



For release: 8 May 2007

John McEnergy returns to The Globe to play Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*

John McEnergy makes a welcome homecoming to play Shylock, with **Michelle Duncan** as Portia.

The Merchant of Venice opens on 12 June, with previews from 2 June, and runs until 6 October.

John McEnergy has become a regular at the Globe with performances in *Pericles*, *Henry V*, *As You Like It*, *A Chaste Maid in Cheapside*, *A Mad World My Masters*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *King Lear*, *Richard II*, *Edward II* and *Romeo and Juliet*. He created the role of Hamlet in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, as well as appearing in *H* and *Love's Labour's Lost* at the National Theatre. For television, his credits include *Our Mutual Friend*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *The Buddha of Suburbia* and *Jamaica Inn*; and for film, Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet*, *Black Beauty*, *When Saturday Comes* and *Girl With a Pearl Earring*.

Michelle Duncan makes her debut at the Globe. Her other theatre work includes *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Magic Quest* and *The Burning* (Theatre Alba), and *Time and the Conways* (Theatre Royal Bath). She has appeared on television in *Low Winter Sun*, *Dr Who*, *Whatever Love Means*, *Sugar Rush* and *Sea of Souls*. For film, her credits include *The Broken*, *Atonement* and *Driving Lessons*.

Directed by **Rebecca Gatward**, with designs by **Liz Cooke** and music by **Adrian Lee** the production will employ Renaissance staging, costume and music.

Director **Rebecca Gatward** recently directed *The Indian Boy* and co-directed *The Canterbury Tales* for the RSC. Gatward's other credits include *Yikes* (Unicorn Theatre), *Cancer Tales* (New Wolsey Theatre), *Thyestes* (RSC), and *The Magic Toyshop* (Shared Experience).

Designer **Liz Cooke** has worked twice before at Shakespeare's Globe, winning great acclaim for her designs for *Pericles* and *The Comedy of Errors*. Composer, **Adrian Lee** has worked extensively with the RSC, including for *The Canterbury Tales* and *Antony and Cleopatra*.

The Merchant of Venice is part of the **Renaissance + Revolution** theatre season this year at Shakespeare's Globe which includes Shakespeare's *Othello* and *Love's Labour's Lost*, the return of last year's smash hit, *In Extremis*, and two world premières, *Holding Fire!* (by Jack Shepherd) and *We The People* (by Eric Schlosser).

The Merchant of Venice cast and creative team

The full cast is **Kirsty Besterman**, **Philip Bird**, **Cornelius Booth**, **Jim Bywater**, **Philip Cumbus**, **Leander Deeny**, **Michelle Duncan**, **Craig Gazey**, **Adam Kay**, **John McEnergy**, **Pippa Nixon**, **Chris Obi**, **Dale Rapley**, **Mark Rice-Oxley** and **Nicholas Shaw**.

Director
Designer
Composer

Rebecca Gatward
Liz Cooke
Adrian Lee

LISTINGS INFORMATION

Box Office

Phone **020 7401 9919** or **020 7087 7398**
In person Mon-Sat 10am-6pm (8pm on performance days); Sundays
10am-5pm (7pm on performances days)
On-line www.shakespeares-globe.org
Tickets £5.00 - £32.00

Performances

Performances of *The Merchant of Venice* take place every day, Monday – Saturday

***The Merchant of Venice* – 6 June – 6 October 2007**

Access Performances

BSL interpreted performance: Wednesday 20 June at 2pm
Audio Described performance: Saturday 15 September at 2pm
Shakespeare's Globe Access Line 020 7902 1409 or email sally@shakespearesglobe.com

Website

Please go to the Press Room at www.shakespeares-globe.org for recent press releases.

Press Night Dates

All performances at 7.30pm. Drinks are served from 6.30pm on press nights only.

- *Othello* – Thursday 24 May (PLEASE NOTE REVISED DATE)
- *The Merchant of Venice* – Tuesday 12 June
- *Love's Labour's Lost* - Wednesday 11 July
- *Holding Fire!* - Friday 3 August
- *We The People* – Thursday 6 September

**For further information, please contact:
Kate Morley at Blueprint PR 07970 465 648 / kate@blueprintpr.co.uk**

Notes to Editors

- **Shakespeare's Globe theatre season**, *Renaissance + Revolution*, runs from 4 May – 7 October 2007.
- **Globe Education** offers workshops, lectures and evening courses to students of all ages. For further information, telephone 020 7902 1433.
- **Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition** is open daily – May to September from 9am to 5pm and October to April from 10am to 5pm. Admission includes a guided tour of the Theatre. For further information, telephone 020 7902 1500.
- **The Shakespeare Globe Trust** is a registered charity No.266916. **The Globe receives no public subsidy.**