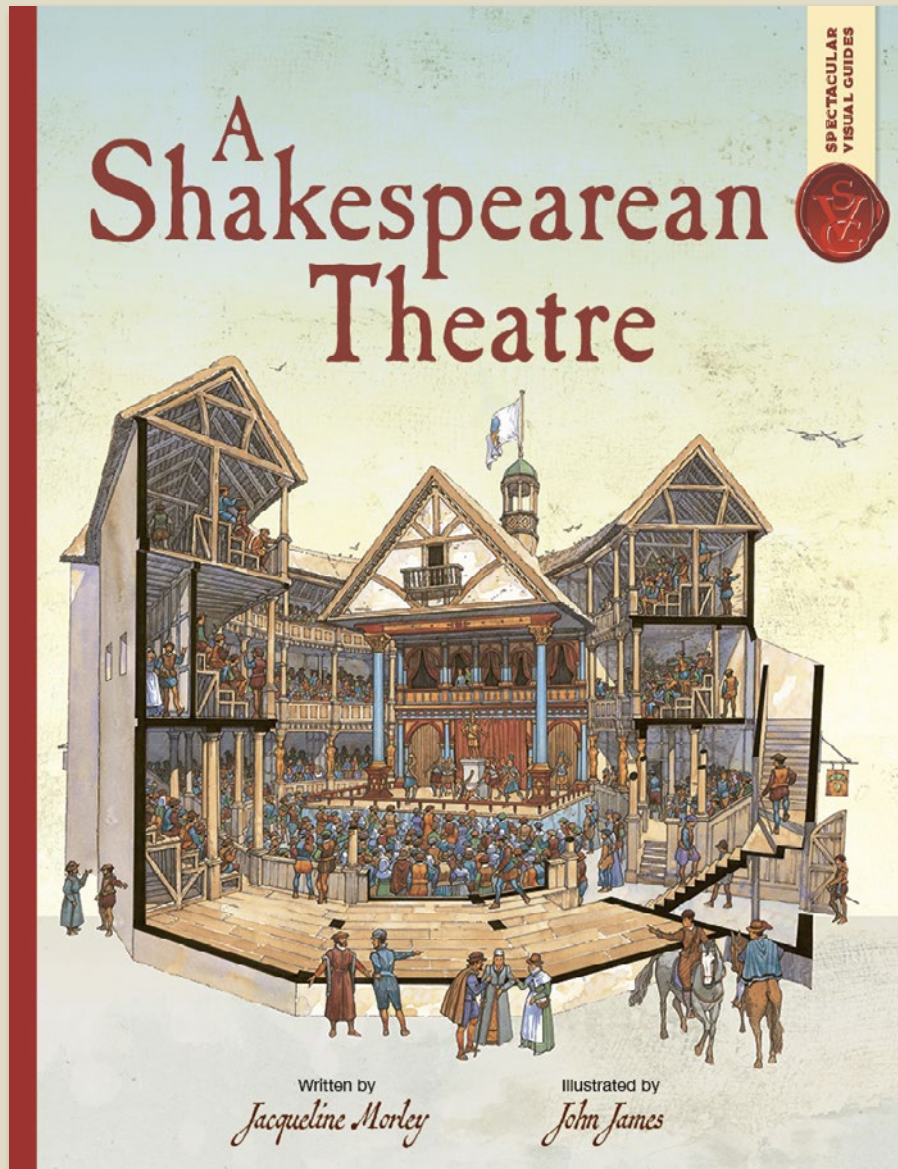


# Spectacular Visual Guides: A Shakespearean Theatre



**An informative visual guide to Shakespearean theatre, featuring spectacular cutaway illustrations.**

- Packed with information, including a full glossary, maps, captions and cutaway illustrations to engage readers.
- Perfect introductory guide to the world of Shakespeare and development of theatre under the reign of Queen Elizabeth I - a great resource for English and drama studies.
- In this series, astounding architectural achievements are explained and explored with full-colour cutaway illustrations and artifacts and paintings from the era help to support the main text.
- The perfect book to consolidate learning after a trip to the theatre or museum.

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## PLAYING IN LONDON

**S**IXTEENTH-CENTURY LONDON was a vibrant, growing city. By the 1570s its population of over 100,000 made it one of the largest cities in Europe. It was also one of the richest. Its houses, shops, specialist markets, taverns and theatres thrived. The city's wealth was a result of its position as a major trading port. The city's growth was also due to its position as a major centre of learning. The city's universities, including St Paul's, St Dunstons, and St Andrews, were not at all pleased to see so many young people flocking to the city to study. But despite these concerns, more and more people flocked to the city.

12 "It affords me to the soul, to have a substantial picture-paint follow me a prisoner to cellars, in every sign, to fill the eye of the groundlings." Hamlet, Act II, Scene II

## BACKSTAGE

**T**HE DOORS AT THE BACK OF THE STAGE led into a cramped room where the players got ready and waited to enter on to the stage. The room was used for the players' costumes or 'attire'. Clothing hung over benches and sometimes lay on the floor. The backstage was so cramped that the players had to be careful not to trip over each other. The backstage was also used for the players' food and drink. The backstage was a busy place, and the players had to be ready to enter the stage at a moment's notice.

13 "Sweet breath of justice age with, sweet fall, or else my people's fall, What case is play?" The Taming of the Shrew

## FIRE!

**T**HE PLAYERS AT THE GLOBE were not immune to the dangers of fire. The Globe Theatre was built of wood and was surrounded by a wooden gallery. The Globe was a large, open-air theatre, and the players had to be careful not to set the theatre on fire. The Globe was a busy place, and the players had to be ready to leave at a moment's notice. The Globe was a dangerous place, and the players had to be careful not to set the theatre on fire.

14 "The day had fallen and made his England black. What off the stage had shown out. For their sake, he says the words for the company sake." Hamlet, Act V, Scene II

## THE STAGE

**T**HE STAGE OF THE GLOBE was still basically the platform that travelling players had used but with a permanent roof overhead. As soon as the last of three trumpet blasts warned that the play was starting, the opening players strode onto stage. They had to capture the audience's attention at once, without the help of a rising curtain or dimmed lights. Everything depended on the way they moved and spoke. Voices and gestures had to be commanding, so the style of acting was more exaggerated than we are used to today. Star players drew the crowds. At the Globe, the Chamberlain's Men could count on big audiences for their lead player, Richard Burbage. He was a great tragic actor and was the first to play Shakespeare's great characters, Othello, Hamlet and King Lear.

15 "I'll have grounds More relative than this: the play's the thing Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the king." Hamlet, Act II, Scene II

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