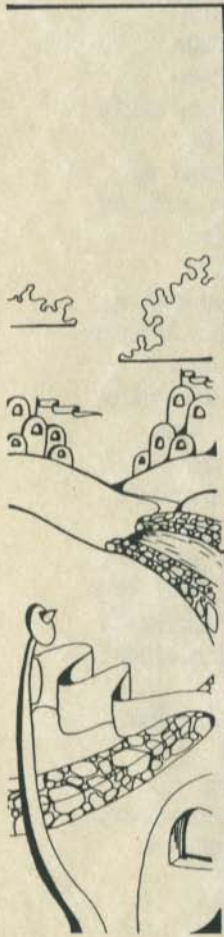


Spring '98

Gunn High School Theatre Department Presents

The Merchant of Venice

by William Shakespeare



Sponsored by Theatre
Gunn High School
790 Amador Avenue Road
Palo Alto, CA 94306
Info: 354-9219

check out the web page
<http://lisa.gunn.palo-alto.ca.us/shelby/spring.htm>



Opening Night Celebration: March 19 at 7 p.m.
tickets: \$15/adult and \$10/student

"Second Friday"
Lecture by Stanford Professor
Ronald Rebholz
and Performance: March 27 at 7 p.m.
tickets: \$15/adult and \$10/student

Performances: March 20, 21, 26, 28 at 8 p.m.
tickets: \$8

A hint that confirmed the importance of producing this play at Gunn was when on two separate occasions this year I was asked by a curious and sincere student what the word "anti-semitism" meant. Besides being a spectacular play, *The Merchant of Venice* makes us look at the danger of drawing conclusions about individuals based on stereotypes. The history of the Jewish people in Europe is replete with episodes of anti-semitism, in the form of forced conversions, denial of citizenship, ghettoizations, pogroms and expulsions. Jews had been banned from England since 1290, and there were probably only a hundred or so living secretly in London by 1596, when Shakespeare wrote *The Merchant of Venice*. We are still not free, sadly, from acts of hate directed towards groups based on their belief, culture or ethnicity.

Shakespeare, as the consummate showman, was writing for an audience in a xenophobic lather 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. Never content with simple stereotypes, Shakespeare allows neither Christians nor Jews to emerge unscathed in his play. We are forced, sometimes against our yearning for black and white clarity, to muddle in the gray areas where there are neither completely good heroes nor utterly evil villains.

The process leading to this production has involved much soul-searching and painful confrontation of extremely sensitive issues involving who we are as individuals and members of a group. It is our sincere hope that you will meet us half-way in that exploration.

James Shelby

Gunn High School Theatre Department Proudly Presents

The Merchant of Venice

by William Shakespeare

Production Staff

<i>Director</i>	<i>Jim Shelby</i>
<i>Student Director</i>	<i>Erin Jacklin</i>
<i>Musical Director</i>	<i>Elia Van Tuyl</i>
<i>Stage Manager</i>	<i>Kara Blitz</i>
<i>Set Designer</i>	<i>Jeremy Katz</i>
<i>Light Designer</i>	<i>Lynne Ellis</i>
<i>Costume Designer</i>	<i>Susan Altstatt</i>
<i>Properties Designer</i>	<i>Sarah Drasner</i>

Cast

Antonio	Nick Junkerman
Salerio	Claire McCabe
Solanio	Penelope Van Tuyl
Bassanio	Aleks Merilo
Lorenzo	Ben Brullag
Gratiano	Alexis Hanawalt
Portia	Lindsey Selden
Nerissa	Anyia Collier
Shylock	Sarah Tsien
Launcelot Gobbo	Jaya King
Jessica	Becca Ballon
Prince of Morocco	Alejandro Foug
Old Gobbo	Brett Greving
Prince of Arragon	Ken Ruda
Tubal	Laura Ellis
Duke of Venice	Becca Krass

Movement Ensemble: Magnificoes of Venice, Officers of the court of justice, a Gaoler, Servants, and Attendants:

Andrey Belikoo	Becca Krass
Laura Ellis	Julie Lake
Maya Flat	Sarah Marquess
Alejandro Foug	Ken Ruda
Mark Gavartin	Brian Stempian
Brett Greving	Rob Walsb

Music Ensemble

- Becca Blitz - Xylophones, alto drum, penny-whistle.
Annette Georgia - Xylophones, slit drum.
Elizabeth Gerow - Xylophones, voice, bass, composition.
Masba Heifetz - Xylophones, viola, bass drum, composition.
Andy Hentz - Xylophones, bass, mandolin, djimbe, dumbec, voice, composition.
Hayden Rockson - Xylophones, bass drum, voice, claves.
Elena Veresh - Xylophones, voice, penny-whistle, dumbec.
Mark Williams - Xylophones, guitar, mandolin, dumbec, djimbe, voice, composition.

