

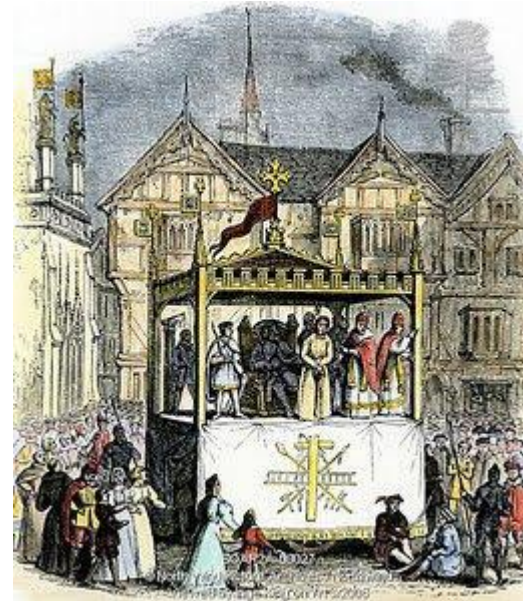
THEATRE

in the UK



Early Forms of English Drama

- Mystery plays
(stories from the Bible)
- Miracle plays
(dramatisations of
the lives of the saints)



pageant

The Renaissance

- law passed in 1572 classified actors as vagabonds =>
 - companies patronised by a nobleman
(The Earl of Leicester's Men, The Lord Chamberlain's Men)
-

The Renaissance

- 20 companies of actors in London
 - more than 100 provincial troupes
 - acting was considered immoral =>
no women in the companies
-

