

The Shylocks of Venice
June 2021 Draft

Character Breakdown
(*Suggestions for actor doubling*)

Benjamin – man, middle-aged

Tubal – man, middle-aged, friend and business associate of Benjamin

Antonio – man, 22

Salerio – man, 22, friend of Antonio

Solanio – man, 22, friend of Antonio and Salerio

Bavaro – man, middle-aged, Antonio's father

Mrs. Bavaro – woman, middle-aged, Antonio's mother

Rachel – woman, middle-aged, Benjamin's wife

Jessica – girl, 15, daughter of Benjamin and Rachel

Bassanio – boy, 17

Graziano – boy, 17, friend of Bassanio (*played by same actor as Salerio*)

Lorenzo – boy, 17, friend of Bassanio (*played by same actor as Solanio*)

Bekka – girl, 15, Tubal's daughter

Simon – boy, 10, Tubal's son (*played by a young woman actor*)

Portia – girl, 15 (*played by same actor as Simon*)

The Duke – man, middle-aged, Portia's father (*played by same actor as Bavaro*)

The Duchess – woman, middle-aged, Portia's mother (*played by same actor as Mrs. Bavaro*)

Nerissa – girl, 15, Portia's friend (*played by same actor as Bekka*)

The Doge – man, middle-aged (*played by same actor as Tubal*)

Lancelot – man, 20s (*played by same actor as Salerio/Graziano*)

Father Giuseppe – man, middle aged (*played by same actor as Tubal*)

Jailer – man, middle-aged (*played by same actor as Tubal*)

Butler – man, 20s, servant of Benjamin and Rachel (*played by same actor as Salerio/Lorenzo*)

Servant – man, 20s, servant of the Duke and Duchess (*played by same actor as Bassanio*)

Attendant – man, 20s, servant of the Doge (*played by same actor as Antonio*)

Time

Winter of 1516

Place

Venice and Belmont, Italy

Prologue

*All of the actors are on stage for the Prologue.
They appear as the first character they portray.*

Venice!
The actors begin to swirl around the stage.

La Dominante
La Serenissima
Queen of the Adriatic
Gateway to the East
Glittering
Shimmering
Elegant
Refined
Rich
Home.

ALL
ANTONIO
RACHEL
MRS. BAVARO
BAVARO
JESSICA & BEKKA
SALERIO & SOLANIO
RACHEL
BENJAMIN
BAVARO, MRS. BAVARO & ANTONIO
ALL

Beat

BENJAMIN
For all Venice's charms, there are threats –

BAVARO

Portuguese traders are sailing around Africa, bypassing us and trading directly with the East.

TUBAL

Conquistadors are sending gold and silver back to Spain, bypassing our banks.

BASSANIO

War after war with the Turks has cost us:

SALERIO

Thessalonica

SOLANIO

Negroponte

ANTONIO

Lemnos

BASSANIO

Albania

RACHEL & MRS. BAVARO

Lives

BAVARO

Business.

BENJAMIN

Even after all the wars, the Ottoman threat remains.

TUBAL

And more threats are on the horizon.

BAVARO

So we must be strong.

ANTONIO

SALERIO

And/ grow stronger.

BAVARO

Keep what is ours.

MRS. BAVARO

And take what is theirs

