

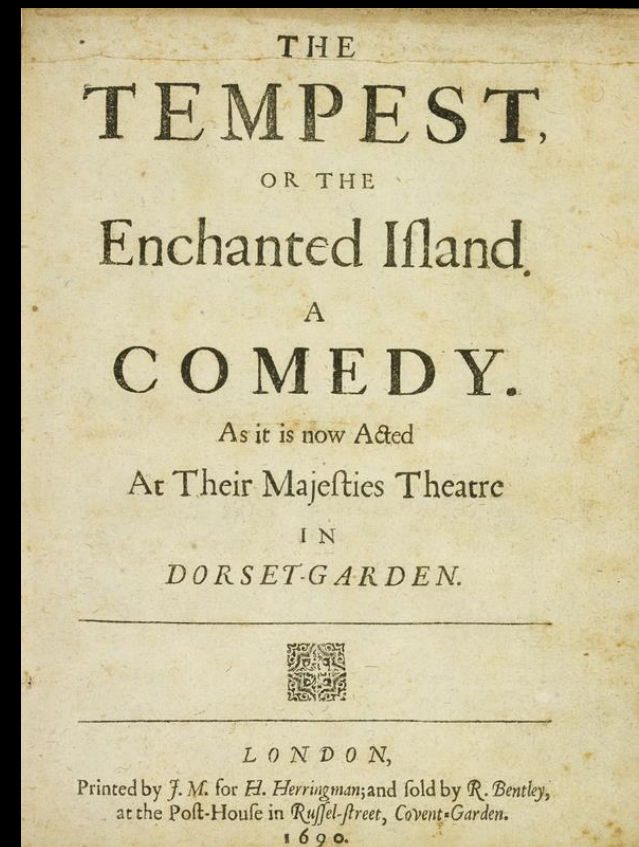


THE CASE FOR SHAKESPEARE

The Actual Evidence

EARLY PRINTED TEXTS

- Sheer number of inexpensive copies in Will's life time.
- There were seventy editions in print in his lifetime.
- Fifty thousand books bearing his name when London was 200,000



- As Actor, playwright, and shareholder in the most popular playing company, he was one of the most familiar faces in town and at court.
- If over the course of the quarter century... People began to suspect that Will was an imposter we would have heard of it.





GEORGE BUC

MASTER OF THE REVELS, 1610

- Government servant, book collector, historian.
- Stopped Shakespeare to ask him about the author of an anonymous play from 1599 he recently bought.
- Will told him it had been written by a minister but couldn't remember who.
- Shakespeare volunteered the minister had acted in his own play, performing the part of the pinner.
- Buc wrote the information in the quarto's title page "teste W. Shakespeare"

HOW COULD THE CONSPIRACY WORK?

- Only Shakespeare and the real author knew about it.
- Or, it was an open secret so widely shared it wasn't worth mentioning.
- Shakespeare was simply the pseudonym for another writer.



PLAYS PUBLISHED ANONYMOUSLY

Even most celebrated plays by most popular dramatists anonymous

No documentary evidence
Christopher Marlowe wrote
Tamburlaine

If not for casual mention by Thomas Heywood wouldn't know Thomas Kyd wrote *The Spanish Tragedy*



NO REASON TO USE SOMEONE ELSE'S NAME

The Isle of Dogs, a scandalous play that got Ben Jonson and Thomas Nashe in serious trouble and shut down the playhouses .

