

Theatre Guild To Open Play This Thursday

The stories of the pound of flesh, the three caskets and the rings will come to life at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Fine Arts Theatre when the Readers' Theatre Guild presents "The Merchant of Venice."

The play will run through Saturday. Reserve tickets are available at the University Union Lobby Shop Desk. Students will be admitted with an ID card.

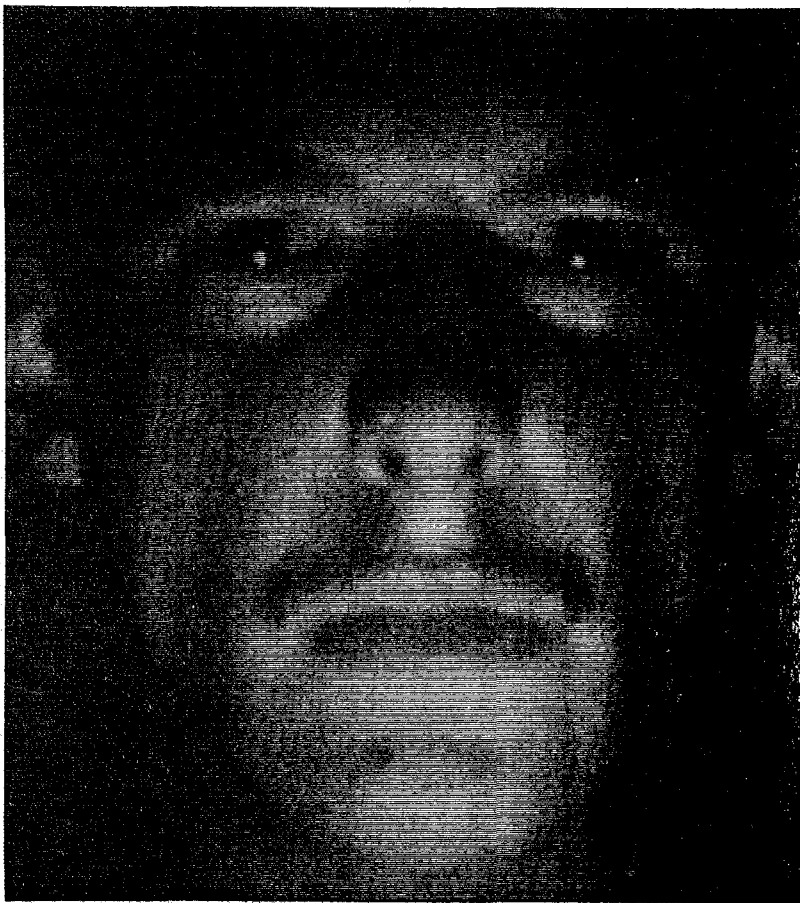
"THE MERCHANT of Venice" is the second in a proposed series of Shakesperian plays to be produced in the "theatre of the imagination" format of the Guild.

"Theatre of the imagination" brings the play into the audience and lets each member's creative powers play a leading role in the production, according to R. J. Schneider, director of the Guild.

The players put special emphasis on the interpretation of line. The setting and costumes merely suggest locale and time to aid the audience in creating the scene.

THE SET, designed by John Bielenberg, assistant professor of speech, is a rich treatment of the merchant city of Venice with arched pillars, oriental tapestries and ornate platform levels.

Maroon, yellow and black floor-length robes, designed by costumer Ann Smith, will further the suggestion of 16th century Venice.



"In law, what plea so tainted and corrupt but being seasoned with a gracious voice, obscures the show of evil?"—Shylock (Roger Hudson). "The Merchant of Venice" opens Thursday night in Fine Arts Theatre.

Merchant Of Venice Slated At Eastern

The day of April 23 was an important one in the life of William Shakespeare. Most historians claim that date was both his birthday and day of death.

April 23 will also be the day that the Eastern Illinois University Readers' Theatre Guild opens its production of "The Merchant of Venice." Opening Thursday at 8 p. m., the play will run through Saturday in the Fine Arts Theatre.

The Guild will use its characteristic "theatre of the imagination" format of suggestive staging and characterized readings which give the creative power of the audience a leading role, according to R. J. Schneider, director of the Guild.

Three huge Venetian Arches, benches, and tapestries will project the opulence of 16th century Venice and the Rialto in the play's set, designed by John Bielenberg, assistant professor of speech.