

Shakespeare and Macbeth What you need to know.

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- 1611 Shakespeare moved back to Stratford -n-Avon.
- His last play was King Henry VIII
 - On the night of King Henry VIII first performance the Globe burned to the ground
 - Due to a cannon being fired.

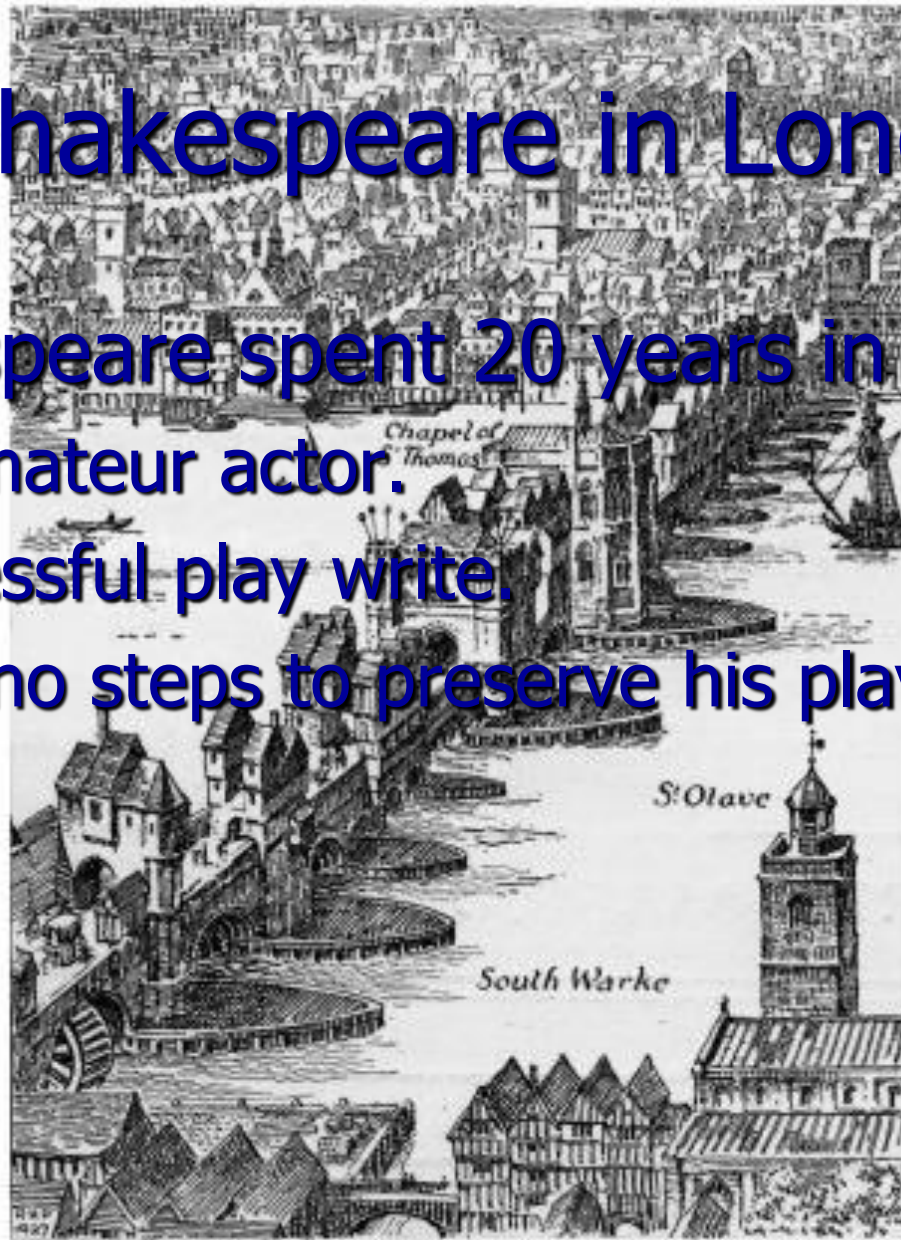


Lit. Terms

- Tragedy- a work in which the main character, or tragic hero, came to an unhappy end.
- Comedy- a dramatic work that contains a happy ending; many comedies contain humor, but humor was not required.
- Comic relief- the following of a serious scene with a lighter, mild humorous one.
- Tragic hero- the main character that comes to an unhappy or miserable end.
- Tragic flaw- a fatal error in judgment or weakness of character, that leads directly to his or her downfall.
- Motif- a reoccurring word, phrase, idea, object, or action in a work of literature. Motifs are used as the unifying devices and often relate directly to one or more major themes.
- Antagonist- the person or force which the hero battles.
Catastrophe- the tragic resolution.
- Hubris- or pride often attributed as a character flaw of the heroes in Greek tragedy. This is their tragic flaw.

Shakespeare in London

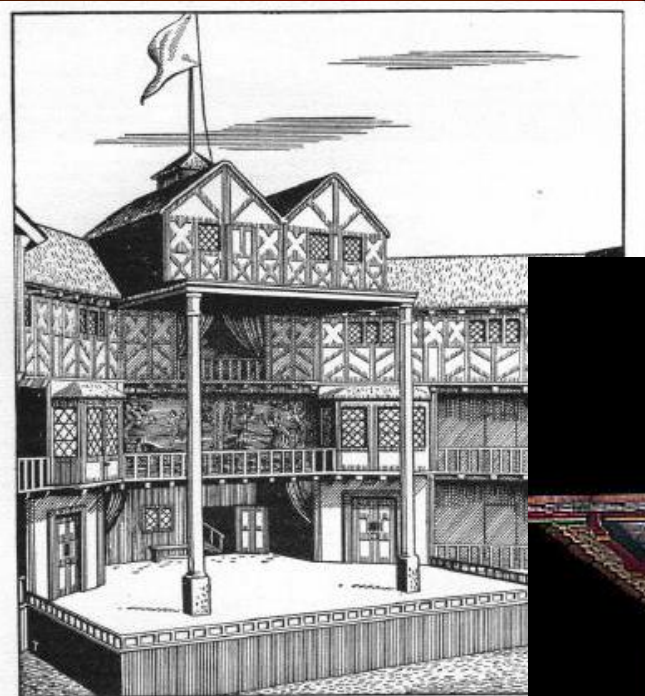
- Shakespeare spent 20 years in London.
 - an amateur actor.
 - successful play write.
 - took no steps to preserve his plays.



Facts

- Shakespeare's actors never received a complete copy of his plays.
- Shakespeare's only son, Hamnet, died when he was 11 years old.
- Shakespeare's line (the children he fathered) ended with his granddaughter.

The Globe



The Stage of the Globe (drawn from the model made by Dr. J. C. Adams)



The Make Up of the Stage

- **Heaven**