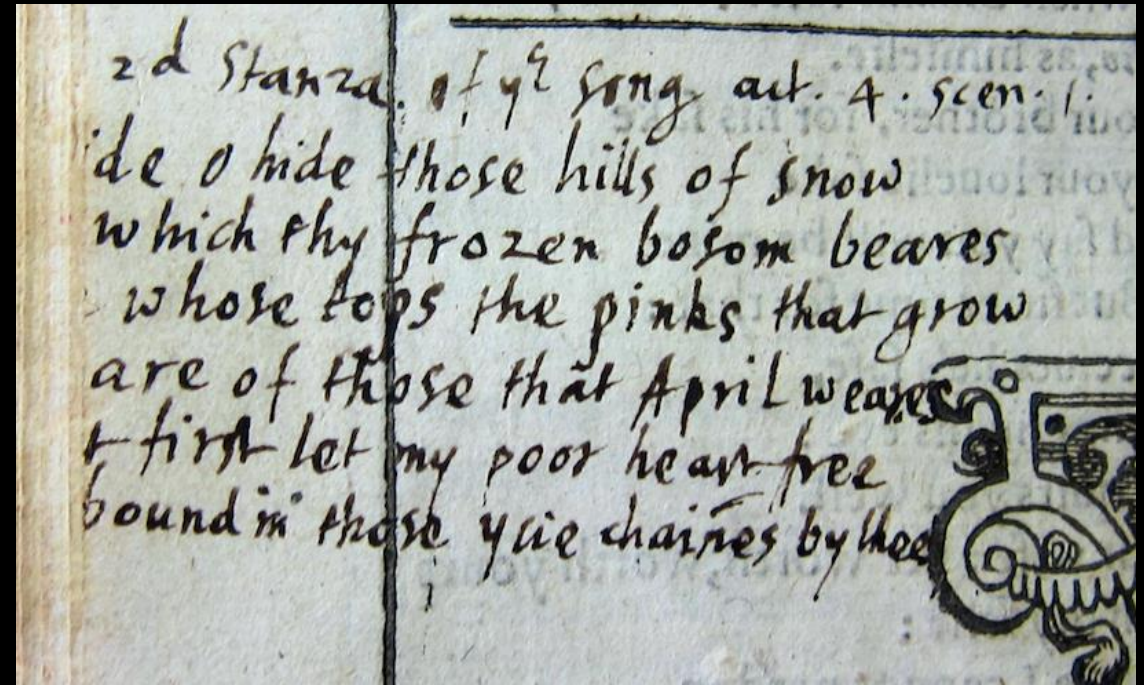
"A satirical comedy, it was reported to the authorities as a "lewd plaie" full of seditious and "slanderous matter".

In 1598 two publishers decided Will's popularity made it profitable to put his name on the title page.



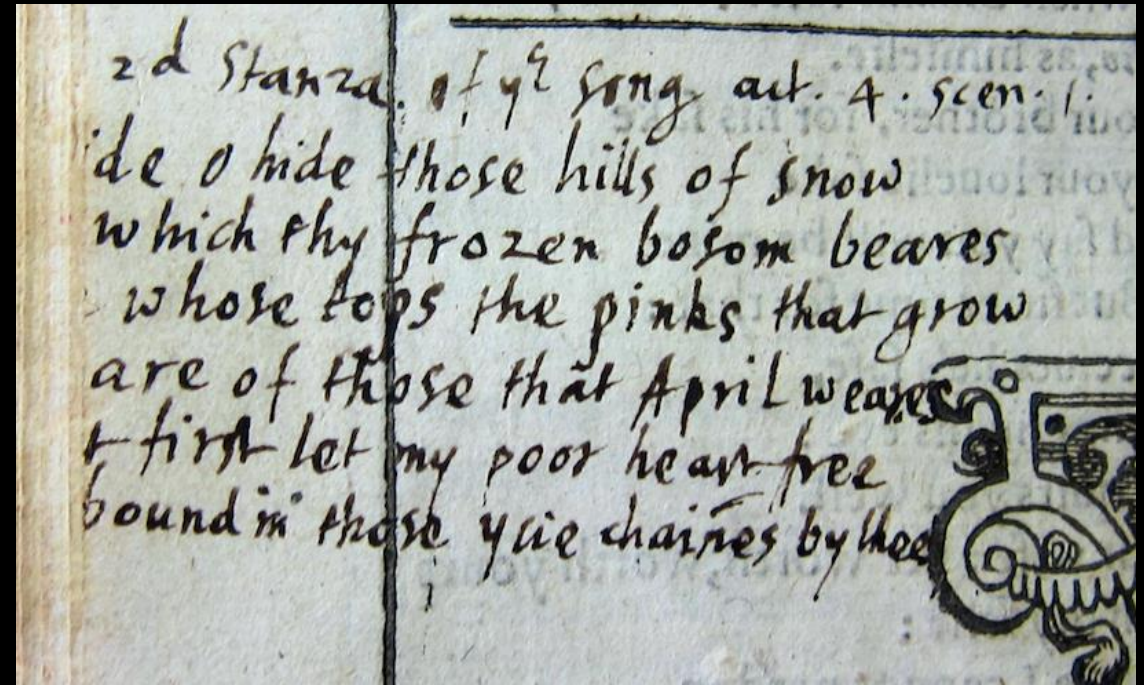
WHOEVER WROTE THE PLAYS LONG-TERM PARTNER

- Three kinds of manuscripts
- Author's rough draft, "foul papers"
- Scribe's copy or "fair copy"
- Prompt copy marked for use in the playhouse.
- Shakespeare often wrote the actor's name instead of the character.



