

London Printing and Publishing Company, publisher. Mr. Ira Aldridge as Aaron [character in Shakespeare's] Titus Andronicus. London: between 1852 and 1853. Folger ART File A365.5 no.1 copy 2

Ira Aldridge was a famous 19th-century actor whose stardom grew from his signature portrayals of Aaron the Moor and Othello. Initially educated in New York City at the African Free School and African Grove Theatre, Aldridge honed his skills and rose to fame in Dublin and London in the 1840s. During this period, he performed as Aaron the Moor in a version of *Titus Andronicus* rewritten to portray Aaron as a tragic figure, rather than a villain. In addition to Aaron and Othello, by the end of his career, his signature roles included Shylock, Richard III, and King Lear.