

THE  
OLD VIC.



(The Royal Victoria Hall)

Founded by the late Miss EMMA CONS in 1880.

OPPOSITE WATERLOO STATION, S E. 1.

Lessee and Manager .. .. LILIAN BAYLIS



PROGRAMME.

Opening Night, Saturday, Sept. 28, 1918.

Monday, Sept, 30, Oct. 2 & 4, at 7.15 ;

Wednesday, 2, at 2.30; Thursday, 3 & 10, at 2;

Saturday, 5, at 2.30.

The Merchant  
of Venice

Produced by GEORGE R. FOSS and Played by  
the "VIC. SHAKESPEARE COMPANY."

PROGRAMME—PRICE THREEPENCE.

*E. W. Moncrieff, 45 Bath. A.S.P.*

# PLAYS

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 7.15.  
 Matinees; Wednesday, at 2.30; Thursday, at 2, and  
 alternate Saturdays, at 2.30, commencing Saturday, 5

# OPERAS.

Thursday and Saturday, at 7.30.  
 Matinees, alternate Saturdays, at 2.30.  
 First Opera Matinee, Oct. 12.

## PROGRAMME

SHAKESPEARE'S

# THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

This is, perhaps, the most elastic play ever written. Shylock, the favourite part, both of actors and of audiences, can be played in an infinite variety of ways; as a revolting villain, or a noble avenger of his nation's wrongs; it can be made heavy tragedy, high comedy, or broad farce. Every way has brought admiration and applause to the actor, and no way has succeeded in destroying the charm and attractiveness of the play. Perhaps the author himself had no firm conviction about this part, for, as he has given us a final act, in which the character is not even mentioned, it is evident that he did not consider it to be the leading part or that the main interest of the audience should rest with the Jew. How the customs of a country—family ties—and great riches may fetter a clever woman and impede her from making use of her talents—how the social claims of a frivolous and pleasure-loving society, together with lack of adequate resources, may cripple a young man of promise, and sometimes nearly convince him that he is as worthless as his empty-headed associates—these are rather the main themes of the play. The atmosphere of limitless riches at Belmont, and the gay, butterfly irresponsibility of fashionable life at Venice, are difficult even to suggest with our limited resources, so we would ask our audiences to remember that in Shakespeare's day, Venice, besides being celebrated for its mercantile success, was beginning to be typical of the vicious effeminacy and luxurious frivolity which soon after led to its decay and ruin.

The present enemies of England trusted that the same spirit of social degeneracy had crept in here and had affected the whole nation, but there is still hope that they may be proved mistaken. *(Producer's Notes)*

Duke of Venice .. .. .	.. .. .	GEO. BARRAN
Prince of Morocco	} Suitors to Portia	ERNEST MEADS
Prince of Arragon		WINIFRED OUGHTON
Antonio, a merchant of Venice .. .. .	.. .. .	GEORGE R. FOSS
Bassanio, his friend .. .. .	.. .. .	GORDON DOUGLAS
Salanio .. .. .	.. .. .	VIOLA LYEL
Salarino .. .. .	.. .. .	MOLLY VENESS
Gratiano .. .. .	.. .. .	ORLANDO BARNETT
Lorenzo .. .. .	.. .. .	JOHN LESLIE
Shylock .. .. .	.. .. .	ERNEST MILTON
Tubal .. .. .	.. .. .	HORACE SEQUEIRA
Launcelot Gobbo, servant to Shylock .. .. .	.. .. .	ROGER WILLIAMS
Old Gobbo .. .. .	.. .. .	HORACE SEQUEIRA
Leonardo, servant to Bassanio .. .. .	.. .. .	EILEEN BELDON
Balthazar	} Servants to Portia	KATHARINE HERBERT
Stephano		LILIAN MOUBREY
Page .. .. .	.. .. .	KITTY CARLTON
Clerk of the Court .. .. .	.. .. .	JOSEPH PETERS
Portia, a rich heiress .. .. .	.. .. .	FLORENCE SAUNDERS
Nerissa, her maid .. .. .	.. .. .	CATHARINE WILLARD
Jessica, daughter to Shylock .. .. .	.. .. .	DORIS ORMONDE
Shylock (Opening Night) .. .. .	.. .. .	RUSSELL THORNDIKE
Portia (Opening Night) .. .. .	.. .. .	SYBIL THORNDIKE

(Kindly released for this night only, Sept. 28th, from her performance in "The Kiddies from the Ruins," by Mr. C. B. COCHRAN.)

The Opening Canzonetti sung by GORDON DOUGLAS.

Act 1, Scene 1 .. .. .	Street in Venice
Scene 2 .. .. .	Belmont
Scene 3 .. .. .	Street in Venice
Act 2, Scene 1 .. .. .	Belmont
Scene 2 .. .. .	Street in Venice
Scene 3 .. .. .	Another Street
Scene 4 .. .. .	Street in Venice
Act 3, Scene 1 .. .. .	Belmont
Scene 2 .. .. .	Street in Venice
Scene 3 .. .. .	Belmont

INTERVAL.

Act 4 .. .. .	A Court of Justice
Act 5 .. .. .	The Garden at Belmont

Stage Manager .. .. .	KATHARINE HERBERT
Assistant Stage Manager .. .. .	ROGER WILLIAMS
Ballet Mistress .. .. .	JEAN ANDERTON
Musical Director .. .. .	CHARLES CORRI

Souvenirs 2 2/4/11