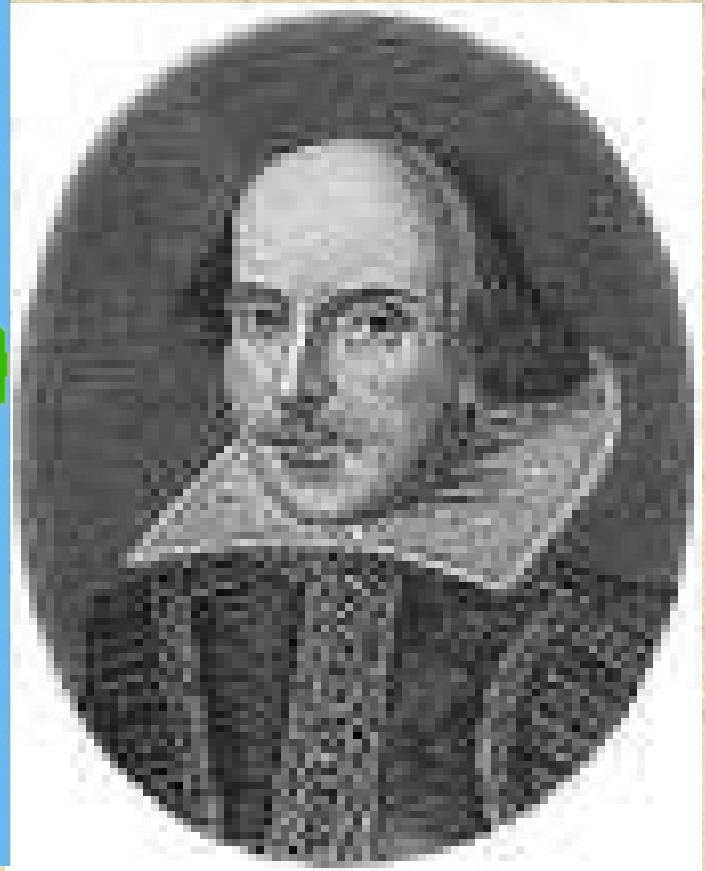


William Shakespeare

Born 1564 in Stratford upon Avon, England...April 23rd



King's New School – Shakespeare's school



From: <http://perso.wanadoo.fr/danielle.esposito/>

Married Life

-
- Married in November, 1582, to Anne Hathaway
 - Anne was pregnant at the time
 - First daughter Susanna born in May, 1583
 - Twins (Hamnet and Judith) christened on February 2, 1585
 - No documentary evidence between 1585-1592
 - Sometime in this period, he moved to London and began working in the theatre.

Anne Hathaway's Cottage



From: <http://perso.wanadoo.fr/danielle.esposito/>

The Times

Throughout the middle ages plays were performed by workers in towns and were religious based, often retelling stories from the Bible.

Elizabethan writers introduced theatre audiences to horror, the supernatural and gore...

Elizabethan Playwrights

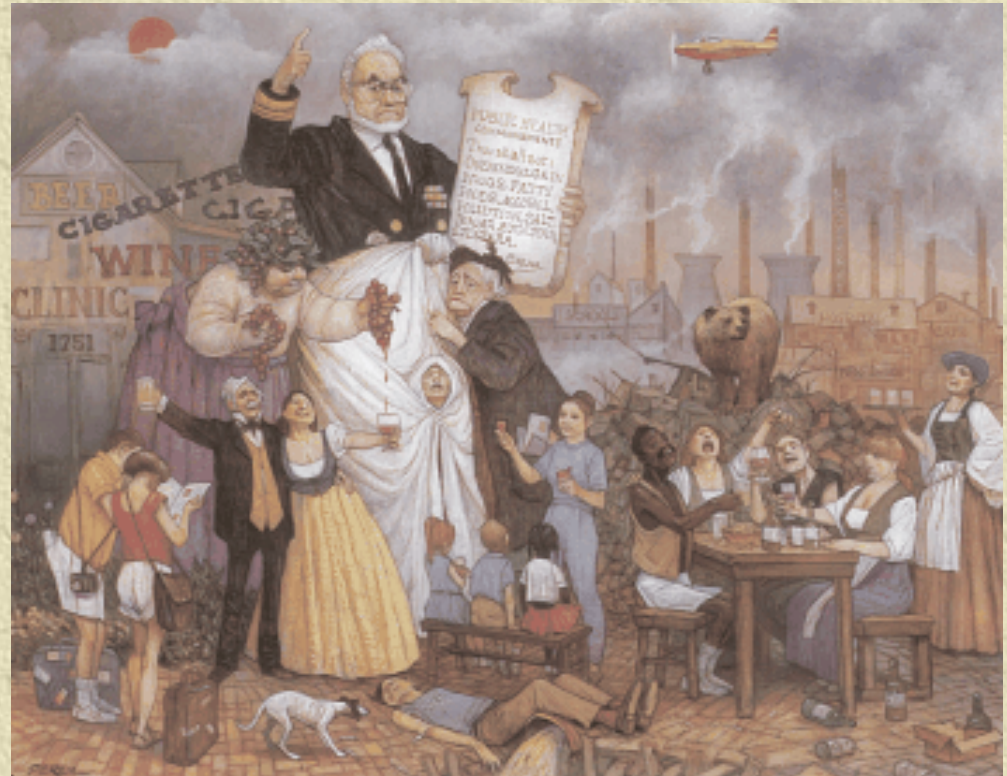
The most well known playwright of Elizabethan times is Shakespeare. But there were also other writers who in their time were just as, or even more famous than the Bard.



