

# The Renaissance Theatre & William Shakespeare

Eng IV  
*MacBeth & Hamlet*  
Mrs. Shirey

# William Shakespeare

## Biographical Information:

- Baptism April 26, 1564 -- no known birth-date
- Born in Stratford-upon-Avon
- Merchant father; rich mother - sent to grammar school
- @ 18 - married 26-year-old Anne Hathaway; 3 children
- Wrote 154 sonnets, 36 plays, and more than 150 poems
- Thought to have had many occupations from vast array of

trades in his plays

- Died on April 23, 1616
- Buried in the Holy Trinity Church Cemetery
- Prosperous years: 1596-1601
- Tragic Period: 1600-1607 - ironic?!
- 1610 - retired to Stratford; still wrote
- Traits - not sure - can't tell from plays
- "A Complete Man of Theatre"

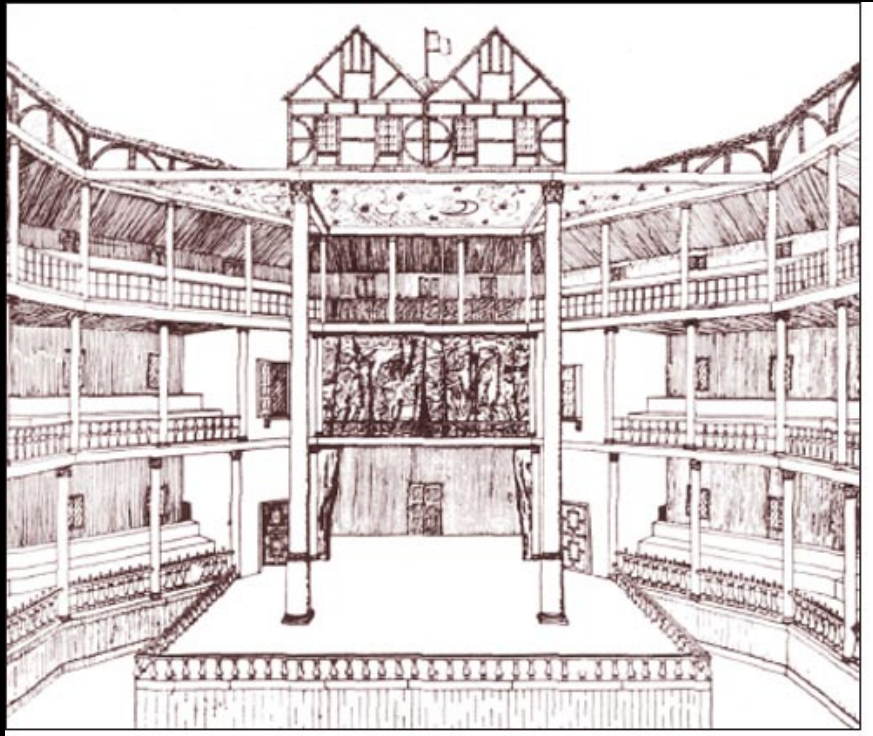


# Elizabethan Stage

Called the proscenium

Audience is part of the action

All you need is "a platform and a passion or two"



# Globe Theatre

2000-3000 Spectators

Shakespeare's Theatre

1 cent entrance fee

Built in 1599

Burned in 1613

Rebuilt & moved across the river

Owned by James Burbage

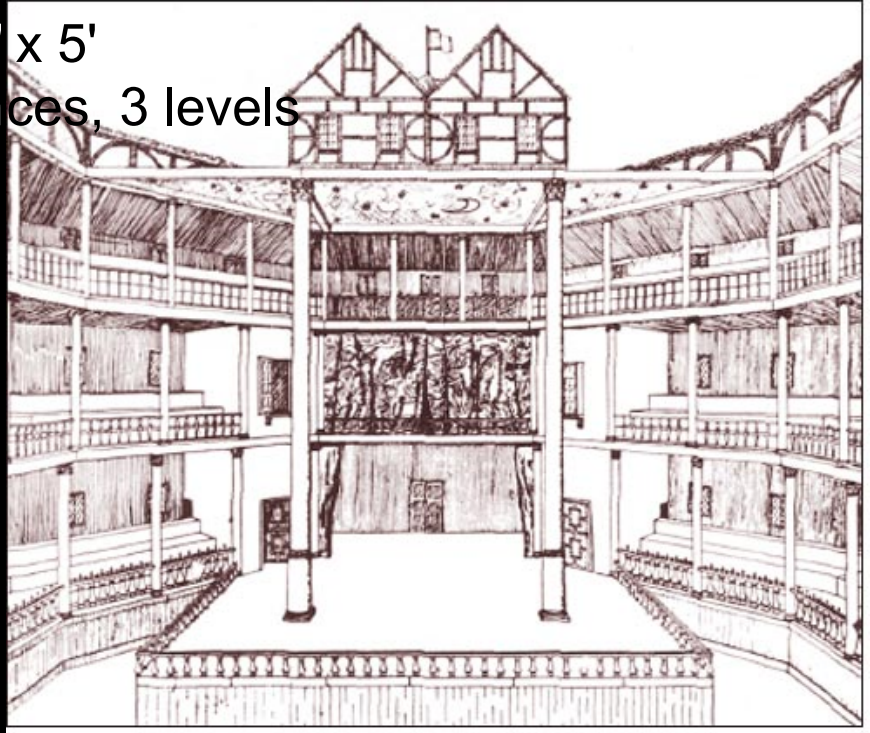
Cuthbert moved it



# Elizabethan Stage

Make-up:

