



Easy Read

A Visual Story

To support your visit to Shakespeare's Globe.

**SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE**



**THE
MERCHANT
OF VENICE**

Writer
William Shakespeare

SAM WANAMAKER PLAYHOUSE
18 February – 9 April

TICKETS FROM £5

#TheMerchantOfVenice

Getting to Shakespeare's Globe



This is the Foyer. If you need somewhere quiet at any time you can come back out of the Playhouse into the Foyer.



Your ticket will tell you which gallery, bay and row you are in. Once you have found your row you will need to find the part of the bench reserved for you which will match the number on your ticket.



This is the stage. For different plays, designers add pieces of set to make it look different.



These are stewards. You can recognise the stewards by their aprons. The stewards are there to help you. If you feel tired, or need to exit please ask a steward. They can also show you where the toilets are. Stewards are good people to go to if you feel worried about anything in the show.

The Cast



Gratiano
Raymond Anum



Lorenzo/Morocco
Daniel Bowerbank



Arragon/Duke/Solano
Ben Caplan



Antonio
Michael Gould



Bassanio
Michael Marcus



Portia
Sophie Melville



Shylock
Adrian Schiller



Nerissa
Tripti Tripuraneni



Launcelot Gobbo
Aaron Vodovoz



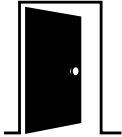
Jessica
Eleanor Wyld

Show Notes



Relaxed Performance

On Sunday 3rd April at 1pm, there will be a Relaxed Performance.



This will mean:

- There will be an open-door policy so that you can come and go as you please.



- Underseating lights will be on low.

- The show has had some changes to reduce loud noises and sudden movements.



- There are ear defenders available in different sizes to borrow from the Welcome Desk in the main foyer.



Content and Trigger Warnings

The production includes:

- Antisemitism, colourism, and racism

- Bullying and strong language

- Scenes of a sexual nature

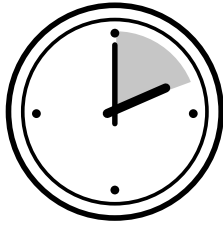
- Masks

- A disappointing party popper

- There is flash photography and loud noises

- Actors move through the audience in their entrances and exits.

Show Notes

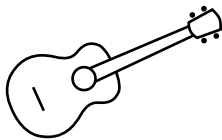


Times

The show is about 2 hours 10 minutes

There are 2 parts, with an interval:

- Part 1: 1 hour
- Interval: 15 minutes
- Part 2: 55 minutes



Music and sound

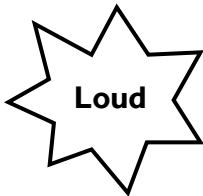
There is live music on stage including singing.

Some music is original.

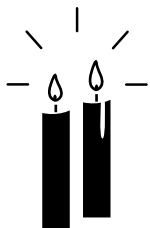
There are some modern songs including *'I gotta feeling'*.



The actors talk directly to the audience.



There are loud noises, whispers and shouting.
A loudspeaker is used.



Lighting

The stage is mostly lit by candlelight.

There are scenes with electric lighting.

There are some blackouts.*



There are also times where the lighting changes quickly.

*Note: The underseating lights will be on for the relaxed performance.

Show Notes



Time period: Contemporary

Overview / Themes: Play about capitalism and patriarchy. It looks at the way society works to uphold white supremacy and put minorities against each other.

Set: There is a floor that looks as though it is made up of 60,000 pound coins. The walls are made to look like lead. Briefcases are used to represent the capitalism theme.

Costume: The costumes are modern, with some Italian influence.

Design: Everything in the play revolves around love and money. Everything is transactional. It feels like a world of Finance.

The Story



Bassanio wants to marry a woman called Portia, but he can't afford to pay for his clothes and travel to Belmont to see her, so he asks his friend Antonio if he can borrow some money.

Antonio has no money to lend his friend, so he asks Shylock for a loan instead. Shylock agrees to give him the money, but states that if Antonio doesn't pay him back on time, he must give a 'pound of his own flesh'.



Portia's father set up a 'lottery' in his will, that means anyone who wants to marry his daughter has to pass a test first. Portia and Nerissa watch as several suitors try to win her love, through picking one of three caskets: gold, silver or lead – but they all fail.



Shylock's daughter, Jessica, escapes from his house so that she can marry Lorenzo with help from Lancelot Gobbo. Lorenzo is a Christian and a friend of Bassanio's.



The Story



Bassanio arrives in Belmont, with his friend Gratiano, and correctly chooses the lead casket, winning Portia's hand in marriage. Portia is delighted.

