

Timon of Athens

Cast

Timon *Alan Howard*
Apemantus *Norman Rodway*
Alcibiades *Damian Lewis*
Flavius *John McAndrew*
Painter *Paul Jesson*
Poet/Lucius *David Ross*
Lucullus/Jeweller *Michael N. Harbour*
Merchant *Jonathan Tafler*
1st Senator *Clifford Rose*
2nd Senator/Old Man *John Hollis*
3rd Senator/Ventidius *Rupert Wickham*
1st Servant/Flaminius *Chook Sibtain*
2nd Servant *Alex Lowe*
3rd Servant *Alex Boyd-Williams*
Caphis *Alex McSweeney*
Lucilius/Philotus *Nicholas Rowe*
Hortensius *Alan Westaway*
1st Lord *John Rogan*
Other parts played by: Carolyn Backhouse, Michelle Frost,
Nick Monu and David Shaw Parker

Play description

ACT I

Scene 1. Timon is a noble Athenian, renowned for his generosity. Amongst others, a poet, a painter, a merchant and a jeweller have come to his house, seeking patronage. Examples of Timon's kindness abound: upon learning that Ventidius has been imprisoned for a debt of five talents, he does not hesitate to pay off the sum. He also provides his servant Lucilius with the money he needs to win the hand of a wealthy girl. When the gruff Apemantus arrives, however, he pours scorn on the flatterers surrounding Timon.

Scene 2. Timon gives a great banquet in his house. Ventidius comes intending to repay his debt, but Timon refuses to accept any money. As Timon exchanges pleasantries with his guests, they are entertained with a masque. Meanwhile, Apemantus continues his cynical commentary on the proceedings. Flavius, Timon's steward, worries privately that his master's fortune is almost exhausted.

ACT II

Scene 1. A Senator sends his servant to call in money owed to him by Timon.

Scene 2. When Timon's creditors begin to press for payment he is at last forced to listen to Flavius who tells him that all his property has been lost. Not unduly perturbed, Timon sends to his friends for help.

ACT III

Scene 1. When Timon's servant Flaminius asks Lucullus for money, he is refused and Lucullus attempts to bribe him not to tell his master that they have met. Flaminius throws the money back at him, outraged.

Scene 2. Lucius refuses Timon's servant Servilius the money he requests for his master.

Scene 3. Sempronius claims to be insulted that he was not approached by Timon first and will give him no money.

Scene 4. The servants of Timon's creditors gather at his house; when Timon finally appears they clamor for his attention, but he leaves, enraged. He then instructs Flavius to send invitations to a dinner to all his friends.

Scene 5. In the Senate house, Alcibiades asks the senators to show mercy to a soldier who killed a man when drunk. He speaks of the soldier's military prowess, but the senators are unmoved and remain determined that the man should die. When Alcibiades protests, the senators banish him.

Scene 6. Having invited his erstwhile friends to a banquet, Timon reveals the contents of the dishes to be warm water and stones. When the guests express surprise, Timon berates them for their hypocrisy and sycophancy, throwing the water and stones in their faces. Convinced that he is mad, they leave.

ACT IV

Scene 1. Timon pours forth his spleen against Athens and resolves to go to the woods “where he shall find/Th’unkindest beast more kinder than mankind.”

Scene 2. Flavius shares his own money out among Timon’s servants. They express their devotion to their old master.

Scene 3. Whilst digging for roots outside his cave in the woods, Timon finds buried gold. He keeps some, but reburies the rest upon hearing a drum in the distance. The drum announces the arrival of Alcibiades, who has gone to war against Athens. He is accompanied by his two mistresses, Timandra and Phrynia. Timon rejects Alcibiades’ overtures of friendship, but when he understands that he needs money for his campaign, he gives him gold. Then, ranting bitterly against all humankind, Timon urges Alcibiades to ruin Athens and its inhabitants. After Alcibiades and the women have gone, Apemantus arrives; he tells Timon that the beggarly life he has adopted is the product of necessity, not conviction. Timon replies that because Apemantus has never known the flattery and ingratitude of others, he has no reason for his hatred of humanity. Once Apemantus has gone, three bandits appear, searching for Timon’s gold. Timon gives them treasure, saying that they at least are “thieves professed” and “work not/In holier shapes.” Timon’s last visitor is Flavius who is appalled at the sight of his master’s wretchedness. Timon at first professes not to recognize him, but then, moved by his honesty, he presses his gold upon the steward and sends him away.

ACT V

Scene 1. Excited by rumors of Timon’s gold, a poet and a painter arrive before his cave. Having overheard their cynical plan to ingratiate themselves with him, Timon gives them a beating rather than the riches they desire. Two senators are also unsuccessful when they request his aid in the war against Alcibiades.

Scene 2. Alcibiades’ forces are in the ascendant and the Athenian senators wait anxiously for word from Timon. The news arrives, however, that they can expect nothing from him.

Scene 3. One of Alcibiades’ soldiers looks for Timon in the woods, but finds only a tomb announcing that “Timon is dead.”

Scene 4. Alcibiades arrives with his forces before the walls of Athens. The Senators plead that not all the citizens of the city deserve punishment and ask him rather to “Approach the fold and cull th’infected forth,/But kill not all together.” The soldier enters bearing Timon’s epitaph. Alcibiades tells the senators that he will temper justice with mercy in Athens.

Track list

Disc 1

Track 1	Act I	Scene i
Track 2	Act I	Scene ii
Track 3	Act II	Scene i
Track 4	Act II	Scene ii
Track 5	Act III	Scene i
Track 6	Act III	Scene ii
Track 7	Act III	Scene iii
Track 8	Act III	Scene iv
Track 9	Act III	Scene v

Disk 2

Track 1	Act III	Scene vi
Track 2	Act IV	Scene i
Track 3	Act IV	Scene ii
Track 4	Act IV	Scene iii
Track 5	Act V	Scene i
Track 6	Act V	Scene ii
Track 7	Act V	Scene iii
Track 8	Act V	Scene iv