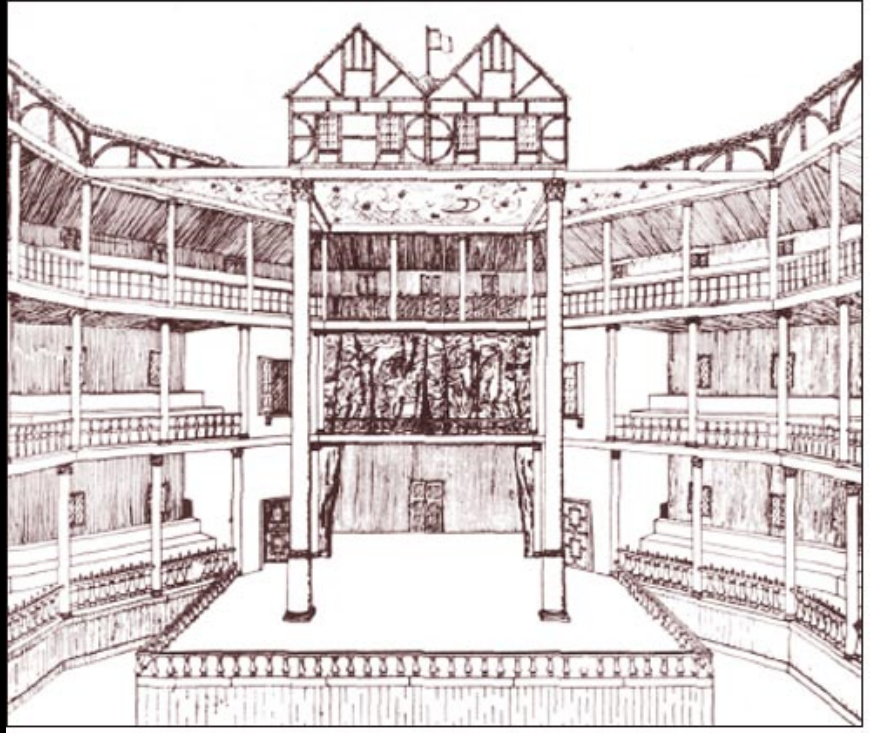
1. open space
2. 30 -foot Circular Building
3. 3 tiers of seats
4. 40' x 30' x 5'
5. 2 entrances, 3 levels



# Elizabethan Stage

Sets:

1. Not elaborate
2. Audience imagination
3. Elaborate costumes/masks, not sets.

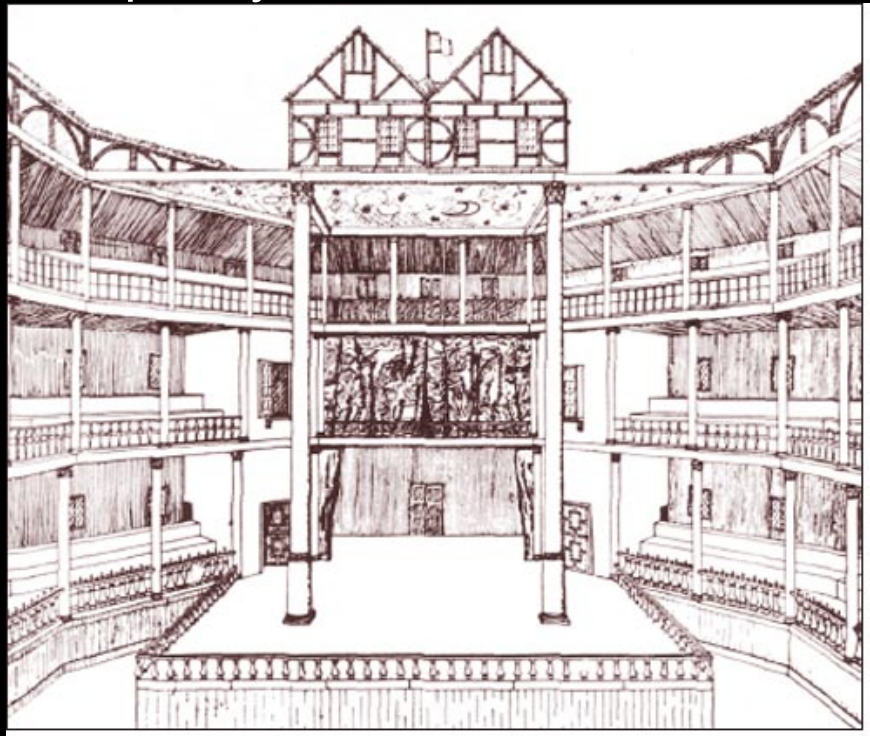




# Elizabethan Stage

Actors:

