

Gunn Theatre Department Proudly Presents

The Merchant of Venice

Spangenberg Theater

Opening Gala
March 8 @ 6:45pm
\$20/22 door

9 10 15 16 17 @8pm

Adults \$10/12 door
Students \$8/10 door

3/14 @4pm
\$ 3/5 door

Tickets at gunntheatre.org, the SAC, or at the door

When an earnest young student of mine came up to me in all seriousness and asked what the word antisemitism meant, I became convinced of the importance of putting on "The Merchant of Venice." For while this play is truly a story of wonder and laughter, it is also of course one of deep and ancient pain and sorrow.

The history of the Jewish people in Europe is replete with horrifying episodes of forced conversion, denial of citizenship, ghettoization, pogroms and expulsion, and this all before the Holocaust of the 20th century. By the time "The Merchant of Venice" was written in 1596, Jews had been banished from England for three centuries, and there were probably only a hundred or so living secretly in London. Shakespeare was writing for a public which was in a xenophobic hysteria following the much publicized trial two years earlier of Roderigo Lopez, a Portuguese Jew who had been Queen Elizabeth's physician and was tried and executed for his part in a supposed poisoning plot aimed against her. Being the brilliant writer he was, however, Shakespeare wasn't content (or perhaps not even able) to create simple stereotypes... And so we have these fascinating and complex characters to marvel at, none of which are purely good, nor completely evil.

As we rolled up our sleeves and immersed ourselves in this remarkably vivid exploration of love, materialism, revenge and long simmering hatreds, it became increasingly clear that although this was written more than four hundred years ago, the characters and conflicts are still very much alive. Well... what about a story of the merchants of Wall Street, circa 2008, just before the crash? Let's do it.

Thank you so much for joining us on this journey.

Jim Shellos

The Gunn Theatre Department Presents

The Merchant of Venice

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Jim Shelby

Technical Director: Kristen Lo

Student Director: Eve Kelly

Stage Manager: Nikolaj Sorensen

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There will be one ten minute intermission.

Please no food, drink, photography, beeping or chirping
devices in Spangenberg Theatre

*Please turn cell phones off (Silencing won't work!);
When your cell phones are on, their signals interfere with the speakers
and cause a disruption to our sound system. Thanks!*

Buy tickets at www.gunntheatre.org
Poster by Sam Chen

CAST

Antonio.....	Bobby Watson
Bassanio.....	Dennis Mashevsky
Portia.....	Melissa Cunha
Nerissa.....	Andrea Allen
Gratiano.....	Jeremy Neff
Shylock.....	Blake Vesey
Jessica.....	Rachel Freeman
Lorenzo.....	Oz Amram
Salerio.....	Timothy Bond
Solanio.....	Elana Loeb
Tubal.....	Sadaf Rizvi
Launcelot Gobbo.....	Sivan Spector
Old Gobbo.....	Kseniya Malukhina
Duke of Venice.....	Tatiana Boyle
Prince of Morocco.....	Egor Bolgov
Prince of Arragon.....	Gavin Kerr
Portia's Servant.....	Cory Gaytan

CREW

Duke's Clerk.....Dakota Baker
Leona.....Jenny Salwitz
Balthazar.....Addi Kamb
Stephano.....Alice Rochette

Duke's Staffers:

Wendy Kraemer

Holly Wright

Elaine Cornett

Antonio's Intern:

Julie Goldman

Morocco's Possse:

Janine S Rogers

Eva Mungai

Arragon's Retinue:

Noah Uz

Austin Traver

Evan Kraemer

CREW

Assistant Stage Managers

Jessy Cherry
Olivia Bonneville

House Managers

Stina Pinsky
Lara Elliott

Construction

Head: Atticus Woodbury
Crew: Daniel Weyhrauch, Julie Goldman, Megan Hubbell,
Philippe Napaa, Eva Mungai, Sadaf Rizvi, Anna Castillo,
Sivan Spector, Lydia Erickson, Alice Rochette

Costumes

Head: Laura Townsend
Assistant Head: Heather Nolan
Crew: Abi Milner, Julia Scott, Elizabeth Reynolds

Hair and Makeup

Head: Julia Nelson
Mentor: Eve Kelly
Crew: Tatiana Boyle, Anthony Keech, Maddy Atmore, Sarah
Seidner, Leyla Carefoot

Lights

Head: Andy Schroeder
Assistant Head: Kelcy Campbell
Crew: Rebecca Kah, Cameron Small, Caroline Duffy

Paint

Head: Ivy Sanders Schneider
Crew: Comfrey McCarthy, Christina Han, Naomi Pederson,
Sophia Leal, Shreya Rao

Props

Head: Declan Flynn

Crew: Olivia Bonneville, Frankie Garcia, Lianna McFarlane
Connelly, Ashley Roe

Publicity

Head: Monique Fount

Crew: Sarah Klem, Sally Yilma, Taylor Aguon, Cindy Katila,
Noah Uz, Blake Vesey, Axel Clavier

Sound

Head: Jeremy Kelem

Crew: Kelly Milliken, Kristen Lo

Setting the stage for The Merchant of Venice...

Antonio, a Venetian merchant, complains to his friends of a melancholy that he cannot explain. His friend Bassanio is desperately in need of money to court Portia, a wealthy heiress who lives in the city of Belmont. Bassanio asks Antonio for a loan in order to travel to Portia's estate. Antonio agrees, but is unable to make the loan himself because his own money is all invested in a number of trade ships that are still at sea. Antonio suggests that Bassanio secure the loan from one of the city's moneylenders and name Antonio as the loan's guarantor. In Belmont, Portia is frustrated over the terms of her father's will, which stipulates that she must marry the man who correctly chooses one of three caskets. Back in Venice, Antonio and Bassanio approach Shylock, a Jewish moneylender, for a loan. Shylock nurses a long-standing grudge against Antonio, who has made a habit of berating Shylock and other Jews for lending money at interest, and who has undermined their business by offering interest-free loans. Although Antonio refuses to apologize for his behavior, Shylock acts agreeably and offers to lend Bassanio three thousand ducats at no interest. Shylock adds, however, that should the loan go unpaid, Shylock will be entitled to a pound of Antonio's own flesh...

Coming Soon...
Student-Directed One Acts
May 10-12, 16-19 in the Studio Theatre

Special Thanks to...

Rabbi David Booth
Don Anderson
Tim Farrell
Frank Flynn
Seth Rogers and RIM
Mark Gleason
TBN
Hazel Watson
and all the wonderful Gunn Theatre Boosters

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