

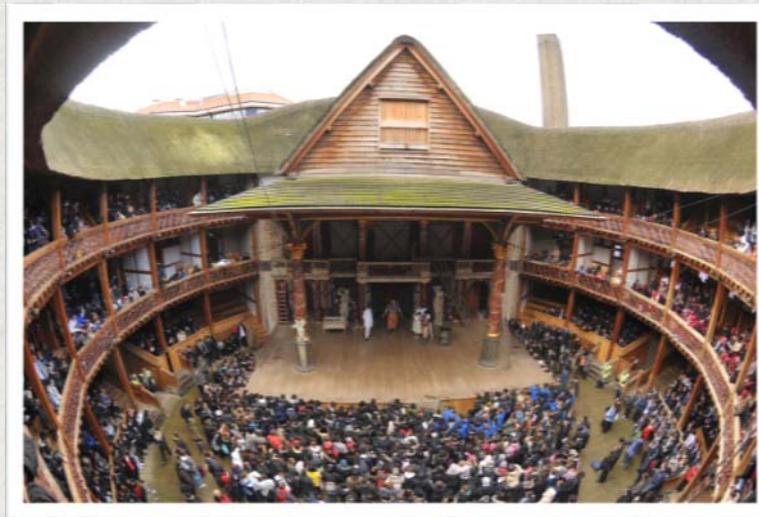
Shakespeare's Theatre



MONDADORI EDUCATION

Renaissance Drama

- The most relevant **cultural phenomenon** of England Renaissance
- It celebrated England and its monarchs
- It was a **popular entertainment**, seen by any social class



MONDADORI EDUCATION

Playhouses

1. North of the City

- The Theatre
- The Curtain

2. South of the Thames

- The Rose
- The Swan
- **The Globe**



The Structure of a Playhouse

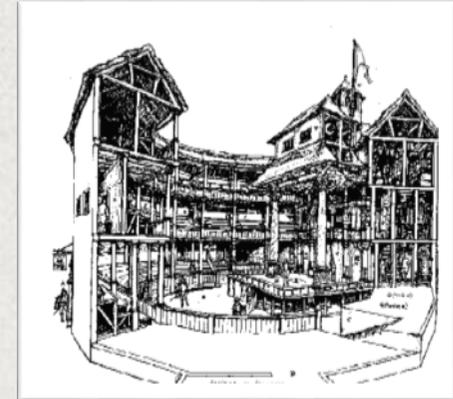
There were two main areas:

1. The stage

2. The place for the audience:

a. The **arena** surrounding the stage. Groundlings could stand there

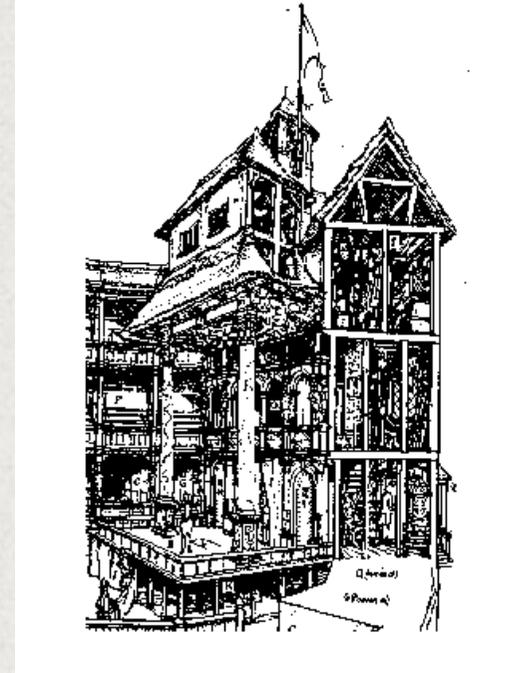
b. The **galleries** around the playhouse. Spectators could seat there



Different prices varied according to the position occupied by the audience

The Stage

- It was an apron stage, jutting out into the arena
- It had a high symbolical meaning
- The upper stage was used for scenes played on different levels
- The inner stage was used for indoor scenes



The Actors

- Vagabonds
- They were organised in companies under the protection of a patron
- The most famous company was **The Lord Chamberlain's Men**
- They were in close contact with the audience
- All female roles were played by young boys
- Performances took place in the afternoon

Plays

- They were written by **playwrights**
- They were **performed** on the stage
- They were usually divided into **acts** and **scenes**
- Normally there were **five acts** (introduction, development, turning point, complications, denouement)
- They were expected to respect the **Aristotelian unities** of time, place and action



Tragedy

- The most popular form of drama
- Prologues and epilogues
- It is usually about the conflict between the individual and the society
- Revenge tragedies
- Poetic language



Comedies

- Their characters are usually **ordinary people** set in **everyday situations** and using everyday **prosaic language**
- They are about the successful integration of the individual in the society
- The plots revolve around **love** and **mistaken identities**
- **Subplots** are used to keep the various plots in suspense
- They can be **romantic**, **satiric** and **of manners**



Characters

- The main character is the **hero** or the **heroine**
- They are described through dialogues or monologues, stage directions, types of speech and language
- Minor characters are sometime called **villains**
- They can be **round** or **flat**