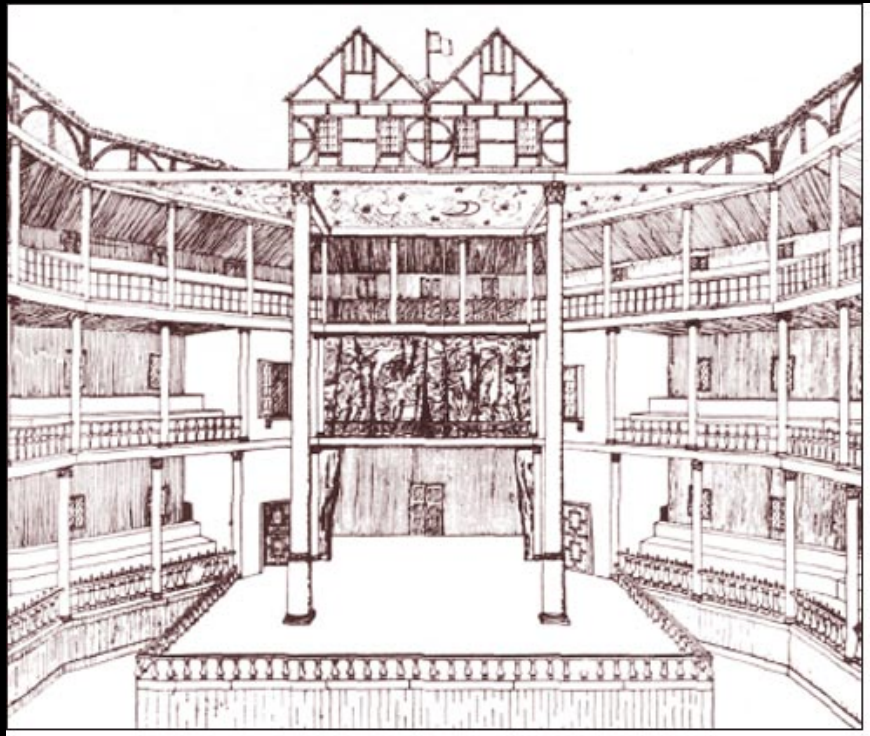
1. All men
2. Women roles played by boys with squeaky voices.
3. Wore contemporary Elizabethan costumes



# Elizabethan Stage

Audience:

1. Move around/socialize
2. Playwright - create captivating scenes





# Tragedy

Defn: a literary work depicting serious events in which the main character, who is often high-ranking and dignified, comes to an unhappy end.

How does *Romeo & Juliet* fit the definition above?

# Comedy

Defn: a literary work in which the main character goes through humorous stages and has a happy ending

How does *Romeo & Juliet* fit the definition above?

# Romance

Defn: a play deeply rooted in the humanities involving a relationship or love or both

How does *Romeo & Juliet* fit the definition above?

# History

Defn: a play based on past events of a famous person with some creative spin

How does *Romeo & Juliet* fit the definition above?

# William Shakespeare

## Examples of Plays

Tragedies

Histories

Comedies

Romances



# Reading

Follow these tips to understand the genius behind his writing.

Also, know these terms as we discuss the play.

Protagonist - main character (hero/ine)

Antagonist - character causing problems (villain)

Mood - the feeling/atmosphere

Tone - the attitude

Theme - the main idea, moral, lesson, or key concept

Symbolism - the representation of something physical/concrete for something abstract

Conflict - the problem or struggle

External - problem outside of character

Internal - problem within character

# Reading

## Shakespeare

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Dialogue - a conversation between two or more characters

Flashback - events from past that are presented in the present

Allusion - a reference to previous or common knowledge

Suspense - the building up of a story, leaving reading wanting more

Foreshadowing - information present that leads to predictions of future outcomes

Language - the use of words in a text

Imagery - the authors descriptive language that gives the reader a mental image of events

# Reading Shakespeare

Follow these tips to understand the genius behind his writing.

Also, know these terms as we discuss the play.

Poetic Form: the physical form of a poem

Structure - how it is set up (stanzas/lines)

Rhyme - how the words on each line match

Rhythm - the beat or flow of the poem

Syllable - one sound-part of a word

Foot - a group of syllables

Meter - the number of feet in a line

Scanning - determining the number and type of feet in a line (meter and feet together)

Sonnet - a 14-lined poem written in iambic pentameter following a specific rhyme scheme

Blank Verse - unrhymed iambic pentameter

Prose - a paragraph of non-rhyming, non-rhythmic language in a written work

# Reading

# Shakespeare

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Figures of Speech (F.o.S.) - comparative language used in colorful ways

Metaphor - a comparison of two unlike things

Simile - a comparison using *like* or *as*

Idiom - a comparison in a catch or iconic phrase

Personification - giving humanlike qualities to non-human things

Hyperbole - an exaggerated comparison

Onomatopoeia - a sound word on paper

# Reading

Follow these tips to understand the genius behind his writing.

21. Pronouns

Verbs

Apostrophes

Lines