

THE OLD VIC THEATRE

Waterloo Road, S.E.1

Licensed by the Lord Chamberlain to GEORGE CHAMBERLAIN

The Old Vic Trust Ltd.

presents

THE OLD VIC COMPANY

6^D

in

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

William Shakespeare

Director of The Old Vic. :
HUGH HUNT

Administrative Director :
ALFRED FRANCIS

The Old Vic works by arrangement with the Joint Council of the National Theatre and the Old Vic, and in full association with the Arts Council of Great Britain



SOME NOTES ON THE HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF THE OLD VIC THEATRE

The Old Vic Theatre was opened in 1818 as the Royal Coburg under the direction of William Barrymore, with a melodramatic spectacle called "Trial by Battle." Many famous performers played here, including Edmund Kean, who is recorded as having said that of all the audiences to which he had played "I never acted to such a set of ignorant, unmitigated brutes as I now see before me."

In 1833 the name of the theatre was changed to The Royal Victoria Theatre in honour of the heiress to the throne, and in 1834 it was the scene of Paganini's farewell concert, but as the century grew so the fortunes of the theatre declined until it had become one of the lowest types of Music Hall. Crossthwaite in Kingsley's "Alton Locke" says of it: "They say the Queen's a good woman and I don't doubt it. I often wonder if she knows what her precious namesake here is like."

In 1879, Emma Cons, a social worker, took over the theatre and re-opened it as "The Royal Victoria Coffee Music Hall," offering "a purified entertainment and no intoxicating drinks."

In 1886 sufficient funds were gathered to buy the freehold of the theatre and vest it in a Trust under the Charity Commissioners on behalf of the people of London. In 1898 Lillian Baylis, niece of Emma Cons, joined her as Manager of the theatre, and there began a period of 39 years, the effect of which on the Drama, Opera and Ballet of this country is still incalculable.

In 1914 the first complete season of Shakespeare's plays was presented, and between that date and 1923 the Old Vic became the first theatre in the world to present the entire cycle of Shakespeare's plays. In 1926 Ninette de Valois joined the theatre and laid the foundations of the Sadler's Wells Ballet Companies, and in 1931 the new theatre at Sadler's Wells was opened under the same management, to become eventually the home of Opera and Ballet.

In 1927 Miss Baylis died. She had lived to see her work become famous throughout the world. During the war years, although the Old Vic Theatre was damaged by enemy action, the work of the Company continued in Burnley and on tour, and finally at the New Theatre in London, until in 1950 the Old Vic once more opened its doors to the public.

NEXT PRODUCTION

The next production at this theatre will be Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar"; this play has not been seen at the Old Vic since 1935, and as it is the play most often requested in letters from patrons, it is hoped that the choice will prove a popular one.

William Devlin, who played *Cassius* in the 1935 production, will appear as *Brutus* and Robin Bailey will be seen as *Marc Antony*; also in the Company are Paul Rogers as *Cassius*, Douglas Campbell as *Julius Caesar* and *Octavius Caesar*, and William Squire as *Caesar* with Helen Cherry as *Portia*. Other parts will be played by John Warner, Newton Blick, Tony van Bridge, Patrick Wymark, Wolfe Morris, Daniel Thorndike, George Murcell, Percy Herbert, John Breslin and Eugene Leahy.

Hugh Hunt is to be responsible for the production of this play, with settings by Tanya Moiseiwitsch and costumes by Alan Tagg.

Booking for "Julius Caesar" will open to the public on the 26th January (19th January for members of the Vic-Wells Association and the Old Vic Club).

THE VIC-WELLS COSTUME BALL

The annual Vic-Wells Costume Ball will be held at the Lyceum, Strand, on Monday, February 2nd, 1953, from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. Tickets are 25s. exclusive and may be obtained from the Hon. Dance Organisers, Sadler's Wells Theatre, or from the Box Office at the Old Vic or Sadler's Wells.

LATE-COMERS

The Management will be most obliged for the co-operation of its patrons in endeavouring to arrive punctually for the performances at this theatre. Quite apart from the interference with one's personal enjoyment of the play, the comfort of others is much disturbed by those who arrive late for a performance.

POST CARDS

A limited number of postcards of the exterior of the Old Vic are available, price 4d. each. Applications will be dealt with in rotation while supplies last and should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope of adequate size to contain a standard size postcard. Applications should be addressed to the Publicity Manager (Postcard Section), Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo Road, S.E.1.