Antonio's ships are lost at sea, meaning he has no way to repay Shylock and will have to face him in court. He writes to Bassanio, who leaves Belmont with Portia's money to try and help his friend.



Portia follows Bassanio to the court, in disguise as a male lawyer. She asks Shylock to be merciful, but he is determined to take a pound of Antonio's flesh and have his revenge.



In front of the Venetian court, Portia examines the original contract between Shylock and Antonio. She tells the court Shylock can only take a pound of flesh if he spills no blood and Shylock admits this is not possible.

Shylock is punished by the court for attempting to kill a Venetian citizen. All his wealth is seized, and he is forced to convert to Christianity.



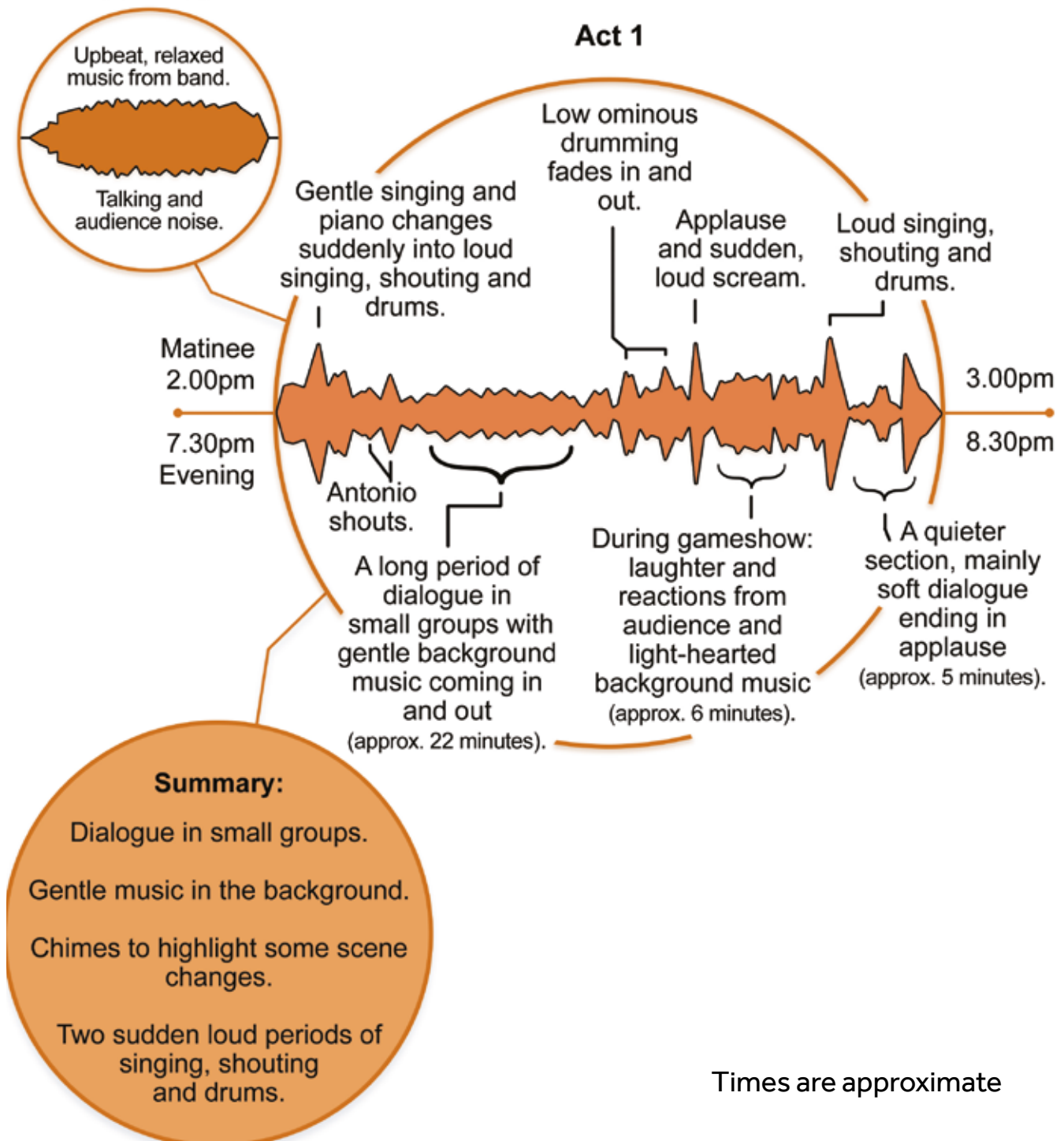
Jessica returns to see her father being cruelly punished. She removes her wig and sings a Yiddish prayer. The Christians celebrate the loss of Shylock "We've won!"

