

The theatre of SHAKESPEARE

1576

THE FIRST REAL THEATER IS BUILT BY **JAMES BURBAGE**

Before this, plays were performed in inn-yards and homes of nobles.



ZERO

THE NUMBER OF WOMEN ACTORS

Women actors were forbidden by law. Female roles were played by boys whose voices had not yet changed.

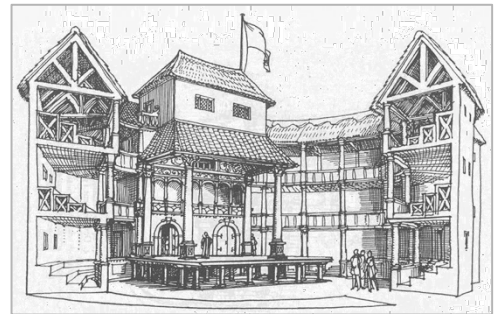
COMMONERS GENTRY NOBLES ROYALS

All members of society enjoyed going to the theatre

LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S MEN THE PLAYING COMPANY THAT SHAKESPEARE

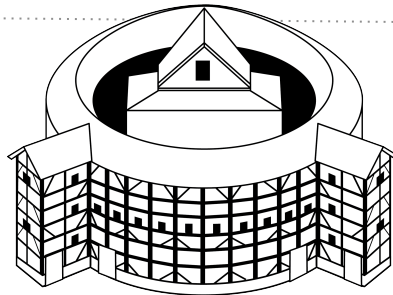
worked with as both a writer, actor, and theatre manager for most of his career. In 1603, when King James ascended the throne, they were known as

THE KING'S MEN



1593 1603 1608

THEATRES CLOSED
**BUBONIC
PLAGUE**



THE GLOBE OPEN AIR CIRCULAR 3 STORIES HIGH

The main stage was five feet high. Two side doors were at stage level. At the base of the stage was "the pit", where the

GROUNDLINGS

would stand to watch the play for the cost of a penny. For two pennies, the more well-to-do could sit in three levels of

BALCONIES

In 1613, The Globe went up in flames when a canon was used for a performance of *Henry VII*. It was rebuilt a year later, with the straw roof replaced by tiles. The Puritans closed the theatre in 1642.

THREE THOUSAND

The number of people who would go to a play.

THE AUDIENCE

Shakespeare's audience was made up of all social classes. They would have been more rambunctious than today's theatre-goers. The groundlings would talk through performances and even throw food at the actors. The rich, in their seats, were protected from the rowdiness of the crowds in the pit. The richest nobles had the option of sitting on a chair on the side of the stage. Outside the theatre, patrons could shop at open-air markets.