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BLACKFRIARS THEATER

- Smaller, 600 seats, upfront seats more expensive, select audience.
- No groundlings throwing oranges, *“They found seeds from apples, oranges, plumbs, figs, elderberries, and grapes.”*
- James Burbage purchased and remodeled a building in 1596.
- Leased to thriving company theater with child actors



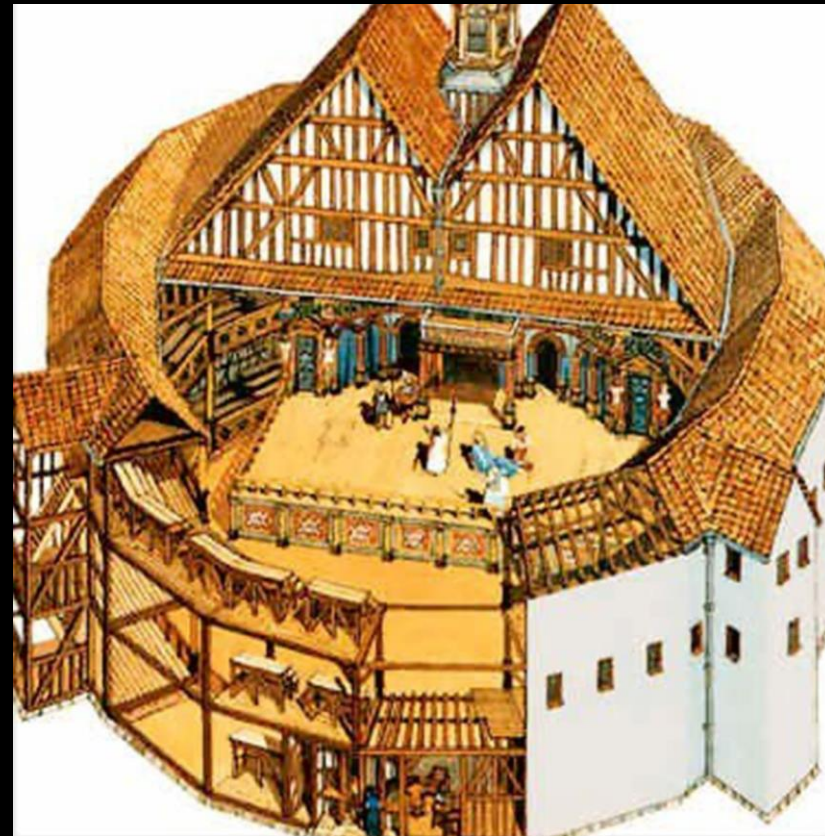


1599 A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Shakespeare at Work

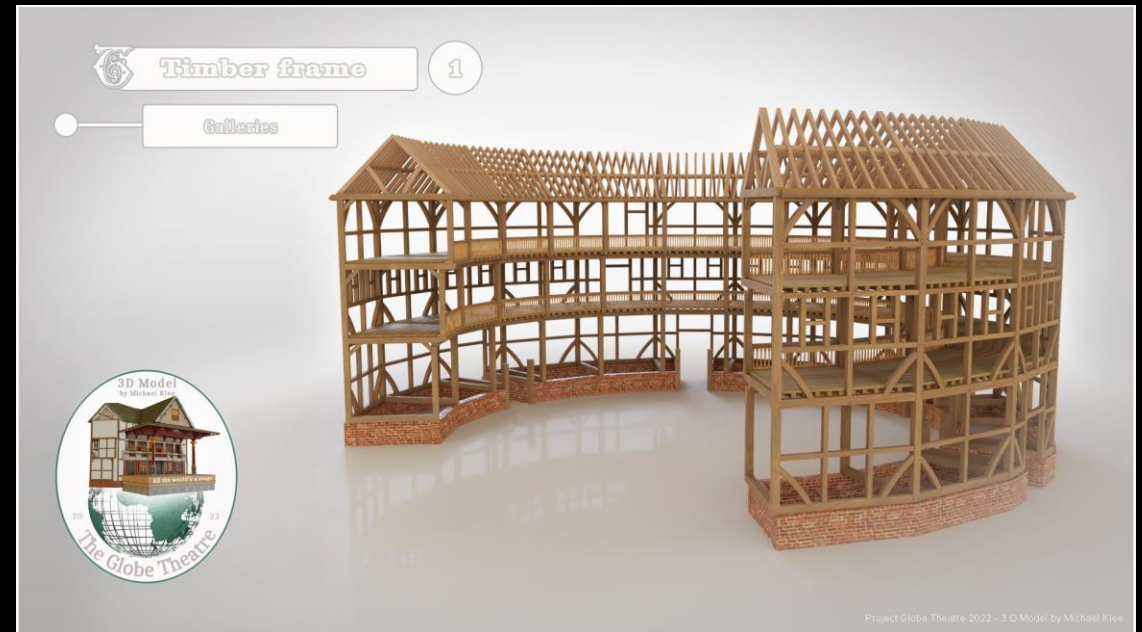
SO WHAT WAS HAPPENING LEADING UP TO 1599?

