# ABOUT THEATRE IN SHAKESPEARE'S TIME

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The Globe was a three-story, open-air theatre that could accommodate 3,000 spectators. The stage, measuring more than 40 feet wide and 25 feet deep, stood five feet above the ground, The stage was surrounded by a ring of balcony seating covered by a straw roof.

## THE GLOBE THEATRE



#### ABOUT THE GLOBE THEATRE

- William Shakespeare was a shareholder who owned 12.5% of The Globe Theatre.
- On June 29, 1613, staged cannon fire during a performance of "Henry the eighth" ignited a fire that burned the Globe Theatre to the ground but it was rebuilt in a year. After burning down in 1613 The Globe Theatre was rebuilt on the same spot in 1614.
- This new Globe Theatre was built using 1,000 oak trees from English forests and 6,000 bundles of reeds from Norfolk for the roof.
- The architectural style of The Globe was similar to the Coliseum in Rome, but on a smaller scale

### LOCATION OF GLOBE THEATRE

• Examination of old property records has identified the plot of land occupied by the Globe as extending from the west side of modern-day Southwark Bridge Road eastwards as far as Porter Street and from Park Street southwards as far as the back of Gatehouse Square. However, the precise location of the building remained unknown until a small part of the foundations, including one original pier base, was discovered in 1989 beneath the car park at the rear of Anchor Terrace on Park Street. The shape of the foundations is now replicated on the surface. As the majority of the foundations lies beneath 67—70 Anchor Terrace, a listed building, no further excavations have been permitted.

## HISTORY OF THE GLOBE THEATRE

- The Globe was built in 1599 using timber from an earlier theatre, The Theatre, which had been built by Richard Burbage's father, James Burbage, in 1576. The new theatre was larger than the one built before. There was a roof around which was around the seating area, leaving the theatre looking like a doughnut. older timber was reused as part of the new structure. It's construction was completed by the summer of 1599, in time for the opening production of Henry V. The first performance for which was Jonson's Every Man out of His Humour.
- the Globe was closed down by the Puritans in 1642. It was pulled down in 1644. A modern reconstruction of the theatre, named "Shakespeare's Globe", opened in 1997, with a production of Henry V.

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