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

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 Roan, 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 1854 it was the scene of Pagani'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. Crosthwaite in King'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 reopened 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 1888 Lilian Baylis, niece of Emma Cons, joined her as Manager of the theatre, and there began a period of 30 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 1922 the Old Vic became the first theatre in the world to present the entire cycle of Shakespeare's plays. In 1929 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 1957 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 Bournemouth, and on tour, and finally at the New Theatre in London, until in 1959 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 1933, and as it is the play most often requested by patrons, it is hoped that the choice will prove a popular one.

William Devlin, who played Cassius in the 1933 production, will appear as Brutus and Robin Bailey will be seen as Marc Antony; also in the Company are Paul Rogers as Casca, Douglas Campbell as Julius Caesar and Octavius Caesar, and William Squire as Casca with Helen Cherry as Portia. Other parts will be played by John Warner, Newton Blick, Tony van Bridge, Patrick Wymark, Wole Morris, Daniel Thordisch, George Muscat, Percy Herbert, John Breslin and Eugene Leahy.

Dagh Hunt is to be responsible for the production of this play, with settings by Eurela Moserivitch and costumes by Alan Tagg.

Booking for "Julius Caesar" will open to the public on the 26th January 1983 (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, 1983, from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. Tickets are £2.50, 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.I.
The Merchant of Venice

By WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Characters in order of appearance:

Antonio, a Merchant of Venice ........... DOUGLAS CAMPBELL
Salanio, in love with Antonio ............. TONY VAN BRIDGE
Salanio } friends to Antonio .............. PATRICK WYMARK

Bassanio, a suitor to Portia .............. ROBERT URGHART
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 } .................. ERIC THOMPSON
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
Tobal, a Jew, friend to Shylock .......... WOLFE MORRIS

The Duke of Venice ........ DANIEL THORKINDE

Ladies, Attendants, Venetians, Masquers and Officers of the Court: BARBARA GRIMES, PHYLLIDA LAW, JOAN FLOWRIGHT, JOHN BRESLIN, ALAN DORE, BERNARD KILBY, DOUGLAS RAIN, DENIS RAYMOND, LLOYD RECORD, BRUCE SHERMAN, 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. THOMAS
Publicity Manager .......... PATRICK LEE
Company Manager .......... BERNARD GODDARD
Stage Manager .......... THEO BROWN
Assistant Stage Manager .......... KATHLEEN BUTLERFIELD
Technical Manager .......... KENNETH HUTTON
Choreographer .......... J. A. THOMAS
Wardrobe Mistress .......... MARY SHEPPARD


House Manager .......... HENRY OSBORN
Box Office (WATFORD) .......... 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 any time after the performance by all exit doors and such doors must at that time be open.
2. All gangers, porters and stewards must be kept entirely free from drugs or any other intoxicants.
3. Persons may not be allowed to enter the ganger, neither to stand nor sit in any of the ganger, and not to stand or sit in any of the ganger in such a way as to obstruct the view of others. They must also vacate the ganger immediately after the performance.
4. The safety curtain must be lowered and raised in the presence of such authority.

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.
THE VIC-WELLS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP
10/- Per Annum

Representatives of the Association are on duty in this Theatre, in the Circle Bar and in the Library (near the Gallery) from 4.00 to 2.15 p.m., and during the Interval, Hon. Sec. c/o Sadler's Wells Theatre, London, E.C.I

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.I.

If desired membership forms can be obtained from the Box Office. Personal contact with the public in 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.

THE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Introduction by Sir Ernest Barker, M.A., D.Litt., F.B.A.
1/6th Page
30 Colour Plates
Glossary

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Please fill in all particulars asked
Paul Rogers as Shylock (left) and Wolfe Morris as Tubal in "The Merchant of Venice" at the Old Vic.