- A decisive year for Shakespeare, The Lord Chamberlain's Men, The Globe Theater, and Elizabethan England
- Lease on the Theater had run out, the landowner Giles Allen wanted more rent. The Burbages owned the building. Locked out two years



JAMES BURBAGE, JOINER 1531-1597

- Built the Theater with wealthy brother-in-law John Brayne and knowledge of carpentry. 1576
- 1594 Privy Council allowed LCM rights to play in the city of London. Lease expired 1597.
- Burbages had sunk their money into the Blackfriars

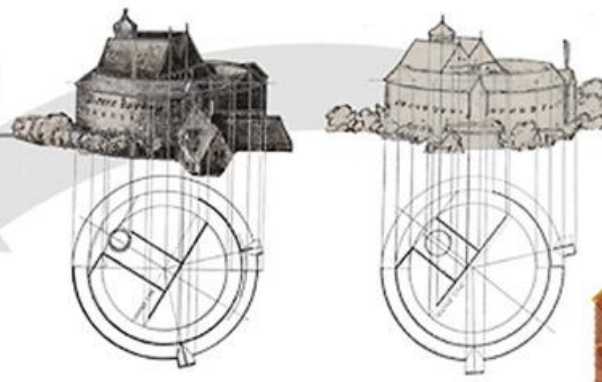


SO WHAT WAS HAPPENING LEADING UP TO 1599?

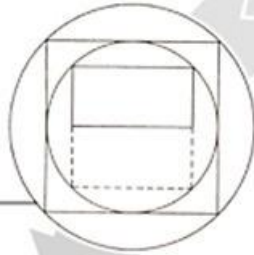
- Burbages got 31 year lease on new land south of the city. But needed more money.
- Offered five actor-shareholders a share in ownership for help with construction costs and running the theater.



Analysis of Hollar's
drawings (ca 1640)



