

PRESS RELEASE  
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**Gareth Armstrong's "Shylock" Starring Steven Patterson  
Opens At The Orlando Shakespeare Theater October 12th**

"Hath not a Jew eyes?  
Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions?"

September 28th, 2007 (Orlando, FL) The 19th season at the Orlando Shakespeare Theater in partnership with UCF continues with Gareth Armstrong's in-depth study of Shakespeare's character from *The Merchant of Venice, Shylock*, running October 12th through November 11th at the Goldman Theater inside the Lowndes Shakespeare Center. Tickets are on sale now.

This riveting one-man play, fresh from a successful run Off-Broadway, explores *The Merchant of Venice* and its controversial character, *Shylock*, through the eyes of his enduring friend, Tubal, the only other Jew to appear in all of Shakespeare. Tubal explores with the audience the persecution of the Jewish people throughout English and European history, the effect on Elizabethan England, the performance history of Shakespeare's play, and its effect on today's world. Should *The Merchant of Venice* be performed? Is it anti-Semitic? What were Shakespeare's motivations and how do modern audiences feel about the play? Experience an invigorating and thought-provoking evening exploring art, racism, power, religious persecution, villainy and self-identity.

Tour-de-force New York actor, Steven Patterson returns to Orlando once more to tackle yet another one-man dramatic challenge. Audiences will remember him from last years' hit show, *Frankenstein*.

Special programming around this play includes post-show discussions with leaders in the Jewish community every Thursday night after the show. Current talkback guests include: Gareth Armstrong - author of *Shylock* (October 11), Eric Zivot - Rollins College

(October 18), Rabbi David Kay of Congregation Ohev Shalom (October 25th), (October 1 and 8 - TBA).

Showtimes are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7PM, Fridays and Saturdays at 8PM, and Sundays at 2:00PM. Tickets are priced at \$20, \$26 and \$32 for Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, and \$25, \$31 and \$37 for Fridays and Saturdays. Students save \$5. Groups of 10-19 receive a 10% discount and groups of 20 or more receive a 20% discount. Senior matinees are planned for Wednesday, October 24th and Wednesday, November 7th at 2PM when all tickets will be \$12. Tickets are available now at the Lowndes Shakespeare Center box office located at 812 East Rollins Street in Orlando's Loch Haven Park, by calling 407.447.1700 ext. 1, or by visiting [www.orlandoshakes.org](http://www.orlandoshakes.org). Group discounts may be obtained by calling ext. 265. The box office is open Monday through Friday 10AM to 5PM and two hours prior to showtime.

*Shylock*, directed by author Gareth Armstrong and starring Steven Patterson is part of the Regions Bank Signature Series and is sponsored in part by A. Brian Phillips, P.A., WESH-TV2, and TKO Advertising.