

For Immed. Release: 10/13/2011 Entertainment/Theatre | **Theatre at UBC** announces **TWO MERCHANTS** an adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, Director Dana Lori Chalmers | Run: Nov. 10 -19, 2011 | Venue: TELUS Studio Theatre, Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, UBC | Map: <http://bit.ly/9SgiLX> | Curtain: Mon. - Sat. at 7:30 p.m. | Opening: Thur. Nov. 10, \$7 Preview: Nov. 9 | Tickets: Reg. \$22/Senior \$15/Student \$10, Box Office: 604.822.2678 Online: <http://www.theatre.ubc.ca>
Note: Two Merchants is a doctoral research project.

Media Contact: Deb Pickman P: 604.319.7656 E: publicity.theatre@ubc.ca

TWO MERCHANTS

an Adaptation of William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*
Director Dana Lori Chalmers

November 10 - 19, 2011

TELUS Studio Theatre, Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, UBC

Set amidst the modern day Arab-Israeli conflict, *Two Merchants* is a twist on Shakespeare's classic *The Merchant of Venice*. This original adaptation retains the famous story of an unpaid debt, a daughter's defection, and ancient antagonisms leading to a trial without mercy and the renewal of old hatreds. Amidst religious persecution and fear, two enemies engage in a life and death battle over an unfulfilled contract, family loyalty, and justice.

But things are not as they once were; where once an infamous Jew battled his Christian neighbors, now it is Jews and Muslims, Israelis and Arabs who must find their way through the treacherous waters of Shakespeare's 'Venice'. In one act, Shylock, the Jew, seeks justice and vengeance from within a Muslim dominated culture. In the other act, Shylock, the Muslim, strives for the same things within a Jewish dominated culture.

Two Merchants is a doctoral research project: More than a theatrical production, *Two Merchants* is also a research endeavor aimed at developing the use of entertainment to counter ideologies that spur entrenched conflicts. Every performance features a brief questionnaire and audiences are invited to join us for a beverage at the in-theatre bar for questions, discussion and debate after every performance. Evening performances will also have observers in the theatre to note audience responses to the shows. In addition, audience members can volunteer to participate in a focus group discussion or one-on-one interview/discussion with the director and researcher – Interdisciplinary Studies Doctoral Student, Dana Lori Chalmers.

"The villanie you teach me I will execute, and it shall goe hard but I will better the instruction." – **The Merchant of Venice**

Featuring intermediate year BFA Acting students **Georgia Beaty, Alen Dominguez, Emma Johnson, Pippa Johnstone, Karina Palmitesta, Joel Garner, Alexander Keurvorst, Kenton Klassen, Matt Reznik, Tracy Schut** and **Courtney Shields**. The creative team includes MFA Design students **Diana Sepulveda** [Set], **Alia Stephen** [Lighting & Video], **Megan Gilron** [Costumes] and **Danielle Bourgon** [Stage Management] with BA student **Scott Zechner** [Sound]. The academic team includes **Richard Menkis** (CNERS), **Shafik Dharamsi** (The Liu Institute), **Stephen Heatley** (Theatre and Film) and **Susan Cox** (Applied Ethics)

Nov. 10 - 19, 2011: TWO MERCHANTS an adaptation of William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, Director Dana Lori Chalmers | **TELUS Studio Theatre**, Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, Map: <http://bit.ly/9SgiLX> | Curtain: Mon. - Sat. @ 7:30 p.m. | **Opening: Thur. Nov. 10** | Tickets: Reg. \$22/Senior \$15/Student \$10 | **\$7 Preview: Nov. 9** | Mondays \$5 for UBC alumni! | Tickets: 604.822.2678 or **Online:** <http://www.theatre.ubc.ca>

Note: Two Merchants is a doctoral research project.

Media Contact: Deb Pickman P: 604.319.7656 E: publicity.theatre@ubc.ca



a place of mind