The Merchant of Venice

By WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Characters in order of appearance :

Antonio, a Merchant of Venice	..	DOUGLAS CAMPBELL
Salerio } friends to Antonio	}	TONY VAN BRIDGE
Salanio } and Bassanio		
Bassanio, a suitor to Portia	..	ROBERT URQUHART
Gratiano, his friend	..	WILLIAM SQUIRE
Lorenzo, in love with Jessica	..	RICHARD GALE
Nerissa, waiting maid to Portia	..	JANE WENHAM
Portia, a rich heiress	..	IRENE WORTH
Stephano } servants to Portia	}	JAMES MAXWELL
Balthasar }		
Shylock, a rich Jew	..	PAUL ROGERS
The Prince of Morocco, a suitor to Portia	..	GEORGE MURCELL
Launcelot Gobbo, servant to Shylock	..	KENNETH CONNOR
Old Gobbo, father to Launcelot	..	NEWTON BLICK
Leonardo, servant to Bassanio	..	JOHN BRESLIN
Jessica, daughter to Shylock	..	CLAIRE BLOOM
The Prince of Arragon, a suitor to Portia	..	JOHN WARNER
Tubal, a Jew, friend to Shylock	..	WOLFE MORRIS
The Duke of Venice	..	DANIEL THORNDIKE
Ladies, Attendants, Venetians, Masquers and Officers of the Court :		BARBARA GRIMES, PHYLLIDA LAW, JOAN PLOWRIGHT, JOHN BRESLIN, ALAN DOBIE, BERNARD KILBY, DOUGLAS RAIN, DENIS RAYMOND, LLOYD RECKORD, BRUCE SHARMAN, ERIC THOMPSON.

Produced by HUGH HUNT

Sets and costumes by ROGER FURSE

Music composed by CHRISTOPHER WHELEN

The action of the play takes place in Venice and in Belmont

There will be two intervals of 10 minutes

Orchestra under the direction of CHRISTOPHER WHELEN

Produced at the Old Vic Theatre on Tuesday, January 6th

Production Manager	..	J. A. TITCOMBE
Publicity Manager	..	PATRICK IDE
Company Manager	..	ROBERT QUENTIN
Stage Manager	..	TOM BROWN
Assistant Stage Manager	..	ELIZABETH BUTTERFIELD
Master Carpenter	..	KENNETH BONFIELD
Chief Engineer	..	STANLEY COPPIN
Wardrobe Mistress	..	ANTOINETTE MARA

Scenery and furniture made in the Old Vic Workshops under the direction of W. H. Parker, and painted by John Collins, assisted by Ann Rodger. Costumes made in the Old Vic Wardrobe under the direction of Dinah Greet. Men's costumes by Susannah Jackson. Women's costumes by Judy Peyton-Ward. Hats by Eric Gates. Costume accessories by Jean Davis. Wigs by Nathanwigs and Wig Creations. Properties made by Helen Thomas, David Gauld and Belinda Davis. Metalwork by Enterprise Metal. Photographs by Angus McBean.

House Manager	..	MARGOT CAMERON
Box Office (WATERloo 7616)	..	HENRY OSBORN

First aid facilities in this theatre are provided by St. John Ambulance Brigade members, who give their services voluntarily.

SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM

The Management reserves the right to refuse admission, and to make any alteration in the cast which may be rendered necessary by illness or other unavoidable cause

In accordance with the requirements of the Lord Chamberlain—

1.—The public may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors and such doors must at that time be open. 2.—All gangways, passages and staircases must be kept entirely free from chairs or any other obstructions. 3.—Persons shall not in any circumstances be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways intersecting the seating, or to stand in any of the other gangways. If standing is permitted in the gangways at the sides and rear of the seating, it shall be strictly limited to the number indicated by the notices exhibited in those positions. 4.—The safety curtain must be lowered and raised in the presence of each audience.

The Box Office is now open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and patrons are reminded that seats can be booked during the first interval.

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OLD VIC CLUB

Members of the Old Vic Club receive regular information of all Old Vic activities and may take advantage of special booking facilities.

Membership of the Old Vic Club is available either personally or to individuals on behalf of organisations, and the subscription is 2/6d. annually. It is only necessary to send your name and address together with 2/6d. for the first year's subscription to :-

The Secretary,
THE OLD VIC CLUB,
Old Vic Theatre,
Waterloo Road, S.E.1.

If desired membership forms can be obtained from the Box Office. Personal contact with the public is the most valuable means of extending the work of the Old Vic Theatre, and if you are already a member of the Vic-Wells Association or the Old Vic Club, your co-operation in securing new members will be greatly appreciated.

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Paul Rogers as Shylock (left) and Wolfe Morris as Tubal in "The Merchant of Venice" at the Old Vic

Nov. 9th 1953.

JAEGER



PLEASE SEE THAT THIS SEAL IS UNBROKEN



Sweaters



Slacks

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