

The Merchant of Venice at Shakespeare's Globe

On Wednesday, 22nd August, 16 members of the Holy Cross congregation travelled to the South Bank to see a production of **The Merchant of Venice** at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.



Despite torrential rain, hundreds of people packed the Yard, braving the rapidly cooling temperature and constant downpour.

The staff offer patrons a selection of cushions, back rests and blankets! I joked with one of them about offering hot water bottles too. Despite the distractions offered by the weather, we all enjoyed the performance as a positively sparkling evening. Whatever the state of the climate, nothing can undim the



What a relief! After the interval, during which I was sustained by an inappropriate bottle of Foster's lager, all became dry and several of us stood in the yard to get as close as possible to the action of stage. The impact of this proximity is to heighten one's involvement in the play and therefore one's pleasure levels rise even higher. The tradition of the Globe is for high levels of commitment and audience participation, and we were again not disappointed.

Highly recommended to all who have yet to try the Globe experience!

Neil Richardson

Although it poured with rain, nothing could dampen our sense of excitement at seeing one of the Bard's great plays in the special atmosphere and under the extraordinary conditions of this great theatre.

The best way to approach the theatre is to walk over the Millennium Bridge. As you cross the bridge, the theatre comes into view looking full of promise, although dwarfed by The Tate Modern Gallery next door and ancillary surrounding stuff.



genius of the play's stunning script, packed with power, insight, wisdom and humour, and all closely observed and drawn from the human dilemmas which we all experience, whether in the late 1590s when William Shakespeare wrote the play or here in the first decade of the 21st century, some 400 years later!

