

A 'Hashomer Hatzair' Performance Of 'The Black Spot'



This is a photo of a 'Hashomer Hatzair' theater performance. The photo was taken in 1939 in Ruse. The name of the play was 'The Black Spot,' I cannot remember the name of the author, who was of German origin. It was a very interesting comedy play, written against racial discrimination, with a very modern plot. In summary, the wife of a very rich German landowner gets married to a Negro [African-American] in Germany. That was condemnable - the father of the girl could not imagine what the children looked like - white, black, or striped... In Ruse it was staged by Izidor Hershkovic, one of the innovators of theater directing in Bulgaria; he was one of the first to include a live orchestra in his performances as early as 1930-1940. He wrote the lyrics for the play and I played one of the main roles. I am in the second row down, looking sideways and wearing a tie. The photo was taken in the Drama Theater in Ruse after the performance, in front of the props. In the play the musical score was played by the young men from the David music association. They were not actors, they just played the instruments; the performance resembled a musical.