With thanks to the Royal Shakespeare Company.

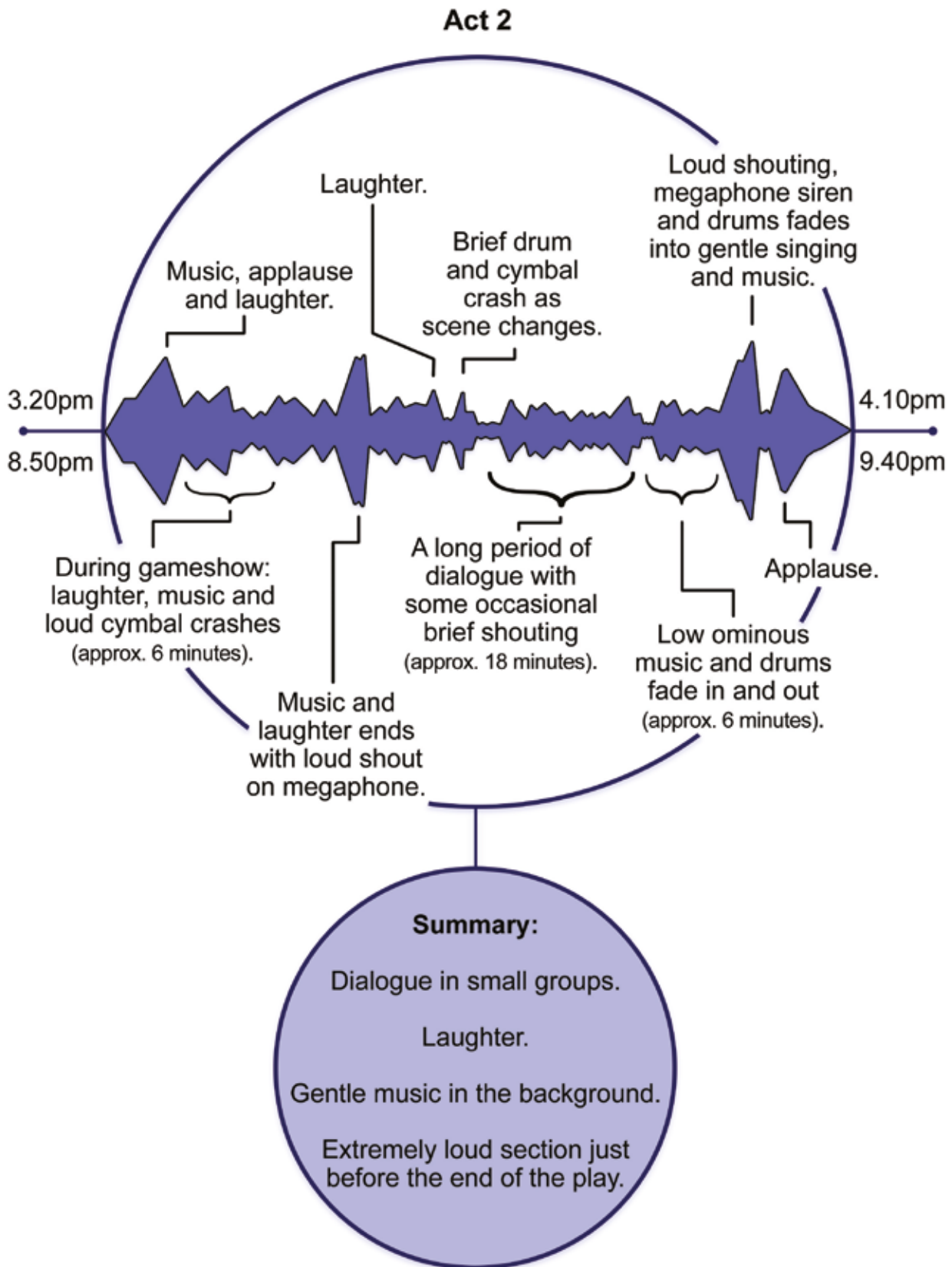
Sonic Story

This 'Sonic Story' provides information about what to expect from the music and sounds of *ation The Merchant what of to Venice*.

It shows the volume changes throughout the performance and highlights loud and quiet moments and moments when the sound changes suddenly.

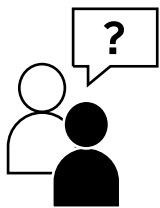


Sonic Story



Times are approximate

Further information



Have further questions about this performance?

Find out more about Shakespeare's Globe here:
<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/>



Getting here:

Find directions and our Easy Read Guide to getting to Sam Wanamaker's Playhouse here:

<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/visit/getting-here/>