

Please join us for our 2017-18 Season!

*The Mystery of Love and Sex*

by Bathsheba Doran

September 27-October 2, 2017

*Hair*

Book & Lyrics by James Rado and Gerome Ragni, Music by Galt MacDermot

October 4-8, 2017

*Steel Magnolias*

by Robert Harling

November 1-5, 2017

**Winthrop Dance Theatre Concert**

November 9-12, 2017

**Fall One-Act Festival**

November 17-19, 2017

**Senior Choreography Showcase**

December 1-3, 2017

*Precious Little*

by Madeleine George

February 7-11, 2018

*Charm*

by Kathleen Cahill

February 14-18, 2018

*The Commedia Rapunzel*

Book, Music and Lyrics by Sam LaFrage

March 28-April 1, 2018

**TBA**

April 4-8, 2018

**Spring One-Act Festival**

April 13-15, 2018

**Student Choreography Showcase**

April 20-22, 2018

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY | COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS | DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE 2017

William Shakespeare's  
**The Merchant  
of Venice**



**WINTHROP**  
UNIVERSITY

ARTS AT WINTHROP

# *The Merchant of Venice*

By William Shakespeare  
Adapted by Sarah Provencal

## Cast

Antonio	Luna Mackie*
Salarino	Lauren Roberts*
Salerio	Caitlyn Bryant*
Bassanio	Andrew Nelson White*
Lorenzo	Taylor Neal
Gratiano	Hailee Beltzhoover
Portia	Caitlin Byrne*
Nerissa	Stephanie Seabrooks*
Servant to Portia, Balthasar	
Portia Understudy	Natalie McCrary
Shylock	Juri Watson*
Launcelot	Emma Townsend
Gobbo/Duke	Caleb Moody
Jessica	Ava Furr
Morocco/Tubal	Brianna Young
Arragon	Kareem Wilson*
Servant to Antonio/Jailer/Clerk	David Frazier

Please be aware that herbal cigarettes will be used in this performance.

In compliance with Winthrop University policy, we ask smokers to use the designated area across the driveway from the front of Johnson Hall.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Thank you to our 2016-2017 scholarship donors!

## Endowed & Restricted Scholarship Supporters

Carolina Copy Cats ~ June McDuffee  
Russell Luke and Janet Gray ~ Blair Beasley Directing  
John Egbert ~ Lyssa Rauch Memorial Scholarship  
Martie Curran ~ Martie Curran Endowed Scholarship  
Todd Leger & Holly Rauch ~ Lyssa Rauch Memorial Scholarship

## Producer's Circle

### Little Chapel Club

Spratt & Sandra White  
Linda and Chick Williams  
Eric & Elaine Whitton Davis  
In memory of Mickey Davis  
David Wohl & Sherry Simmers  
Christine Fisher  
Dan & Laura Mahony

### Cornerstone Club

Hugh Barnett Jr.  
Winthrop Softball Coaches

### Friends

Ruth L. Greer  
Lynn and Clarence Hornsby  
Lucy McDow  
Reverend & Mrs. James Stein  
J. Boyd Fisher  
Polly Ford  
Scott Gru-Bell  
Brooke Fradd  
Brenda Floyd

### Garnet and Gold Club

Martie Curran  
Hannalie & Red Ferguson  
Scott & Shawn Price

### Associate

Dr. Jane LaRoche

Scene Studio Assistants	Aisha Addison*, Mariah Barrie, Brandy Brogden, Alexa Cibbarelli*, Jobina Cummings, Brian Drescher*, Madia Medico*, Stephanie Schley*
Scenic Construction/Lighting Crew	Karlie Brown, Ryan Hilton, Ashley Jensen, Maggie Shaw, Cindy Stowe
Costume Studio Assistants	Lauren Landers*, Zachary Morrison, Sarah Stewart, Cindy Stowe, La'Raine Turlington
Costume Construction Crew	Ke'Shawna Brown, Emily Campbell, Dylan Carpenter*, Alexa Cibbarelli*, Megan Edwards, Shelby Lewis, Phylisha Mace*, Luna Mackie*, Melanie Magee
Box Office Staff	Sarah Bruce*, Caitlin Bryant*, Caitlin Byrne*, Dylan Carpenter*, Dani Lilley*, Phylisha Mace*, Madia Medico*, Michelle Perri*, Titus Quinn*, Lauren Roberts*, Destiny Tyrone*, Garrett Whiffen*, Kareem Wilson*
House Manager	Dani Lilley*, Phylisha Mace*, Garrett Whiffen*
Graphic Designer	Michael Petersheim

