

# The Globe



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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!

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

Theatres became our temples.....

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

> > Time-mailer ------



## **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!!!







# **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!

Romeo

Julie

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?



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

### Indeed!!

John Marston

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

Henry Crosse

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and a set



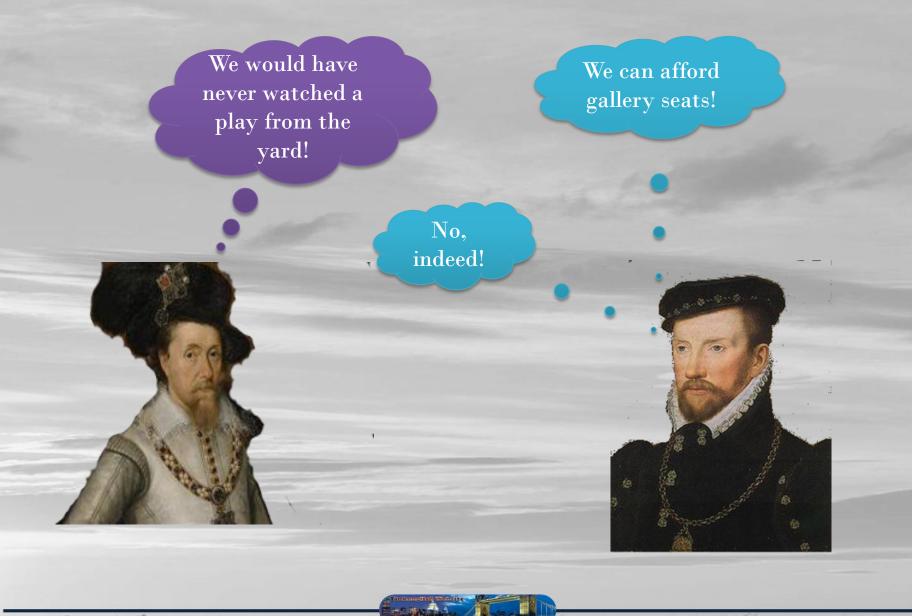




# In the Yard

- 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.







## **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.



() Romeo

Juliet

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At first the reputation of actors was not very good

We were considered rogues and vagabonds

But with the introduction of theatres.....



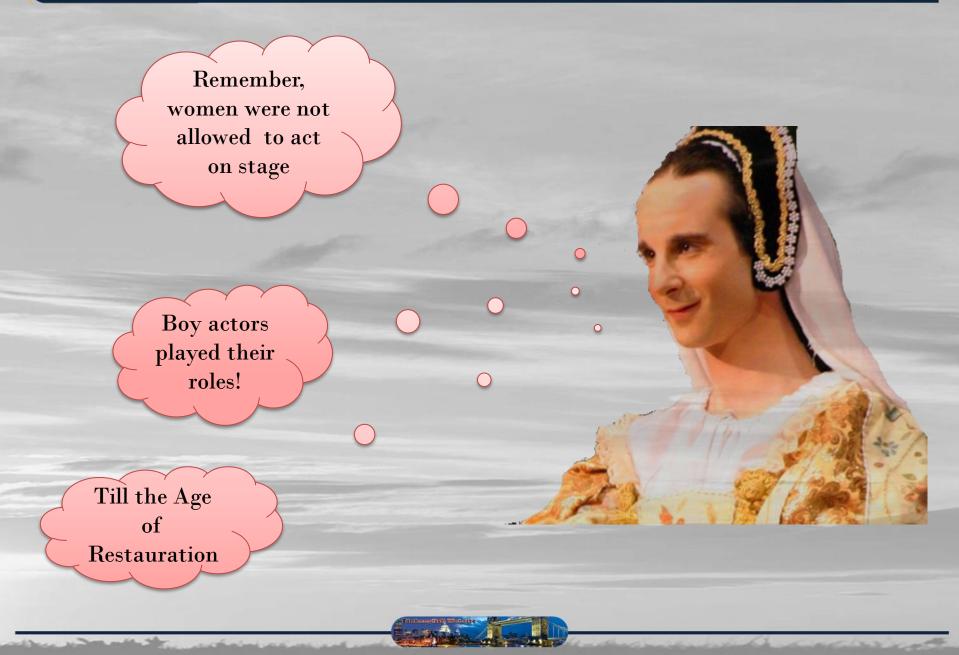


# **The Actors**

- 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



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" Come, unknown to any of the rest

To tell you news, I saw the Lady drest;

The Woman playes to day, mistake me not,

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







## **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.



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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.



