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Silk Road Theatre Project

"Hottest Ticket in Town"

- Chris Jones, Chicago Tribune

**NOW EXTENDED THROUGH NOVEMBER 18
BY POPULAR DEMAND!**



WHERE THE BARD MEETS BOLLYWOOD!

The World Premiere of
Shishir Kurup's

MERCHANT ON VENICE

Directed by
Stuart Carden

Featuring: Anish Jethmalani,
Gerardo Cardenas, Kamal Hans,
Vincent P. Mahler, Andy Nagraj,
Marvin Quihada, Sadieh Rifai,
Amira Sabbagh, Madrid St.
Angelo, Pranidhi Varshney and
Tariq Vasudeva



Sadieh Rifai

Merchant on Venice absolutely must close November 18. *The Chicago Tribune* predicts that *Merchant* "will have an extensive international life." Do not miss out on the world premiere!

Presenting Sponsor



Great video clips of *Merchant on Venice* at [The Stage Channel](#)

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Kamal Hans (left) and Andy Nagraj (right)

"PICK OF THE WEEK"

Jonathan Abarbanel, WBEZ Chicago Public Radio Eight-Forty-Eight: Dueling Critics: "My pick is *Merchant on Venice*, the vibrant world premiere at the Silk Road Theatre Project. Playwright Shishir Kurup uses Shakespeare's play, *The Merchant of Venice*, as his template to tell a story of ethnic hatred, not between Christians and Jews, but between South Asian Hindus and Muslims, and he sets the tale in contemporary Venice, California, with its thriving South Asian population. The irony of Shylock being a Muslim in this case, rather than a Jew, is an added layer in Kurup's rich, rhymed text that's clever and funny and pointed and heartfelt and filled with wonderful multicultural references appropriate to their Southern California melting pot. You add in some colorful dance sequences and an energetic, first-rate multi-ethnic cast and you have a very special show."

Amira Sabbagh (left) and Marvin Quihada (right)

"FOUR STARS"

Kris Vire, TimeOut Chicago: "Playwright Shishir Kurup's bracing, ingenious pop-cult revamp of Shakespeare's *Merchant* proves that the Bard's themes and style still resonate. Kurup's brand-new but faithful script moves the action to present-day Southern California and smartly updates the characters to modern-day equivalents."

Tariq Vasudeva (left) and Anish Jethmalani (right)

"FOUR STARS"

Venus Zarris, Gay Chicago Magazine: "an outstanding world premiere...proves the timeless transcending abilities of Shakespeare's stories when approached by a truly exceptional writer...a delightfully enticing crash course on the Hindu-Muslim communities in modern-day America...Director Stuart Carden takes this deceptively profound script and delivers it with a diverse and engaging ensemble who tackle the complexities of the material with impressive skill and contagious enthusiasm...once again the Silk Road Theatre Project fearlessly tackles misconceptions and misrepresentations as only the arts can...exceptionally ingenious in its reinterpretation of this classic tale...a theatrical experience that is blissfully entertaining...a unique marvel not to be missed!"



Kamal Hans (left), Tariq Vasudeva (center), and Pranidhi Varshney (right)

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Before the Show, After the Show, At Intermission

Silk Road Theatre Project

at The Historic Chicago Temple Building
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Performance Venue: Pierce Hall at The Historic Chicago Temple Building, 77 West Washington St, Chicago

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