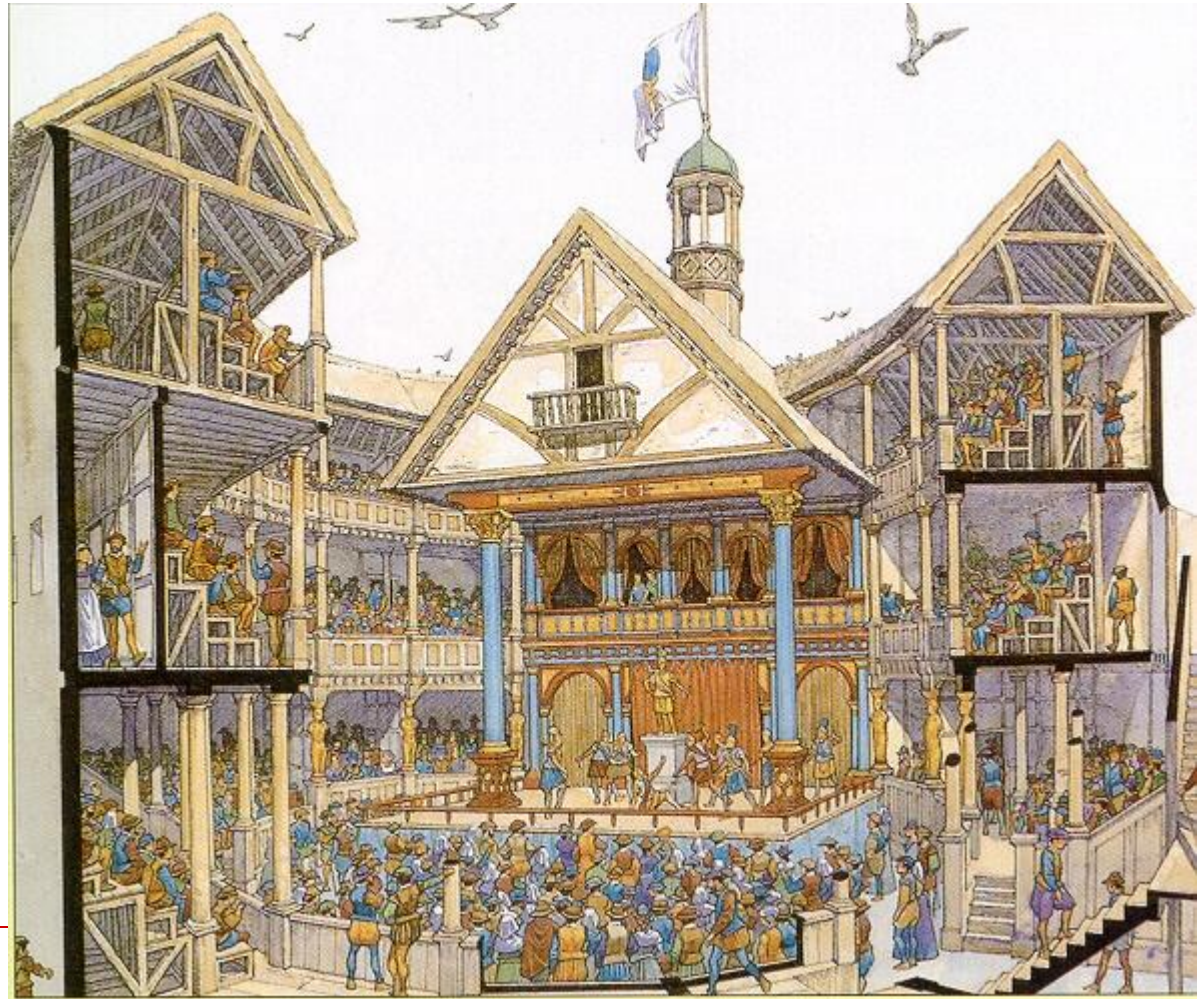
The Renaissance PLAYHOUSES

The Theatre
(1567)