 - **The Globe Theatre Heavens was the name given for the false ceiling over the stage.**
- **The Galleries**
 - **Around the Globe theater were three tiers of roofed galleries. The galleries had rows of wooden seats, were accessed from a back corridor and had a roof offering shelter from inclement weather.**
- **The Stage**
 - **Stage dimensions of Elizabethan theaters varied from 20 foot wide 15 foot deep to 45 feet to 30 feet . The stage was raised - 3 to 5 feet and supported by large pillars. The floor of the Stage was made of wood and sometimes covered with rushes. Trap doors in the stage floor would enable some special effects e.g. smoke. At the rear of the Stage there was a roofed house-like structure supported by two large columns (pillars)**

- **The Pit, the Yard**
 - **The Pit, or yard, was the area located around the stage. There was no seating - the cheapest part of the Globe Theater and the audience had to stand.**
- **The Frons Scenae**
 - **The stage wall was called the ' Frons Scenae ' taken from Latin. It was situated behind the pillars.**
- **Lord's rooms**
 - **The Stage Gallery above the Stage Wall was called the ' Lord's rooms ' used by the rich members of the audience, the Upper Classes and the Nobility. Immediately above the stage wall was the stage gallery which was used by actors (Juliet's balcony). The ' Lord's rooms ' were considered the best seats in the ' house ' despite the poor view of the back of the actors. The cost was 5 pence & cushioned seats were provided for these elite members of the audience.**

- **Gentlemen's rooms**

- There were additional balconies on the left and right of the ' lord's rooms ' which were called the ' Gentlemen's rooms '. These seats were for rich patrons of the Globe theater and the cost was 4 pence for which cushioned seats were provided.

