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ACTORS FROM THE LONDON STAGE TO PERFORM

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

NOTRE DAME – I hold the world but as the world, Gratiano; A stage, where every man must play a part, And mine a sad one. - Antonio, Act 1 Scene 1. Actors From The London Stage – a self-directed ensemble of five professional British actors will present Shakespeare’s comedy, The Merchant of Venice, this September. The Merchant of Venice will be performed at the historic Washington Hall on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, September 12 - 14, 2012 at 7:30 PM. These performances begin a national tour for this production with stops at The University of Texas at San Antonio, Wellesley College, The University of Texas at Austin, The Penn State University and Kansas State University.

One of William Shakespeare’s best-known comedies, The Merchant of Venice has been arousing controversy for centuries with raucous and gentle comedy, tender poetry, and its struggle with mercy and justice. This comedy of religion and race collides with love, family and justice and the currency of society and humanity in this vibrant production by five actors.
Members of the ensemble include tour veterans Nicola Alexis (Portia, Solanio, Bathazar, Gaoler, Leonardo), and Michael Palmer (Shylock, Old Gobbo, Lorenzo). Completing the ensemble are Noel White (Antonio, Gratiano, Tubal, Launcelot), Henry Everett (Bassanio, Morocco, Arragon and Duke) and Alinka Wright (Nerissa, Jessica, Solario, Stephano).

Actors From The London Stage is the national outreach program of Shakespeare at Notre Dame. This unique educational program was developed in 1975, by Homer Swander, at the University of California at Santa Barbara. The theatre company is now based in London and at Shakespeare at Notre Dame. The artists, comprised of five British Shakespearean actors from such companies as the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal National Theatre of Great Britain, and Shakespeare’s Globe, among others, devote a large part of their time to lectures, workshops, seminars, and informal meetings with students. Their stay provides student and faculty with a unique opportunity both to observe extraordinary performances and to discuss literature and the art of theatre in depth with some of the most talented artists from some of the most important theatre companies in the world.

Performances are Wednesday, September 12, Thursday, September 13 and Friday, September 14, 2012. All performances are at 7:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time. Washington Hall is located on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. Individual tickets are $22.00, senior citizens and Notre Dame faculty and staff tickets are $19.00 and student tickets are $12.00. Tickets may be purchased at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center ticket office, by phone at 574-631-2800, or online at shakespeare.nd.edu. For more information on Actors from the London Stage, visit aftls.nd.edu.

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(photos and interviews available upon request)