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Theater: Shakespeare

- Member and later part-owner of the Lord Chamberlain's Men
- Theaters in London closed from 1593-1594 due to the plague



Theater cont.

- After the accession of James I in 1603, the company was granted permission to change its name to the King's Men
London theatres: Blackfriars, Rose, Swan, Curtain, Globe
- Wrote during the reigns of Queen Elizabeth (Elizabethan period) and King James I (Jacobean period)



Queen Elizabeth

The Globe Theatre

- Globe built in 1599 by the Lord Chamberlain's Men, with Shakespeare as a primary investor
- Burned down in 1613 during a production of Shakespeare's *Henry VIII* when a cannon misfired and a spark landed on the thatched roof

The Rebuilt Globe Theater, London



The Globe Theater

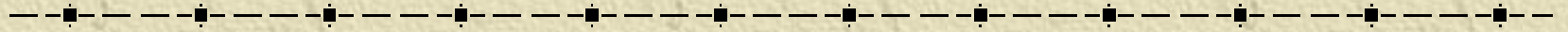


The Plays

plays firmly attributed to Shakespeare

- **14 COMEDIES** – ends in marriage
 - ◆ Midsummer Night's Dream, Merchant of Venice, Twelfth Night, As You Like It, Much Ado about Nothing...
- **10 HISTORIES** – Richard III, Richard II, Henry IV...
- **10 TRAGEDIES** – ends in death
 - ◆ Hamlet, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, Othello...
- 4 romances – Pericles, Cymbeline, Winter's Tale, Tempest

The Poetry



- Two major poems
 - *Venus and Adonis*
 - *Rape of Lucrece*
- 154 Sonnets
- Numerous other poems
- Poetry usually dedicated to a patron

Sonnet 18

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of
May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a
date:

Sometime too hot the eye of heaven
shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimmed,
And every fair from fair sometime
declines,
By chance, or nature's changing course
untrimmed:

But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou
ow'st,

How to Read

- Do not pause at the end of a line unless the punctuation calls for it
- **Read it like prose**
- Many of these plays have numerous references to people, places, events, myths, etc., that you might not be familiar with. That's what the notes are for—use them.
- **Keep a dictionary handy**

Shakespeare's Language

- Shakespeare did NOT write in “Old English”

- Old English is the language of *Beowulf*:

Hwaet! We Gardena in geardagum

Ʒeodcýninga Ʒrym gefrunon

Hu ða æƷelingas ellen fremedon!

Hey! We have heard of the glory of the Spear-Danes in the old days, the kings of tribes, how noble princes showed great courage!

Shakespeare's Language

- Shakespeare did not write in “Middle English”
- Middle English is the language of Chaucer, the *Gawain*-poet, and Malory:
We redeth oft and findeth y-write—
And this clerkes wele it wite—
Layes that ben in harping
Ben y-founde of ferli thing... (*Sir Orfeo*)

Shakespeare's Language

- Shakespeare wrote in “Early Modern English”
- EME was not very different from “Modern English,” except that it had some old holdovers.
- Beginning about 200 years before Shakespeare, and largely complete by his day, long vowel pronunciation shifted: ex: good, name, life

Shakespeare's Language

•Shakespeare coined many words we still use today:

- Critical
- Majestic
- Dwindle

And quite a few phrases as well:

- One fell swoop
- Flesh and blood
- Vanish into thin air

The Performances



The theatres often had mechanisms that allowed “angels” and “gods” to be lowered down onto the stage. Stages were also equipped with a trapdoor leading to a “Hell” beneath the stage. The trapdoor was also used as a grave in theatrical funerals.

