TODAY

The Grand Finale

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Israel Festival ends tonight with a flurry of hit performances. The final performance of Carmen is slated for 8:30 p.m., but the opera has proved such a smash that an added performance is being squeezed in at 5 p.m. The Stuttgart Ballet also concludes its run of The Taming of the Shrew today with two performances. And there are Shmuel Hasfari's Feathers and Mendi Rodan's Beethoven marathon to wrap things up.

But maybe the festival isn't ending a moment too soon. That, at least, is the impression one gets from some of the street lunacies that have been foisted on the public. I mean, I thought we'd seen it all, what with the Smartut Theatre's naked Jesus and slaughtered chickens, or Dan Zakheim's ubiquitous angel wingprints and mad Swiss bell-ringers.

But then on Friday, we caught Yossi Tzemach's Place and Friends.

"Caught" is the appropriate word, because experiencing this performance seemed akin to contracting a disease. Nothing we had seen before, and nothing we could dream up in our most fevered imagination. could match this one.

There was, for example, the young man who lay in the Gerard Behar Plaza with a laundry basket over his head. He was reciting something, but as a wicker basket makes for a fairly effective muzzle, no one could understand him.

By LEV BEARFIELD July Que A young lady meanwhile was cloistered inside a conceret bunker. busily slapping fingerpaint on a post and barking out the occasional odd word. Odd doesn't nearly describe

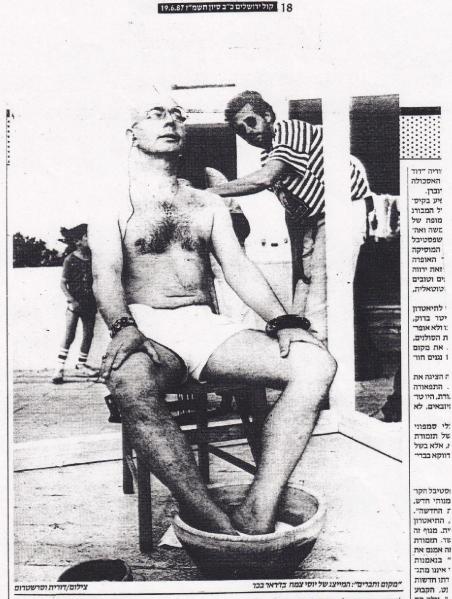
Wandering around between the man in the laundry basket, the woman painting the post and Milkfoot and Mirror-Girl was an entire minvan of additional chanters - in fact, 10 men and two women walking in lockstep. This little con-



gregation repeated words emanating from a tape-recorder borne by their leader. Occasionally they addressed the small crowd of spectators. Occasionally they harangued passers-by on the sidewalk or chanted at the passing traffic on the street.

This went on for nearly an hour. One pregnant passer-by was so startled that she almost dropped her Shabbat flowers. But most witnesses quickly turned torpid in the sun and drifted away, expressing disgust.

On this final festival day: Tzemach's troupe relentlessly presents Place and Friends at the Gerard Behar Plaza at 6 p.m., and the Pyramid children's theatre presents Alice in Magicland at the Henry Crown Plaze at 4, 5 and 6 p.m.



מוסיקה מתואמת, קצבית, ותוססת, אף כי לטעמי היה מקום, לעתים, להחלשת

מאת באך בדורמציון, בביצוע האנסמבל

מנותי חדש, , התיאטרוו ית. מגוף זה שר. תזמורת וה אמנם את " בנאמנות

איננו מתב רתו חדשות וט. הקבונ ". אלה הח מקחלה היו

ה של שיר