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March 8, 2007
For Immediate Release
Press Release

McGill University's Department of English Drama & Theatre Program, in conjunction with the
Shakespeare and Performance Research Team,
Presents

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Myrna Wyatt Selkirk

Assistant Direction by Charlene Lewis

Costume Design by the Costume class

Set Design by Patrick Neilson

Lighting Design by Corinne Deeley and Keith Roche

Sound Design by Luke Fowlie

Set & Prop Construction & Stage Management Keith Roche & the Stage, Scenery & Lighting
class

The Merchant Of Venice is quite possibly Shakespeare's most controversial play. The Venice of Shakespeare's time was an epicenter of trade and commerce, with people from all corners flowing in and out of the city-state. This world of contracts, bonds and exchange of goods and services serves as a fitting backdrop for a play where human beings are commodified through wills, contracts and flesh bonds. It is a tale of power and risk, of prejudice and revenge, in which appeals for mercy and justice largely go unheard.

Our production of '*Merchant*' fuses contemporary elements with the Italian Renaissance in costumes, make-up and movement. Then as now, people can be "deceived by ornament" but "all that glitters is not gold". The blood that runs in your veins is more important than the money in your pockets, in this world of cronyism and social exclusion.

The relationship between the play's production and the work of the Shakespeare and Performance Research Team has been an essential part of the development of the piece. There have been a series of mini-conferences, presentations and workshops throughout the year centered on the play.

Friends of the McGill Library presents "Shakespeare and the Jews": A Symposium on Thursday, March 29, 2007 at 5:00 p.m in Moyse Hall. Panelists will be Gareth Armstrong, a former member of the Royal Shakespeare Company and Kenneth Gross, a literary scholar and critic.

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Wednesday, March 28 to Saturday, March 31

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Thursday, April 5 to Saturday, April 7, 2007

8:00 pm

At Moyse Hall, McGill University, Arts Building, 853 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal

Admission: \$10 for Adults, \$5 for Students, Seniors, and Groups

For Reservations call the Ticket Hotline 514-398-6070

Wheelchair access by reservation

Contact: Annie Gobour 514-398-6559

The Department of English, Drama and Theatre Program,
McGill University Presents:

William Shakespeare

The Merchant of Venice

Moyse Hall Theatre
Arts Building
McGill University
853 Sherbrooke W.

March 28~31 and April 5~7, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. ♻️
Tickets: 514-398-6070 ♦ Students/Seniors \$5, Adults \$10 ♿