- **Tiring House**

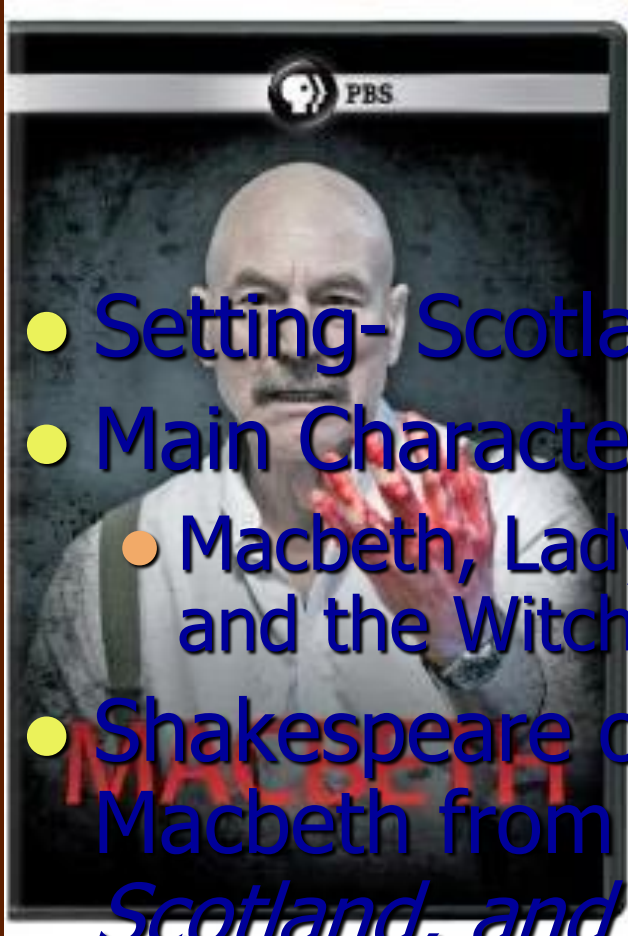
- The stage wall structure contained at least two doors which lead to a leading to small structure, back stage, called the ' Tiring House '. The stage wall was covered by a curtain.

- **The Hut**

- was used as a covered storage space for the acting troupe.

Facts

- The Globe Theatre was built in 1599 in Southwark on the south bank of London's River Thames by Richard Burbage
- The timber for The Globe Theatre was actually reused wood from "The Theatre"
- The Globe was built as a large, round, open air theatre.
- At the base of the stage was an area called "the pit" which held "the groundlings" – people who paid just a penny to stand and watch a performance.
- Color coded flags were used outside the theatre to advertise the type of play to be performed – a red flag for a history play, white for a comedy play and black for a tragedy play.



Macbeth

- Setting- Scotland in the 11th century
- Main Characters
 - Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Macduff, Malcolm, and the Witches.
- Shakespeare obtained the idea for Macbeth from the *Chronicles of England, Scotland, and Ireland*.
 - The text is often referred to as just the *Chronicles*.



Themes and Motifs

- Clothes not fitting
- manhood and gender
- omens and prophecy
- cannibalism

Fact's About Macbeth

- Written 1606 (references to Gunpowder plot January - March 1606)
- First performed at court August 7, 1606 during visit by King of Denmark
- Viewed at Globe 1610
- Revised by Thomas Middleton after 1613
- Published 1623 (from promptbook)

Work cited

- Adams, Mary. "Shakespeare at WCU." *Shakespeare at WCU*. N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Sept. 2012. <http://www.maryadams.net/classpages/intro_shakespeare/html/schedule.html>.
- "Globe Theatre Interior." *Globe Theatre Interior*. N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Sept. 2012. <<http://www.elizabethanera.org.uk/globe-theatre-interior.htm>>.
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