



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FULL CAST OF THE MERCHANT OF VENICE IN THE SAM WANAMAKER PLAYHOUSE**

Shakespeare's Globe is delighted to announce the full cast of *The Merchant of Venice*, performed in the candlelit Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, directed by **Abigail Graham** and designed by **Sarah Beaton**.

*In a world where money turns the wheels, men call the shots, and your religion or race can open or close doors, some win and some lose.*

Director Abigail Graham and the company reclaim Shakespeare's disturbing tale. Looking at the story in a contemporary context, the production asks us to confront and question our own prejudices in the here and now. This is the first time Abigail has directed at Shakespeare's Globe. Recent work includes *Aladdin* (Lyric Hammersmith), *Mum* (Plymouth Drum/Soho Theatre), *Earthquakes in London* (Guildhall), and *The Tyler Sisters* (Hampstead). Abigail was the director of The Bush Neighbourhood Company 2020-21, the director of the Lyric Hammersmith Ensemble 2019-2020, and she was the founding Artistic Director of OpenWorks Theatre from 2013-2017- an organisation dedicated to changing who goes to the theatre by changing who makes it.

#### **Merchant of Venice Cast:**

**Raymond Anum will play Gratiano.** Raymond returns to the Globe after performing in *The Taming of the Shrew* (2019). Other theatre credits include *Youth Without God* (The Coronet Theatre) and *Romeo & Juliet, Love and Money* (RADA).

**Daniel Bowerbank will play Lorenzo / Morocco.** Daniel is a recent graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA). *The Merchant of Venice* is his professional theatrical debut. Previous film and radio credits include: *UNSC Archives: Lightbringers* (XBOX/215 McCann/Halo); *Patient Light* (Sonica Studios / Eastern Angles) and the *Halo Infinite Soundtrack* (Human Worldwide LA).

**Ben Caplan will play Arragon / Duke / Solanio.** Ben's recent theatre credits include: *The Winter's Tale* (RSC); *The Exorcist* (UK Tour); *Describe The Night* (Hampstead Theatre); *The Knowledge* (Charing Cross Theatre); *Abigail's Party* (Theatre Royal Bath & UK Tour) and *Sunny Afternoon* (Hampstead Theatre/West End). Film and TV credits include: *Call The Midwife* (BBC); *Band of Brothers* (HBO); *The Lost Honour of Christopher Jeffries* (ITV); *Golda* (Qwerty Films); *Pretty Red Dress* (BBC Films); *The Harness* (HyneSight Films) and *Rocknrolla* (Warner Bros. Pictures).

**Michael Gould will play Antonio.** Michael returns to the Globe after performing in *Swive [Elizabeth]* (2019), *Tis Pity She's a Whore* (2014), *In Extremis* (2007), *King Lear* (2001), *The Maid's Tragedy* and *The Winter's Tale* (1997). Other recent theatre credits include: *Vassa* (Almeida Theatre); *Anna* (National Theatre) and *Othello* (English Touring Theatre). TV and Film includes: *Darkest Hour* (Focus Features); *The Trial: Murder In The Family* (Channel 4); *Rouge One* (Lucasfilm/Walt Disney) and *A View from the Bridge* (National Theatre Live).



**Michael Marcus will play Bassanio.** Michael's previous theatre credits include: *The Duchess of Malfi* (Almeida); *Valued Friends* (Rose Theatre Kingston); *The Inheritance* (Young Vic & Noel Coward); *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (RSC); *Richard II* (Donmar Warehouse) and *Jumpy* (Royal Court). TV and Film credits include *War of The Worlds Series* (Urban Myth Films); *The White Queen* (BBC) and *The Theory of Everything* (Working Title).

**Sophie Melville will play Portia.** Sophie's previous theatre credits include: *Mum* (Soho Theatre); *Pops* (Young Vic and Roxy Assembly – The Stage Award for Outstanding Performance); *Blackbird* (The Other Room Theatre - Wales Theatre Awards Best Female Performance) and *Iphigenia in Splott* (National Theatre) - The Stage Award for Acting Excellence, Wales Theatre Award for Best Female Performance, Evening Standard Award nomination for Best Actress, Drama Desk Award nomination for Outstanding Solo Performance).

**Adrian Schiller will play Shylock.** Adrian's previous theatre credit include: *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour*, *The Veil*, *The Captain of Kopernick* (National Theatre); *The Tempest*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The White Devil*, *Julius Caesar*, *As You Like It* (RSC); *The Crucible* (Old Vic); *Hysteria* (Hampstead); *Three Sisters* (Young Vic). Film and TV credits include: *The Last Kingdom* (Carnival Film & Television); *Victoria* (Mammoth Screen/ITV); *Black Earth Rising* (Netflix); *The Hollow Crown* (BBC); *Censor* (Vertigo Films); *Ashes in the Snow* (Taurus Films); *The Danish Girl* (Universal Pictures); *Beauty and the Beast* (Disney) and *Tolkein* (Fox Searchlight Pictures).

**Tripti Tripuraneni will play Nerissa.** Tripti's previous theatre credits include: *A Doll's House* (Lyric Hammersmith), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Watford Palace Theatre), *The Jungle Book* (UK Tour) and *Macbeth* (National Theatre). TV credits include: *House of the Dragon* (HBO), *Temple* (Sky) and *Casualty* (BBC).

