

BEST PLAY
Sahitya
Kala Parishad
2015

DRAMATECH
PRESENTS

William Shakespeare's

The Merchant of Venice

(In English)

Directed by Renu S. Chopra

After
14 houseful shows
in Oct., Nov. & Dec.
Presenting last
2 shows in March.

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Director's Note

I first read *The Merchant of Venice* when I was in Class 8. Though in the class Shylock was presented as a bloodthirsty bogeyman and a clownish, spiteful, petty, mean and murderous Jewish stereotype, I felt otherwise.

I thought that his speech "Hath not a Jew eyes?" redeemed him and made him into something of a tragic figure. In this speech Shylock argues that he is no different from the Christian characters. Though the speech ends with a tone of revenge: "If you wrong us, shall we not revenge?" Shylock says he learned the desire for revenge from the Christian characters: "If a Christian wrong a Jew, what should his sufferance be by Christian example? Why, revenge. The villainy you teach me, I will execute, and it shall go hard but I will better the instruction." The last straw is when he is ordered to become a Christian.

I do not know if Shakespeare intended the play to be read in this way. But I have always had an intense desire to present Shylock's human face. My Shylock, Sanjiv Chopra, plays the moneylender with a finely balanced combination of wickedness and pathos—leaving the audience to decide whether he is a villain, a buffoon or a tragic hero.

Jews in the Sixteenth Century

English society in the sixteenth century was rabidly anti-Jew. Jews had been expelled from England in the year 1290 and persecuted over all of Europe, primarily due to their religious beliefs. In Venice and in some other places, they were required to wear a red hat at all times in public to make sure that they were easily identified, and were forced to live in a ghetto. Jews were usually depicted as avaricious usurers and characterised as evil, deceitful and greedy.

Much of English literature till the 20th century portrays the Jew as "a moneyed, cruel, lecherous, avaricious outsider tolerated only because of his golden hoard". *The Merchant of Venice* reflects these biases against them.

The Merchant of Venice

Summary: In this play, Shakespeare has given us at least two phrases which are used to date in their simplified form "All that glisters is not gold" and "The world is a stage where every man must play a part, and mine a sad one." He has woven together two tales, one involving a vengeful creditor trying to exact revenge, the other involving a marriage suitor's choice among three chests and thereby winning his (or her) mate. Shakespeare's presentation of the first tale centres around the Jewish moneylender Shylock and the chest-choosing story revolves around the play's heroine Portia, who steers her lover Bassanio toward the correct casket.

The Play: Antonio's best friend, Bassanio, is in love with Portia, a wise and wealthy heiress, and needs three thousand ducats to press his suit. With Antonio's money tied up in ships at sea, he approaches Shylock, a Jewish usurer, who agrees to lend the money under the provision that Antonio shall forfeit a pound of his flesh if the debt is unpaid. When Antonio's ships are wrecked, Shylock, the maligned Jew, calls for the contract to be executed. In the court case, Shylock is destroyed—his finances, his religion, his very existence.



Cast & Crew

Cast (in order of appearance)

Antonio	Ashish Goel
Salarino	Aditya Gogoi
Salerio	Shashwat Singh
Bassanio	Shiv Jha Mathur
Gratiano	Vivek Srivastava
Lorenzo	Rishi Singh / Harsh Rana
Portia	Kangan Baruah Nangia
Nerissa	Yoshita Agrawal
Shylock	Sanjiv Chopra
Prince of Morocco	Anant Gaur/Sanket Shanware
Casket Bearer	Isha George/Geetika Seth, Anant Gaur/Sanket Shanware, Nikhil Kanojia
Key Bearer	Nayana Sagar/Isha George
Balthazar	Himanshu Sundriyal
Launcelot	Nipun Srivastava
Gobbo	Saurav Padhi
Worldly Women	Isha George, Kanu Priya Sekhri / Geetika Seth
Jessica	Astha Gupta/Geetika Seth
Prince of Arragon	Praveen K. Hasija
Tubal	Praveen K. Hasija
Duke	Shankar Venkateswaran
Duke's Magnificoes	Sanket Shanware, Anant Gaur
Clerk	Harsh Rana / Nikhil Kanojia

