



# The Merchant of Venice

## Sources, Intertexts, Afterlives

9–10 February 2024 • School of English, University of Leeds

Centring on a performance of Gareth Armstrong's acclaimed one-man show, *Shylock*, this symposium explores new perspectives on one of Shakespeare's most culturally significant plays. We examine *The Merchant of Venice* in early modern England, particularly its engagement with myths and images of Jewishness current at the time; and its later reception, performance history, and appropriation.

The symposium begins with a display in the **Brotherton Library** featuring both early Jewish manuscripts from the Cecil Roth collection and printed books from Shakespeare's England. It continues with the performance of *Shylock*, followed by a Q&A with Gareth Armstrong. **Practical workshops** in performance and creative writing will give delegates a chance to explore their responses. We then have research papers by **invited speakers**: Abi Shinn (Goldsmiths), Tom Rutter (Sheffield), Richard Meek (Hull), Lois Potter (Delaware), Richard Ashby (KCL), and Lisa Hopkins (Sheffield Hallam). The event concludes with a **roundtable discussion** and **drinks reception**.

**Tickets for *Shylock* performance – £12 (£5 students/unwaged)**

**Symposium registration – £5 (free students/unwaged)**

Book tickets/register and view the full programme online:

**[playhouselab.org/merchant2024](https://playhouselab.org/merchant2024)**



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