Ad quadratum
scheme



Towards reconstructing the
Shakespeare's first Globe Theatre



Complete
model of the
first Globe
Theatre



Analysis of
Hodges' drawings
(1973) of the
second Globe



Tiring House
modelling of the
first Globe



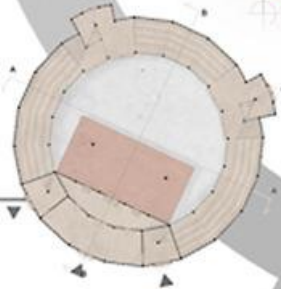
Bays modelling
of the first Globe



First Globe
Theatre plan
scheme



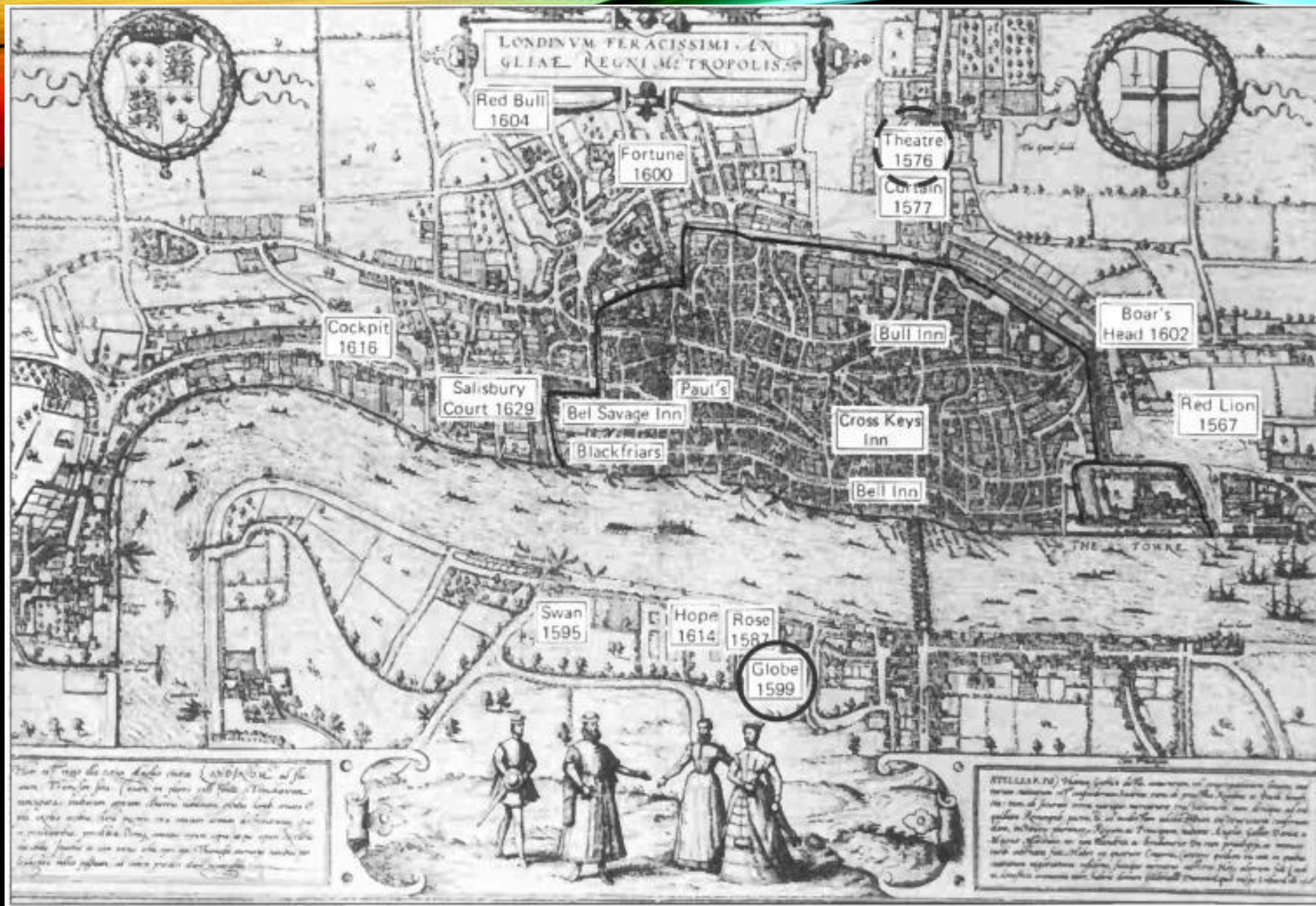
First Globe
Theatre plans
drawing



POSSESSION NINE TENTH OF THE LAW

- The Burbages and friends, carefully marked the lumber, took it apart and carried to new property south of the city.
- Giles Allen out of town. Friends tried to intervene
- Quickly dismantled and stored in a warehouse.