Crew

Assistant Director	Nayana Sagar
Sets & Costume Design	Suchitra Chauhan
Choreography	Eshna Chopra
Music Selection	Nayana, Sayaam, Ravi Raj Sagar
Script Customisation	Renu S. Chopra
Sound	Renu S. Chopra / Hemant Kathuria
Lights	Saurav Padhi
Make-up	B.S. Rawat
Properties	Isha George
Stage Management	Cast
Poster & Brochure Design	Roots Advertising
Publicity	Ravi Raj Sagar, Nayana Sagar, Sanjiv Chopra
Database Management & Broadcast	Poonam Sarin
Still Photography	Ramesh Lalwani, Shivam Pathak
Ground Support	Sangeeta, Ganesh, Pannalal, Jaichand, Ratnakar
Production Assistance	Sanjiv Sarin
Production Controller	Parag Agarwal
Acknowledgements	Kanu Priya Sekhri, Kartik Sansanwal, Rakesh Gupta, IIT Delhi, Sahitya Kala Parishad, Shakespeare Globe Theatre & Samuel French London.

About Dramatech



Dramatech is a 31 year old theatre group of Delhi, having 40 successful play productions to its credit and having received acclaim and invitations from NSD and Sahitya Kala Parishad for its performances. This amateur theatre group with a professional outlook was started in 1984 by a group of IIT Delhi Alumni. It then expanded to attract talent from other institutions, in particular, IIMs and Delhi University. Over the years, Dramatech has provided the Delhi audience with good, wholesome theatre both in English and Hindi. Six of its plays have been selected by Sahitya Kala Parishad among its Best Plays of the Year.

Dramatech members include Working Professionals (HP, Pepsico, Airtel, BHEL, IAS, IRS, MTR Corpn, GSK, TOI, Aaj Tak...), Entrepreneurs (Ezeeflex Plastics, Nakshatra Cineaste, Vinod Industries, Brown Heart Chocolates, Sage Placements, ROOTS Advertising...), Homemakers, and Students (IIT Delhi, SRCC, LSR, JMC, Mother's International, DPS RKP/ VK/ EOK/ Gr. NOIDA, Modern VV...)

For video and audio clips, songs, lyrics, reviews, photos and updates of our plays visit

www.dramatech.in

Talented Actors-Singers invited for our next large Musical plays in English and Hindi. Male or Female, good actors and/or singers, age 5 to 60. Only those with a good background in Acting / Singing may respond, giving details of plays/ roles/ shows done, venue, etc. Kindly write to: ravi@dramatech.in

To join our mailing list, please email your name & email id to dramatechtheatre@gmail.com and to get play alerts by SMS, please include your mobile number too.

