel** 62 Bnei Dan St., (03) 544-2740  
**Beit Frankfurt** Hadar Yosef, (03) 649-2409  
**Beth Hatefutsoth** The Diaspora Museum, Ramat Aviv, (03) 646-2024  
**Beit Hachayal** (03) 546-4251  
**Beit Lessin** 34 Weizmann St., (03) 694-1222  
**Beit Zvi** 2 Shoalei Shimshon

St., (03) 579-9290  
**Bikurei Hattim Community Center** 6 Heftman St., (03) 683-7441  
**Camel Comedy Club** 5 Nahum Goldman St., (03) 518-6818  
**Camelot Club** 16 Shalom Aleichem St., (03) 528-5222/3  
**Cameri Theater** Box office: (03) 523-3335  
**Cinerama Theater** 61 Igal Alon St., (03) 562-0999  
**Dugit** Tel Aviv Port, (03) 602-0987  
**Duhl Auditorium** 76 Hatikva St., Hatikva, (03) 692-7777  
**Dinamo Dvash** 59 Abarbanel, (03) 683-5159

**Einav Cultural Center** Gan Ha'ir, 71 Ibn Gvirol St., (03) 521-7760  
**Eretz Israel Museum** Haim Levanon St., Ramat Aviv, (03) 641-5244  
**Ga'ash Jazz Club** Kibbutz Ga'ash, (09) 952-1190 or (052) 920-296  
**Gesher Theater** Jaffa, (03) 681-3131  
**Givatayim Theater** 40 Remez St., (03) 732-5340  
**The Golf Bistro** Caesarea Golf Club, (04) 626-0272  
**Habima Theater** Box office: (03) 629-5555  
**Hachush Hashishi** 5

Hacharoshet St., Ramat Hasharon, (03) 549-0706  
**Hangar 11** Tel Aviv Port, (03) 602-0832/82  
**Haratzif** 6 Yordeh Hasira St., Tel Aviv Port, tel: (03) 604-6134  
**Hasimta Theater** 8 Mazal Dagim St., (03) 681-2126  
**Heichal** Petach Tikva, (03) 931-7374  
**Heichal Hatarbut Bat Yam** (03) 508-0031  
**Heichal Hatarbut Netanya** (03) 861-2453  
**Heichal Hatarbut Kfar Sava** (09) 764-9230  
**Heichal Hatarbut Ra'anana** (09) 748-2915

**Heichal Hatarbut Rishon Letzion** 16 Jabotinsky, (03) 948-4800  
**Heineken Club** Habima Theater, Tarsat Blvd., (03) 528-2174  
**Heineken Camelot Club**  
**Herzliya** 85 Medinat Hayehudim St., Herzliya Pituah. Tickets: (03) 528-5223  
**Herzliya Municipal Theater**, Shirat Dvora, (09) 955-2921  
**Inbal Auditorium** Suzanne Dellal Center, 5 Yehieli, Neve Tzedek, (03) 517-3711  
**Israel Music Conservatory** 19 Stricker St., Jaffa, (03) 546-6228  
**Kat Balu** 10 Ben Avigdor St., (03) 562-0310

**The Janice and Philip Levin Municipal Music Center** 10 Sheerit Yisrael St., (03) 681-2046  
**Kibbutz Shefayim** (09) 959-6529  
**Kossit** 5 Rabin Square, (03) 522-3244  
**Latino Bar** 16 Ibn Gvirol St., (03) 609-5081  
**Mann Auditorium** Tarsat Blvd., (03) 528-9163  
**Maymana House** 15 Louis Pasteur St., Jaffa, (03) 560-0783  
**Mercaz Hashahmat Library** 26 Tagur St., (03) 643-7921/6948,

**Moadon Hateatron** 10 Jerusalem Blvd., Jaffa, (03) 518-4715  
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**The Opera House** 19 Shaul Hamelech Blvd., (03) 692-7777  
**Ohel Shem Theater** 30 Balfour St., (03) 525-2266  
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(03) 561-0785  
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**Russell Cultural Center** Matityahu Mendel St., Ramat Gan, (03) 674-1277  
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**The Studio** 24 Cremieux St., (03) 685-6787  
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**Tmuna Theater** 8 Soncino St., (03) 562-9462  
**Traklin** 6 Kaplan St., (03) 691-4156  
**Tzavta** 30 Ibn Gvirol St., (03) 695-0156/7  
**Z.O.A. House** 1 Daniel Frisch St., (03) 695-9341  
**Yad Lebanim**, Ramat Hasharon, Hamahateret corner Hahagana St., (03) 540-7298  
**Yad Lebanim**, Ra'anana,

(09) 771-0781  
**Yad Lebanim**, Holon 11 Kugel Blvd., (03) 503-7781

### JERUSALEM

**St. Andrew Scots Memorial Church** 1 David Remez St., (02) 673-2401  
**Beit Shmuel** 6 Shama St., (02) 620-3466  
**Bible Lands Museum** 25 Grant St., (02) 561-1066  
**Confederation House** Emil Botta Street, (02) 624-5171  
**Church of the Redeemer** Muristan Rd., Old-City  
**Dormition Abbey** Mount Zion,