



Welcome

Today, NPAT children are extremely proud to be showcasing and celebrating our work with the Royal Shakespeare Company as they tell you the story of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. Prepare yourself for a wonderful display of music, dance and drama as the children take to the stage.

Northampton Primary Academy Trust is made up of fourteen primary schools and is driven by a vision of innovation, high aspiration, and achievement as well as a commitment to sports and the arts. We are also proud to be a Lead Associate Trust as part of the Royal Shakespeare Company's Associate Schools Programme. Children from across all our schools have been learning about the play using RSC rehearsal room techniques and Drama for Learning conventions. As well as having a performance outcome, children from across the whole primary phase have had the opportunity to access the play through different aspects of the curriculum including English.

Sit back, relax, take a deep breath and prepare to be entertained by the boundless talent of your children. Enjoy!

**Julia Kedwards (OBE),
CEO, Northampton Primary Academy Trust**



NORTHAMPTON
PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST

Scene Breakdown

SCENES	ON STAGE	FILMED
<p>Part 1 – Problem</p> <p>Bassanio needs money. Antonio gives his name as credit. They borrow money from Shylock. He tells them the deal about the payback.</p> <p>The reason he needs money is Portia and her dad’s plan.</p>	<p>Abington Vale Primary School</p>	<p>Blackthorn Primary School</p>
<p>Part 2 – Portia and Nerissa and the three caskets. Morocco, Aragon and Bassanio.</p>	<p>East Hunsbury Primary School</p>	<p>Langland Community school</p>
<p>Part 3 – Lancelot, Jessica, and Lorenzo scene.</p>	<p>Ecton Brook Primary School</p>	<p>Lings Primary School</p>
<p>Part 4- Shylock hears about Jessica and Lorenzo. “I am a Jew” speech.</p>	<p>Headlands Primary School</p>	<p>Park Junior School</p>
<p>Part 5 - Court case 1 – Portia’s and Nerissa are the lawyers. Shylock states his case. Portia asks him to show mercy</p>	<p>Simon de Senlis Primary School</p>	<p>Rectory Farm Primary School</p>
<p>Part 6 - Court case 2 – the flaw in the contract. Shylock’s demise.</p>	<p>Upton Meadows Primary School</p>	<p>Thorplands Primary School</p>
<p>Part 7 – The rings and the return to Belmont.</p>	<p>Weston Favell Primary School</p>	<p>Weston Favell Primary School</p>

Children's artwork working with Jane Charles our Artist in Residence

Abington Vale Primary School Artwork



Upton Meadows Primary School Artwork



Schools

Abington Vale Primary School



Ecton Brook Primary School



East Hunsbury Primary School



Headlands Primary School



Simon de Senlis Primary



Upton Meadows Primary



Weston Favell Primary School



Short Synopsis

The play is set in Venice, Italy. Bassanio wants to marry a woman called Portia but he cannot afford to travel to Belmont to see her, so he asks his friend Antonio if he can borrow some money. Antonio, an antisemitic merchant, has his money tied up in his ships out at sea. Antonio asks for a loan from the Jew Shylock on behalf of his friend Bassanio. Shylock agrees to lend him the money, but says if the money is not repaid, Shylock will take a pound of Antonio's flesh.

Portia's deceased father left a test in his will that she will marry whichever suitor makes the correct choice when presented with the three caskets, made of gold, silver and lead. Portia and her maid Nerissa watch as several suitors try to win her love, but they all fail.

Bassanio arrives in Belmont and correctly chooses the lead casket, winning Portia's hand in marriage. Portia is delighted. They marry and his friend Gratiano marries Portia's maid, Nerissa, at the same time. Shylock's daughter, Jessica escapes from his house so that she can marry Lorenzo. Lorenzo is a Christian and a friend of Bassanio.

Antonio's ships are lost at sea, meaning he has no way to repay Shylock and will have to face him in court. Portia, now Bassanio's wife, dresses as a lawyer and travels to Venice to save Antonio. She asks Shylock to be merciful, but he is determined to have his revenge. Portia examines the original contract between them. She tells the court Shylock can only take a pound of his flesh if he spills no blood and Shylock admits this is not possible. Shylock is punished by court for attempting to kill a citizen of Venice. All of his wealth is seized and he is forced to convert to Christianity.

Acknowledgements: Thank you

A performance like this involves so many people.

However special thanks go to:

RSC Staff	Training, resources and ongoing support
Silhouette & Leigh Wolmarans	For stage managing the performances, drama, dance and directing
Paul Martin	Filming & Production
Jane Charles	Artist in Residence
NPAT Creative Leads Teachers	All their efforts to support the children in their artistic endeavours.

...and finally..

The children for all their hard work and reaching for the stars!!!

Find out more about Northampton Primary Academy Trust