\* Denotes membership in Alpha Psi Omega, the National Honorary Theatre Society

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Refreshments for "First Nighters" generously provided by Publix Supermarket

Winthrop University is accredited by  
The National Association of Schools of Theatre  
and  
The National Association of Schools of Dance

Synopsis: Bassanio needs a loan of three thousand ducats in order to woo a wealthy heiress named Portia. Initially, Bassanio turns to his merchant friend Antonio for help. However, Antonio is unable to provide the loan because all of his money is tied up in investments: ships at sea, to be exact. Bassanio and Antonio pay a visit to Shylock, a Jewish money lender. Shylock hates Antonio due to Antonio's prior anti-Semitic actions towards him. Nevertheless, Shylock agrees to Bassanio's loan request on one condition. If the loan is not repaid in time, Shylock will take a pound of Antonio's flesh. Antonio secures the deal and assures the reluctant Bassanio that his ships will return to Venice in time. Also in Venice, Lorenzo has fallen for Jessica, who happens to be Shylock's daughter. They make plans for her to steal her father's money, dress up as a boy, and run away from her father's house. This also means, since Jessica is Jewish, that she will convert to Christianity in order to marry Lorenzo. In the meantime, Portia is visited by many suitors who have traveled across the land to pursue her love. Before he died, Portia's father created a test. Anyone who wants to marry Portia must take this test, choosing from three caskets that have riddles written on top of them. If they guess right, they can marry Portia. If they are wrong, they must immediately leave and never marry anyone. We see two suitors guess wrong, and then Bassanio arrives with his friend Gratiano. He guesses the right casket, much to Portia's relief. It also comes to light that Gratiano has been wooing Nerissa, Portia's best friend. Portia and Nerissa give Bassanio and Gratiano rings as symbols of their love, making them swear to never part with them. The four of them are celebrating their new engagement when Salerio arrives with a letter from Antonio. Antonio has heard that all of his ships have been wrecked at sea, and he must now pay the fine of a pound of his flesh to Shylock. Bassanio and Gratiano immediately leave for Belmont, to be with Antonio during a trial before the Duke of Venice, as Shylock is indeed enacting the penalty of a pound of flesh as revenge for the racism and injustice that he has faced. Portia decides to attend the trial herself. She dresses as a lawyer, Nerissa as her clerk, so that no one will recognize them—and they dress as men so that they will be listened to and respected. Can Portia navigate the law and save the day? Who gets to define justice? And who has the right to take revenge?

### Directors Notes:

All plays have problems. Only a few receive the special distinction of being one of Shakespeare's Problem Plays. *The Merchant of Venice* holds this distinction. The ending is problematic, injustice is unresolved, and though the privileged few are dishonest and abusive, they end up back on top. Leaving us without answers, this unsettling play fits all too well within our current cultural climate. I am humbled to present this story, and even more humbled by the dedication, talent, and generous spirits of these students. I admit that lately I've struggled to find hope—in theatre, education, and in the country. But these students have changed that. They give me hope.

Enjoy. Or don't. It's a problem play, so it may leave you with...?



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### Artistic Staff

Director	Sarah Provencal
Lighting Designer	Biff Edge
Costume Designer	Zachary Morrison
Sound Technician	TJ Dyar
Assistant Lighting Designer	Brandy Brogden*
Scenic Assistant	Brian Drescher*
Property Master	Garrett Whiffen*

### Production Staff

Stage Manager	Aisha Addison*
Assistant Stage Manager	Michelle Perri*
Costume Studio Supervisor	Cheralyn Lambeth
Scene Studio Supervisor	Caitlin Brown
Technical Director	Biff Edge
Stagehand	Jenny Watson
Sound Board Operator	Jordan McKoy
Light Board Operator	Dionte Darko

### Winthrop University Department of Theatre and Dance

#### Degrees Offered:

**B.A. in Theatre, with Emphasis in Performance**

**Design/Technical Production**

**Musical Theatre**

**B.A. in Theatre with Teacher Certification (K-12)**

**B.A. in Dance**

**B.A. in Dance with Teacher Certification (K-12)**