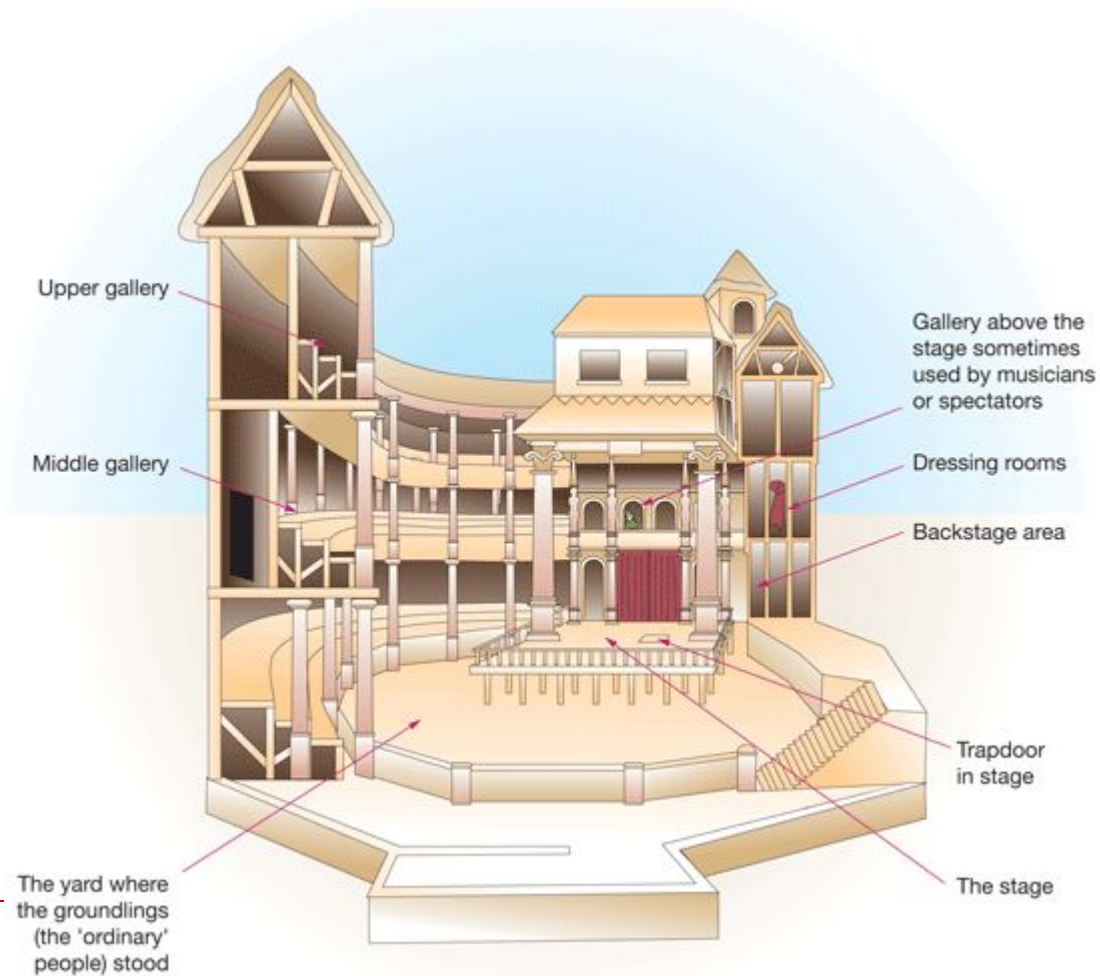
The Rose

The Swan

The Globe
(1599)