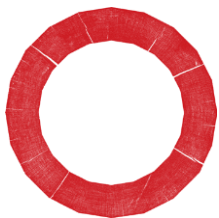
**Aaron Vodovoz will play Launcelot Gobbo.** Aaron's previous theatre credits include: *Lonely Planet* (Tabard Theatre/Trafalgar Studio); *Bad Jews* (Arts Theatre) and *Silent Planet* (Finborough Theatre). TV and Film credits include: *Messiah* (Netflix); *Killing Eve* (BBC America); *McMafia* (BBC/AMC); *Mr Selfridge* (ITV); *The Honourable Woman* (BBC); *The King's Man* (Marv Studios/Cloudy Productions) and *Tetris* (AI Film; Marv Studios).

**Eleanor Wyld will play Jessica.** Eleanor's previous theatre credits include: *Leopoldstadt*, *Don Juan in Soho* (Wyndham's Theatre); *The Ballad of Corona V* (Big House Theatre); *Don Quixote* (RSC Stratford/Garrick Theatre); *Dr Faustus*, *Hamlet*, *The Alchemist* (RSC). TV and Film credits include: *Trigonometry* (House Productions/BBC); *Lovesick* (Clerkenwell Films/Netflix); *#Findthegirl*, *Thirteen*, *Casualty* (BBC); *Misfits*, *Black Mirror: The National Anthem* (Channel 4); *Bonobo* (Fable Films) and *Johnny English Reborn* (Intelligence Films).

Cast by **Becky Paris**, Head of Casting at Shakespeare's Globe

#### **Creative Team:**

**Sarah Beaton** – Designer  
**Giles Block** – Globe Associate, Text  
**Rebecca Cuthbertson** - Voice  
**Tess Dignan** - Globe Associate, Voice  
**Sally Ferguson** - Candle Consultant  
**Abigail Graham** – Director  
**Zac Gvi** – Composer  
**Tash Hyman** - Assistant Director  
**Jennifer Jackson** – Movement Director  
**Alexandra Kharibian** - Costume Supervisor



**Glynn MacDonald** – Globe Associate, Movement  
**Zoe Svendsen** - Dramaturg

## ENDS

### EDITORS NOTES

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE

##### CONTACT:

Claudia Conway - 07966 567701 /

[claudia@claudiaconway.com](mailto:claudia@claudiaconway.com)

Jessica Strawson -

[jessica.s@shakespearesglobe.com](mailto:jessica.s@shakespearesglobe.com)

##### IMAGES:

The Sam Wanamaker Playhouse [here](#)

The Globe Theatre [here](#)

#### THE MERCHANT OF VENICE by William Shakespeare

The Sam Wanamaker Playhouse: 18 February - 9 April

**Press Night: Tuesday 2 March**

Live Stream: Friday 25 March

#### ASSISTED PERFORMANCES

Patrons who are members of the [free access scheme](#) are eligible for adjusted ticket prices.

Audio Described – Sunday 27 March, 1pm

Captioned – Thursday 31 March, 7:30pm and

Thursday 7 April, 7:30pm

Relaxed – Sunday 3 April, 1pm

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For further information on our COVID-19 procedures please

visit: [www.shakespearesglobe.com/visit/coronavirus-covid-19-safety-measures](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/visit/coronavirus-covid-19-safety-measures)

Since opening in 1997, the Globe has been committed to bringing Shakespeare to all, by providing over 600 standing or 'Groundling' tickets for just £5 per each performance in The Globe Theatre. This season, for the first time, £5 standing tickets will also be available for main show performances in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. There will be 48

tickets available per show at £5, and they will be located in the upper gallery standing room space.

*"London's best-value theatre ticket"* – Time Out

**Best Theatre in London** - Time Out Best of The City Awards 2021 Winner

#### SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

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##### Virtual Tour

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##### Our Cause

We celebrate Shakespeare's transformative impact on the world by conducting a radical theatrical experiment. Inspired and informed by the unique historic playing conditions of two beautiful iconic theatres, our diverse programme of work harnesses the power of performance, cultivates intellectual curiosity and excites learning to make Shakespeare accessible for all.

**'And let us ...on your imaginary forces work' Henry V, Prologue**

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To donate £10 text GLOBE10 to 70460

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<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/join-and-support/memberships> or call on 020 7902 5970

## SWAN BAR AND RESTAURANT INFORMATION

Swan Bar is now open is open 7 days a week. From craft beers, local artisan gins and creative cocktails to classic dishes, summery salads and delightful puddings. There are new opening times and new menus, which can be viewed here:

<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/visit/swan-bar-and-restaurant/>

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Shakespeare's Globe strives to make Shakespeare accessible for all. It is a registered charity and has operated independently since opening in 1997. The theatre closed on 18 March 2020, reopening 19 May 2021.

Continued restrictions and the delay of not being able to open at the beginning of the year has created a deficit of £3.5m for the current financial year. Alongside the support from the Cultural Recovery Fund and furloughing staff, the Globe still lost just under £4m last year. The Globe plans to recoup costs from next year. The vital Cultural Recovery Fund, incredible generosity of sponsors, donors, and the public has allowed the Globe to reopen and start to recoup the devastating impact of the pandemic.

The Shakespeare's Globe site comprises: The Globe Theatre (1997): unique full-scale replica of Shakespeare's original 1599 Elizabethan open-air theatre; Education and Rehearsal Centre (2010); Indoor candle-lit Jacobean Sam

Wanamaker Playhouse (2014); Library, archive, lecture theatre and other public spaces. In addition to performances in our London theatres and touring productions nationally and internationally, we also educate through Shakespeare in performance. Working over 139,000 students each year, giving over £2 million in free tickets to schoolchildren, we are the only performing arts organisation in the world with an inhouse faculty of academics who lead on original research into Shakespeare in performance and stage global social justice-themed festivals. Talent development is a key objective and since 2015, our new writing commissions have been nominated for ten Olivier Awards.