



ALL SAINTS'
COLLEGE

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STAGE

MULTI-TASK ASK

FOLLOWING his visit to Perth last year to play all 69 roles in *Under Milk Wood*, Olivier Award-winning actor Guy Masterson – the great-nephew of Richard Burton – is making a return in another multi-award-winning solo play.

Shylock is about Shakespeare's most controversial character in *The Merchant of Venice*, one of only two Jewish men in all of the Bard's works.

"At the time Shakespeare wrote the play, Jews were popularly depicted as comic villains and, on the surface, Shylock is no different," Masterson said.

"But Shakespeare humanises Shylock and gives him very good reason to be a revengeful villain. What makes him such a

THE ESSENTIALS

SHYLOCK

WHERE: All Saints College Centre for Performing Arts

WHEN: February 9, 7.15pm.
A Q&A session will be held beforehand at 6.30pm.

TICKETS: www.trybooking.com/233998

controversial character is that he demands a pound of flesh in repayment for an unpaid debt and, in doing so, effectively demands the life of Antonio, the merchant in the title.

"Because of this background, *The Merchant of Venice* has often been described as an anti-Semitic play – Shylock questions this and

contextualises the history surrounding Jews and Jews on stage.

"In doing so, the play becomes a powerfully dramatic historical documentary."

Masterson is a British actor, director, producer and writer who spent time in Hollywood in the late 1980s before returning to the UK and becoming something of a legend at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Over 21 consecutive seasons, his company Theatre Tours International has become Edinburgh Fringe's most highly awarded and nominated independent theatre producer, which has included a coveted Olivier Award for best entertainment.



Guy Masterson.

Picture: Marie Nirme

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