ELIZABETHAN THEATRE

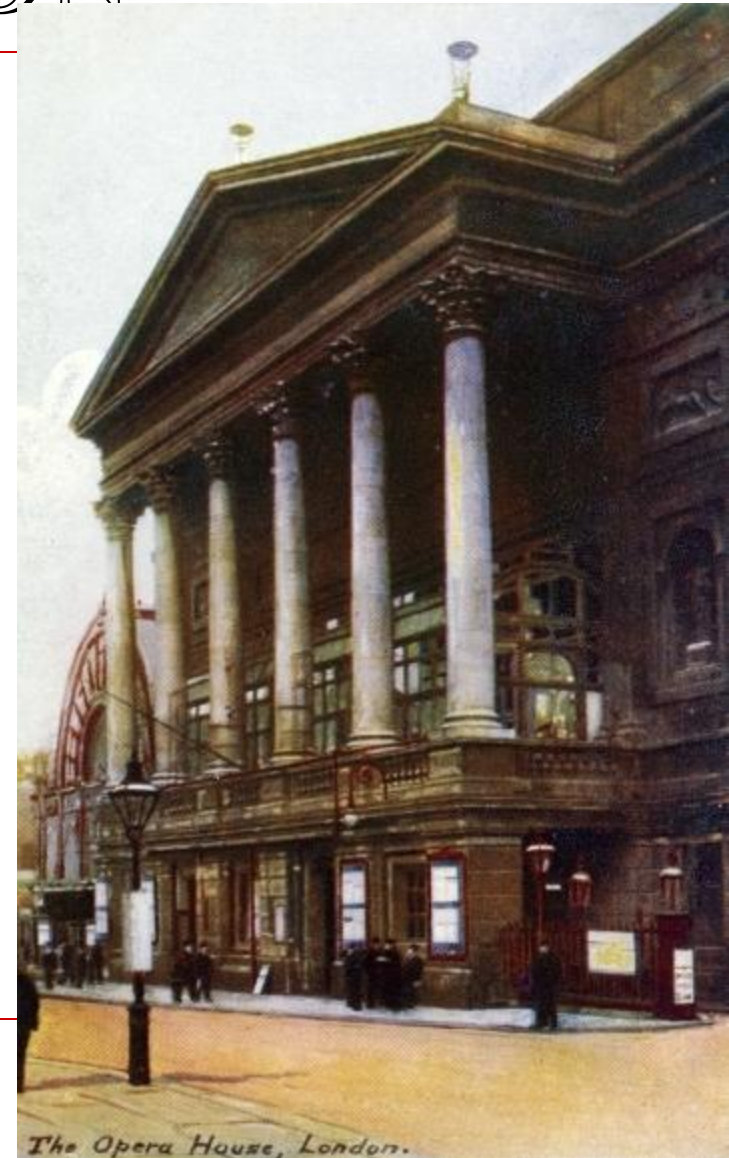


The Renaissance PLAYWRIGHTS

- ☐ Christopher Marlowe
 - ☐ William Shakespeare
 - ☐ Ben Jonson
- (masques)*
-

THE RESTORATION

- 1642 - Puritans closed the theatres
- theatres remained closed for 18 years



FRENCH INFLUENCE

- heroic tragedy
- Comedy of Manners



THE ROMANTIC PERIOD

- theatrical effects
- star system
- melodramas, operettas and farces



Kean as Sir Giles Overreach in Massinger's *A New Way to Pay Old Debts*
(From an engraving after Clint)

THE VICTORIAN PERIOD

English drama stagnant due to:

- the rise of the novel;
 - the theatre had become a business;
 - the Victorian period was an age of great actors who could turn even poor quality material into gripping performances;
 - the *Theatre Licensing Act of 1737* imposed severe restrictions on the range of subjects that could be dealt with in plays;
 - drama was not considered as an art form by the middle class.
-

THE VICTORIAN PERIOD

Popular types of performances:

- ☐ music-hall
 - ☐ pantomime
 - ☐ farce
 - ☐ melodramas
-

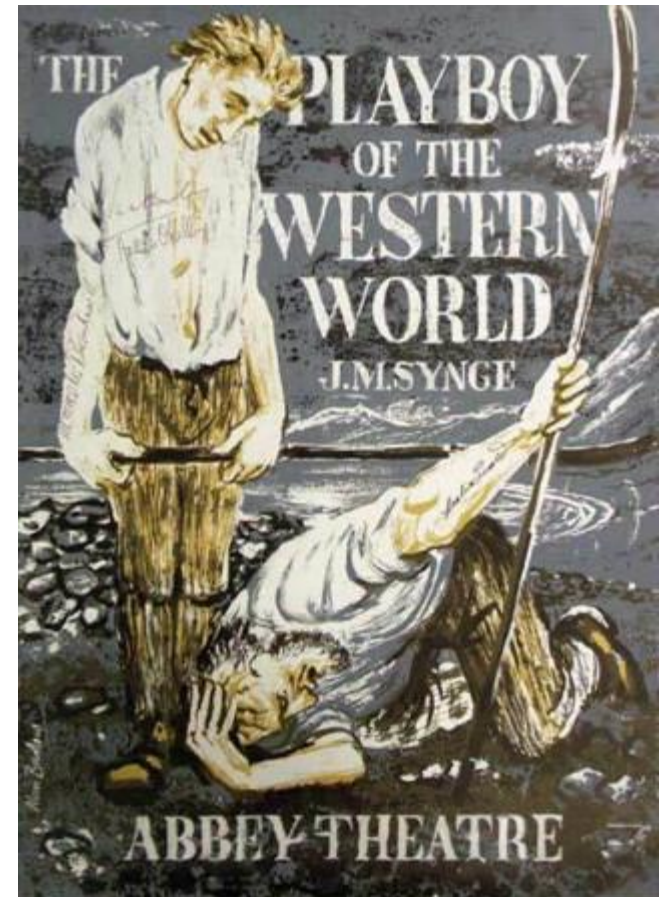
THE VICTORIAN PERIOD

□ *Theatre Act of 1843*



REVIVAL OF ENGLISH DRAMA

- *Oscar Wilde*
 - *G.B. Shaw*
 - *Abbey Theatre*
 - *Noël Coward*
 - *John Millington Synge*
- “The Playboy of the Western World”
(1907)



MODERN ENGLISH DRAMA

- *Theatre of the Absurd*
 - *Samuel Beckett*
 - *kitchen sink dramatists*
 - *John Osborne*
-

MODERN ENGLISH DRAMA

- *Tom Stoppard*
 - *Harold Pinter*
 - *Alan Bennett*
 - *Alan Ayckbourn*
 - *Brian Friel*
-

LONDON THEATRELAND