Synopsis of Scenes

Act I

Scene i - Venice. A Street.

Scene ii - Belmont. A room in Portia's house.

Scene iii - Venice. A public place.

Act II

Scene i - Belmont. A room in Portia's house.

Scene ii - Venice. Outside Shylock's house.

Scene iii - Venice. Outside Shylock's house.

Scene iv - Venice. A street.

Scene v - Venice. Outside Shylock's house.

Scene vi - Venice. Outside Shylock's house.

Scene vii - Belmont. A room in Portia's house.

Scene viii - Venice. A street.

Scene ix - Belmont. A room in Portia's house.

Act III

Scene i - Venice. A street.

There will be a ten minute intermission.

No food or drink in the theatre, please.

Scene ii - Belmont. A room in Portia's house.

Scene iii - Venice. A street.

Scene iv - Belmont. A room in Portia's house.

Scene v - Belmont. Portia's garden.

Act IV

Scene i - Venice. A court of justice.

Scene ii - Venice. A street.

Act V

Scene i - Belmont. The garden in front of Portia's house.

Crew

Assistant Stage Manager

Coar of Projects

Master Electrician

Master Carpenter

Construction

Light Board Operator

Lighting

Properties

Set Dresser

Rigging

Hair and Make-Up Head

Costumes Head

Costumes

Publicity Heads

Publicity

Dramaturgs

House Manager

Poster

Program

Mike Nagy

Alexis Hanawalt

Jeremy Katz

Mike Nagy

Becca Blitz

Lara Chausom

Shera Geller

Lisa Hanawalt

Becca Hinden

Silja James

Nick Junkermon

Jaya King

Dan Krass

Inna Kupershmidl

Aleks Merilo

Dan Moberly

Emily Rasmussen

Emily Rasmussen

Peter Haptas

Mike Nagy

Leo Foreman

Sandy Le

Tomoko Matsuzaki

Sandy Le

Alexis Hanawalt

Becca Krass

Becca Schneider

Shera Geller

Krista McDermott

Shana Smith

Becca Krass

Tolu Thomas

Jason Biebler

Andy Goldblatt

Nat Pickering

Tolu Thomas

Jaya King

Tolu Thomas

Mark Williams

ABOUT THE MERCHANT OF VENICE MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Two months ago, none of the music you will hear tonight existed. As a matter of fact, even a month ago, a large portion of it was yet to be conceived. Our intention from the start was to provide all original music for this production of *The Merchant of Venice*. Of the eight musicians, four have been composers: Andy Hentz, Mark Williams, Masha Heifetz, and Elizabeth Gerow. I have to admit I couldn't resist entirely joining the fun, and did a little composing myself, but most of it was done by Andy, Mark, Masha, and Elizabeth. Also in the ensemble are Annette Georgia, Hayden Rockson, Elena Veresh, and Becca Blitz. Everyone has worked very hard contributing to the finished work.

Jim Shelby and I agreed at the beginning that I would work with the musicians and instruments that volunteered. There is a considerable range of musical experience in the ensemble, both in terms of degree of formal training, and in styles of music played. The past weeks have been a labor to develop our own style, unique to and appropriate for *Merchant of Venice*. Starting with a group of xylophones which I built from hardware store materials such as copper water pipe, steel electrical conduit, plate glass, and redwood, we added miscellaneous percussion instruments, a stand up bass, viola, guitar, mandolin, and voices.

The past weeks have been creative chaos. We have struggled not just with the music, but also with this difficult play, trying to do it and the cast justice. I have been moved by the integrity and sincerity of so many who have been associated with the play--cast, crew, musicians, and directors, and as well, and as always, by the genius of the playwright. Our great hope is that, when the play begins and the music sounds, "your spirits will be attentive."

Elia Van Tuyl

Special Thanks:

Susie Brown

Ron Cooper

Tim Farrell

Professor Ronald Rebbolz

Tori Stephens - Theatreworks Prop Shop

Scot McGuffey

Susan Altstatt

Advanced Scaffolding and Shoring

Linda Henry

Rabbi Sheldon Lewis

Ruth Robinson of Piazza's Fine Foods

University Florists

Palo Alto Coffee Roasting Company

The Cogar Family

*Be sure to see Gunn's
Student-Directed One Acts*

May 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23 1998

Flash photography is prohibited.