

A Zionist Yiddish Land on the Shores of the Mediterranean:

Sholem Aleichem's *Hard to Be a Jew* in Mandatory Tel-Aviv

A Talk by Shelly Zer-Zion

About the Talk

Hard to Be a Jew premiered in Habima in December 1936. The play, that was adapted from Sholem Aleichem's novel *Der Blutike Shpas* by his son-in-law Y. D. Berkowitz and staged by Habima in-house director, Zvi Friedland, gained high esteem.

Less than a year later, in July 1937, the satirical Eretz-Israeli theatre Ha-Matateh put on his version of *Hard to be a Jew*. Yitzkhok Nuzhik, the in-house playwright and director titled his play *Easy to be a Jew*. Shelly will discuss how the two Sholem Aleichem's stage adaptations and their reception in Tel Aviv turned into cognitive maps that delineated the spatial experience of the Jews in Mandatory Palestine in light of the growing anti-Semitism in Europe and the Arab revolt in the land.

About the Speaker

Shelly Zer-Zion is a lecturer of theatre at the University of Haifa. She holds a Ph.D. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her research focuses on the history of twentieth century Hebrew theatre in Europe and Palestine, and its interconnections with Yiddish and German theatre cultures.



Friday, April 7th

12:00pm, HSS-Galbraith Room

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