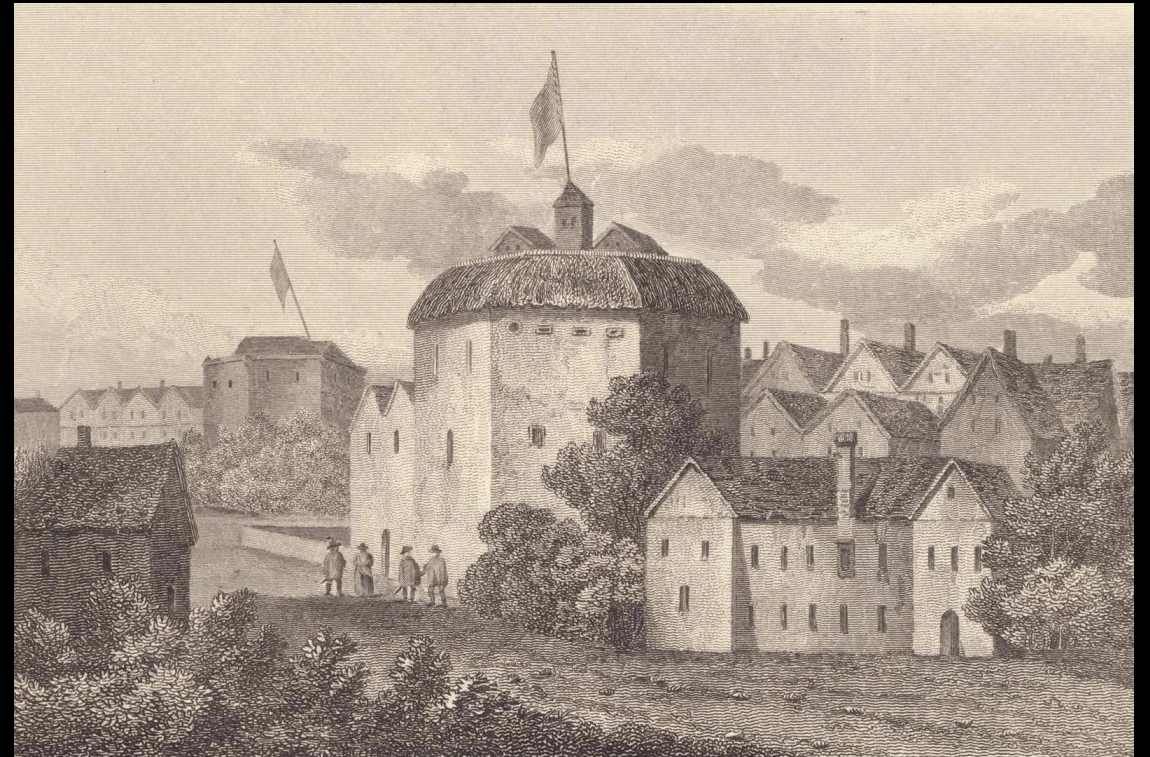
PIVOTAL EVENT FOR SHAKESPEARE

Five Years of security with best company,
best actors.

Without home theater, Chamberlain's
Men vulnerable to disbanding

For seventy pounds initial outlay, Will
gained at least 100 pounds a year.

The Globe Shakespeare professional
stability, financial security for him and his
family for generations.



LEADING UP TO 1599 NOT SO GREAT EITHER

- Plague closed the theaters in 1596, Chamberlain's Men Toured the countryside.
- Death of James Burbage
- Will's son Hamnet died 1596
- Older generation of leading playwrights were gone.





UNFORTUNATELY, IRELAND
DIDN'T GET A FRESH START

TUDOR CONQUEST OR RECONQUEST OF IRELAND

- Henry VIII of England was made "King of Ireland" in 1542.
- The conquest involved assimilating the Gaelic nobility by way of "surrender and regrant"; the confiscation and colonization of plantations with settlers from Britain; imposing English law and language; banning Catholicism, dissolving the monasteries and making Anglican Protestantism the state religion
- Tudor Policies sparked rebellions including during Elizabeth's reign.
- Hugh O'Neil, Earl of Tyrone, Battle of the Yellow Ford on the River Blackwater 1598

PEACE OR FIGHT

- Earl of Essex, “No peace shall be made with the Spaniards but such as would be dishonorable and treacherous”
- Burghley handed Bible open to Palm 55, v23, “Men of Blood shall not live out half their days “



- Essex's father died in Ireland 1576 Dysentery. Told his 11 year old son Essex men didn't live long.
- Father urged him to be daring in pursuit of fame.
- Essex saw the current situation as "holy a war"
- Invoked Henry V as example
- Believed in the Chivalric Code



- Taken part at Charge of Zutphen 1586
- Led English attack at Lisbon 1589
- In France challenged the governor of Rouen in 1591
- One of the commanders that seized and sacked Cadiz 1596
- Challenged Sir Walter Raleigh
- Fought a duel
- Challenged the Lord Admiral



ROBERT DEVEREUX, EARL OF ESSEX

- While still a young man, Essex succeeded his stepfather, Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester, as the aging queen's favorite.
- Charming, charismatic, ambitious, glory seeking, power hungry, eager to come out on top, not always best judge of other people, how power worked or Elizabeth.

