

***Shylock* by Gareth Armstrong**

Workshop Theatre, Studio 1, University of Leeds

Friday 9 February 2024

7 PM



This remarkable one-man show, written and performed by Gareth Armstrong, and directed by Frank Barrie, explores the figure of Shylock in and beyond *The Merchant of Venice*. By turns comic and deeply moving, it gives a distinctive perspective on the play's engagement with myths of Jewishness current in Shakespeare's time, on its performance history, and on how it has resonated in subsequent eras. Assuming multiple roles as he tells Shylock's story, Gareth Armstrong gives a virtuosic and gripping performance. This is live theatre at its best.

Gareth, who has played leading roles with the Royal Shakespeare Company, in the West End and at Shakespeare's Globe, first performed *Shylock* at the 1997 Edinburgh Fringe, receiving astonishing reviews in the national press and 5 Stars from the Festival critics. Over the following 10 years *Shylock* won awards touring all over the world from Stratford-upon-Avon to off-Broadway. He is now reviving the show in a reimagined version. You can find out more about his work here:

<https://www.garetharmstrong.com/>

The running time of the show is approximately one hour 15 minutes, without an interval. It will be followed by a Q&A with Gareth Armstrong, chaired by Jane Rickard (University of Leeds), 8:30-9 PM.

Tickets are £12 full price and £5 students/unwaged.

Doors will open at 6:40 PM. Seating is unreserved.

Worldwide Press Acclaim for "SHYLOCK"

"Armstrong is nothing short of incredible...It is an exceptional piece of theatre. Everyone should see it."

The Independent on Sunday, London

"It's all fascinating, a nimble analysis of the thorny, much-abused character and the great, troublesome play."

The Washington Post

"This is a performance which deserves to be sold out. It is theatre for thinking men and women, it is theatre of the imagination, of liberating emotions and, also, of bold thinking."

Kurier, Vienna

"Gareth Armstrong is magnetic throughout...You need not be Jewish nor an Eng Lit expert to appreciate this: you need only be human."

The List, Edinburgh (5 Stars)

"This is as good as theatre gets...It was undiluted joy and a privilege to watch."

Liverpool Daily Post