There was very little scenery available for theatres, so the writers often used to dialogue to explain to the audience where the scene was taking place.

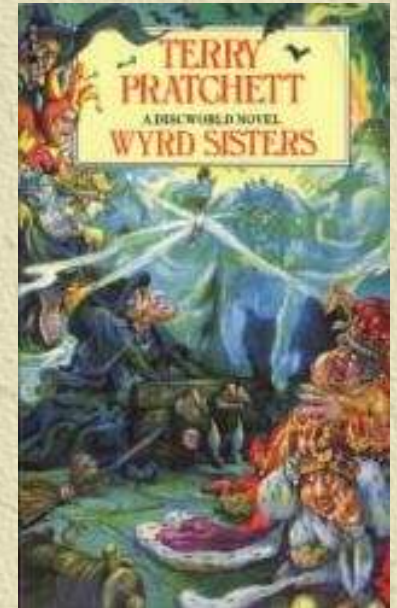
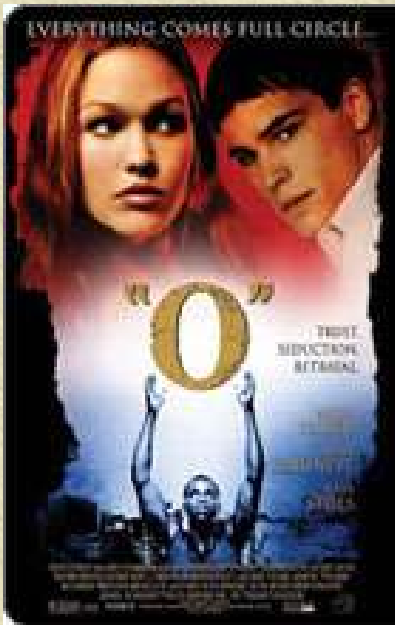
Costume was very important in Elizabethan theatre. Actors wore colourful and elaborate costumes that would tell the audience the characters status, family ties or profession.

The emphasis that was given to a character’s clothing made the theme of disguise a common convention of Elizabethan theatre. In order to exchange places with another character or conceal his identity, all an actor needed to do was to change his costume.

The Elizabethan theatre also used a variety of sound effects. Music played an important role in the setting the mood of the plays. Other sounds created were thunder, running horses, falling rain, and cannon blasts.

Shakespeare Today

Elizabethan theatre is still plays a part in our day to day lives, mostly through the influence of Shakespeare. You can find references to his work in films, novels, plays, musicals, songs, poetry, artwork, satire... Even today his characters and storylines continue to inspire...



Shakespeare in Language

Elizabethan theatre has had a very important effect on today's theatre, and other parts of every day life. For example:

Shakespeare coined over 1600 words still used today including **countless, critical, excellent, lonely, majestic, obscene** and **its**.

Names coined by Shakespeare:

- **Imogen** in the play *Cymbaline*,
- **Jessica** in the play *The Merchant of Venice*
- **Miranda** in the play *The Tempest*
- **Olivia** in the play *Twelfth Night*
- **Cordelia** in the play *King Lear*

And lastly...

“If you cannot understand my argument, and declare **"It's Greek to me"**, if your lost property has **vanished into thin air**, if you have ever refused to **budge an inch** or suffered from **green-eyed jealousy**, if you have **played fast and loose**, if you have been **tongue-tied**, **hoodwinked** or **in a pickle**, if you have **knitted your brows**, insisted on **fair play**, **slept not one wink**, **laughed yourself into stitches**, if you have **too much of a good thing**, if you have **seen better days** or if you think it is **high time** and that that is **the long and short of it**, if you believe that **the game is up** and that **truth will out** even if it involves **your own flesh and blood**, if you **lie low** till the **crack of doom** because you suspect **foul play**, if you have your **teeth set on edge (at one fell swoop)** **without rhyme or reason** - it is all one to me, for you are quoting Shakespeare!”

The End

~~Died April 23, 1616 - 52~~ - - - - -

* Actor



* Poet

* Playwright