



The Globe





Hi, guys! Today, I
want you to have
a glimpse of my
world!

I want you to
figure what it was
like to attend a
play in an
Elizabethan
theatre or....

...being an
actor at my
times!





Competition
was high, so it
was hard to
make a living

Theatres
became our
temples.....

...but they were so
different from the
theatres you know.
Let me show you
why.....





Elizabethan Theatres

The shape
Elizabethan theatres
reminded old Greek
and Roman open-air
amphitheatres.

They could hold an
audience of up to
3.000 people!



Money started to
roll in!





- However, the **profits dropped in the winter**
WHY?
- These open arenas were **too cold**
- An indoor structure was clearly required and it was called **Playhouse**.
- Playhouses were therefore used for many winter productions.
- Many of the playhouses were converted from the old coaching inns or other existing buildings .
- All productions were staged in the warmth of the indoor design of the Elizabethan Theatre.





This meant that I
could earn my
living all year
round!!!

And even people
could have fun
all year round!





The Theatre Era

- The very first theatre in Elizabethan London was introduced by an entrepreneur called James Burbage and it was called 'The Theatre'!
- The Globe was built from the timbers of the 'Theatre' .
- William Shakespeare and his company of actors helped with the construction!
- The Globe Theatre was an amazing success!
- The audience clamoured for more and more new plays.





But what kind
of people
attended
theatres?

Any
kind!

But the seat
disposition was less
democratic than it
sounds!





The Yard

- The Globe Theatre Yard, or pit, was the area designed for people **to stand** to watch the plays being performed.
- This was **the cheapest part** of the theatre
- There were **no seats** and the entrance price was 1d which was equivalent to about 10% of a day wage.
- Similar to the amphitheatres which showed animal sports such as bear baiting.
- In fact the “Bear Garden” was right next door to the Globe.
- The floor of the yard was made of cobble stones - like the floors of the inn-yards.





Activities in the Yard

- The Globe Theatre Yard housed the **lower classes**.
- The yard was filled with noisy, boisterous people.
- The activities in the Globe Theatre Yard would have included:
 1. Gambling - the Elizabethans loved to gamble
 2. Fights and brawls
 3. Drinking (there were no toilet facilities in the theatre, only buckets for the purpose)
 4. Theft
 5. Fruit and nut sellers
 6. Prostitution





The Groundlings

- Those who stood in the Yard were called Groundlings
- They watched the plays from the **cramped** conditions of the 'Yard' , which held up to **500 people**.
- However, the average Elizabethans were much smaller than today's modern man .
- The cobblestones beneath their feet were covered with discarded nutshells and other garbage.
- They were also known as «**Stinkards**», especially during the summer, can you guess why?





John Marston

"I was choked with the stench of garlic ... pasted to the balmy jacket of a beer- brewer"

Indeed!!

They are he loudest persons in the land: rascals, thieves, scum, in short, the dirtiest bunch of people ever seen!



Henry Crosse







In the Yard

- In the yard there were apprentices who worked in London.
- There were many complaints as they **skipped work** in order to go to the theatre.
- The Common Council of London, under the influences of puritanical factions, had often issued statements which limited the plays.
- In 1596 London's authorities banned the public presentation of plays and all theatres within the city limits of London.
- All theatres located in the City were forced to move to the South side of the River Thames .
- That is why the Globe was built on the South side of London.





We would have
never watched a
play from the
yard!

We can afford
gallery seats!

No,
indeed!





The Galleries

- The **gentry** would pay to sit in the galleries often using cushions for comfort!
- Rich nobles could watch the play from a chair set on the side of the Globe stage itself.
- Theatre performances were held in the afternoon, because, of course, there was limited artificial lighting.
- Men and women attended plays, but often women would wear a mask to disguise their identity.
- The audience capacity was over 1500 people and this amount increased to 3000, when people mingling outside the grounds.





At first the
reputation of
actors was not
very good

We were
considered rogues
and vagabonds

But with the
introduction of
theatres.....





We became
superstars !!!





The Actors

- William Shakespeare and the other Globe Theatre actors were expected to perform their own stunts.
- Their skills would include:
 1. sword fighting skills
 2. being able to fall convincingly
 3. stentorian voice
 4. 'over-acting', that is making exaggerated gestures with their arms and hands
 5. A good memory, as there was a fast turnover of plays





Remember,
women were not
allowed to act
on stage

Boy actors
played their
roles!

Till the Age
of
Restoration





“ Come, unknown to any of the rest

To tell you news, I saw the Lady drest;

The Woman plays to day, mistake me not,

No Man in Gown, or page in Petty-Coat! ”





I still remember
those lines, I was
so thrilled!

I was about
to act as
Desdemona!

I am the first
English
actress !!



Margaret Hughes





Rehearsals at the Globe Theatre

- The Globe Theatre was known to produce “eleven performances of ten different plays” in just two weeks.
- **Rapid turnover** of plays to beat the competition
- Rehearsal time was therefore limited.
- Parts were often only allocated on the day of the performance.
- Sometimes the actors didn't even get any lines.
- Working methods:
 1. "cue acting " : there was a person backstage who whispered the lines to the actor just before he was going to say them.
 2. “ cue scripting ”: where each actor was given only his own lines.
 3. the complete scene and content of the play was not explained to the actors until it was actually being performed.
- These techniques allowed for **zero rehearsal time**, thus enabling a **fast turnover** in terms of new productions





The Income of a Globe Theatre Actor

- The salaries of actors varied according to their position in the theatre.
- The boy actors who took the female roles were paid the least of all actors.
- The Admiral's Men paid boy players three shillings a week.
- The boys were apprenticed to adult actors and their wages were paid to their masters who gave them **board** and **lodging** in return.
- Part players were paid a daily wage of approximately one shilling per day.
- The main players were paid at least two shillings per day.





Of course, for Globe
superstars like Henry
Condell, Richard
Burbage , John
Heminges and myself,
it was a different
story....

I became a stake
holder of the Globe
Theatre, and the
profits made me a
very wealthy man.

Now it's high time you
see me at work. But,
this is another story,
oops...ppt.





Applause

