

ELEMENTS THEATRE COMPANY
presents
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23 - 10:00 A.M.

FOR SCHOOL RESERVATIONS
call 800-319-7809

MORE INFORMATION
www.ElementsTheatre.org

A POUND OF FLESH:

EXPLORING QUALITIES OF MERCY WHEN ENCOUNTERING "THE OTHER"

A Series of Performances, Panel Discussions, Workshops, and Post-Show Conversations Inspired by William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*
January 24-February 24, 2015
New York City & Chicago

Elements Theatre Company presents the 2015 "Arts in Conversation" series, an annual program launched in 2013 that brings together leaders in the arts, education, religion, media and social outreach to create public dialogue on the power of the arts to humanize our culture.

As a theatre company, our core mission is to educate and illuminate through the honest exploration of classical and classically-rooted modern theatre. We believe that theatre provides a mirror for ourselves and our society, creating a possibility for meaningful exchange over ideas that matter most deeply. In our experience, reconciliation and transformation are only possible when we clearly see and name the issues that divide us.

This winter, we present Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* as a springboard for thought-provoking conversation on "the other" in our society today. In a world torn by hatred and prejudice of many kinds, we can feel powerless to create any real change. But by creating a space for exchange, reflection, and even disagreement, we might discover truths at the core of the issues. These insights might be frightening or surprising, but they can also ignite real change.

In the Pound of Flesh series, distinguished guest panelists and the Elements cast will consider: What drives Shylock (and other "outsiders") to such extreme measures? In what ways could we be responsible for creating a climate of persecution, rather than acceptance? What are the qualities of mercy that might turn the tide of violence, in our culture and in our relationships?



ABOUT ELEMENTS THEATRE COMPANY

Elements Theatre Company is a non-profit, professional theatre ensemble of 14 artists in-residence dedicated to exploring and communicating the deepest truths of the human condition through dramatic storytelling and imaginative stagecraft.

Classical and classically-rooted modern works are at the heart of Elements' artistic programming. Performance highlights of the past decade include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Pillars of the Community*, *A Christmas Carol*, *God of Carnage*, *The Dining Room*, *Rumors*, *Lion in Winter* and *Lady Windermere's Fan*.

Members of Elements Theatre Company have trained with teachers from Shakespeare & Company, Central School of Speech and Drama, Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, Shakespeare's Globe, the Royal Shakespeare Company, and London's National Theatre.

Elements is committed to conversation and education, offering workshops, panel discussions around themes of art and life, and actors' retreats. The company tours nationally and internationally, performing and presenting educational programs at theatres, conferences, schools, and religious organizations.

"Their professionalism and commitment to their craft are unmistakable."

BROADWAY WORLD

"Elements Theatre's repertory stage company always delivers top-notch productions. . . a remarkably talented cast of actors who breathe articulate life into each line of Shakespeare's poetic prose."

BARNSTABLE PATRIOT

The Merchant of Venice

Monday, February 23, 2015

10:00 a.m.

Dominican University Performing Arts Center
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events.dom.edu



DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY
Performing Arts Center