Dramatech's Past Productions



Ashit Ghosh's	Bael Se Muthbhed	Adapted & Directed by S.Sanyal
Tennessee William's	The Glass Menagerie	Directed by Deepak Gidwani
Moliere's	Bichoo	Adapted by Wasi Khan, Directed by Rakesh Gupta
Harold Pinter's	The Birthday Party	Directed by M. Jain & Deepak Gidwani
Agatha Christie's	Ten Little Niggers (in Hindi)	Translated & Directed by Ravi Raj Sagar
Mohit Chatterjee's	Guniea Pig	Directed by Deepak Gidwani
Nirmal Verma's	Teen Ekant	Directed by Alok Tiwari
Govind Deshpande's	Uddhvast Dharamshala	Directed by S.P. Jain
Bernard Pomerance's	The Elephant Man	Directed by Deepak Gidwani
Dario Fo's	Comedy of Terrors (in Hindi)	Adapted & Directed by Ranjit Kapoor
Peter Shafer's	Equus	Directed by S.P. Jain & Deepak Gidwani
Bernard Shaw's	Mrs. Warren's Profession	Directed by Deepak Gidwani
Agatha Christie's	Witness for the Prosecution (in Hindi)	Translated & Directed by Ravi Raj Sagar
Michael Frayn's	Noises off (in Hindi)	Adapted & Directed by Umesh Vyas
Sam Shepard's	True West	Directed by Deepak Gidwani
Grimm's	Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (in Hindi)	Adapted & Directed by Archana Gidwani
Dr. Shankar Shesh's	Rakt Beej	Directed by Pradeep Shrivastava
Christopher Hampton's	The Philanthropist	Directed by Deepak Gidwani
Tennessee Williams	A Streetcar Named Desire	Directed by Sanjiv Agarwal
Vijay Tendulkar's	Panchhi Aise Aate Hain	Directed by Satyajit Sharma
Neil Simon's	Broadway Bound	Directed by Deepak Gidwani
Badal Sircar's	Ballabhpur Ki Roopkatha	Directed by Archana Gidwani
Mary Chase's	Harvey	Directed by Deepak Gidwani
Badal Sircar's	Ek Do Tin	Directed by Sundeep Varma
Ranjit Kapoor's	Ek Jaam Auntiyon Ke Naam	Directed by Sanjiv Agarwal
A Conan Doyle's	Sherlock Holmes Stories (Audio Play in Hindi)	Adapted and Directed by Ravi Raj Sagar
Ranjit Kapoor's	Chainpur Ki Daastan	Directed by Amitabh Srivastava
Dario Fo's	Accidental Death of an Anarchist (in Hindi)	Directed by Sanjiv Agarwal
Joseph Stein's	Fiddler on the Roof (in Hindi)	Translated, Lyrics & Directed by Ravi Raj Sagar
Ranjit Kapoor's	Ek Jaam Auntiyon Ke Naam (adaptation of Joseph Kesselring's Arsenic and Old Lace)	Directed by Ravi Raj Sagar
Michael Stewart's	Hello Dolly! (in Hindi) adaptation of Thornton Wilder's The Matchmaker	Translated, Lyrics & Directed by Ravi Raj Sagar
Ray Cooney's	Run For Your Wife	Directed by Renu S Chopra
Three dramatized stories	Hazaron Khwaishein Aisi Premchand's Bhoon, Premchand's Do Behnen, WW Jacob's The Monkey's Paw	Directed by Sunil Chaudhry, Saaurav Padhi, Tuhin Dramatised by Sunil Chaudhry, Tarun Dangwal, Vivek Shrivastava
Ranjit Kapoor's	Sab Thaat Para Reh Jayega (adapted from Kaufmann and Hart's You Can't Take it with You)	Directed by Ranjit Kapoor
Three dramatized stories with songs	The Weekend Cocktail Sholom Aleichem's Tevye wins a Fortune Roald Dahl's Lamb to the Slaughter W. Somerset Maugham's Mr. Know All	Dramatized & Directed by Ravi Raj Sagar
Premchand's	Three Comedies for Families & Children: Do bailon ki katha; Shatranj ke khiladi; Nimantran	Dramatized & Directed by Ravi Raj Sagar
Naushil Mehta's	Do You Really Love Me?	Directed by Rahul Sachdeva
Yasmin Reza's	God of Carnage (in Hindi)	Translated & Directed by Nayana Sagar
Neil Simon's	Plaza Suite (in Hindi)	Translated & Directed by Nayana Sagar

The Merchant of Venice premiered at Little Theatre Group (LTG) on 3,4 October, 2015. After houseful shows on 17,18 October at LTG; 23,24 October at Sri Ram Centre (SRC); 7,8,14,15 November at SRC; 5,6,12,13 December at LTG; 10 March 2016 at SRC for Sahitya Kala Parishad's Bhartendu Natya Utsav; putting out its final performances on 12,13 March at LTG, Mandi House.

For a sponsored show or bulk bookings please call 09910030256 or write to us at dramatechtheatre@gmail.com Updates and details of future shows available on our website: www.dramatech.in