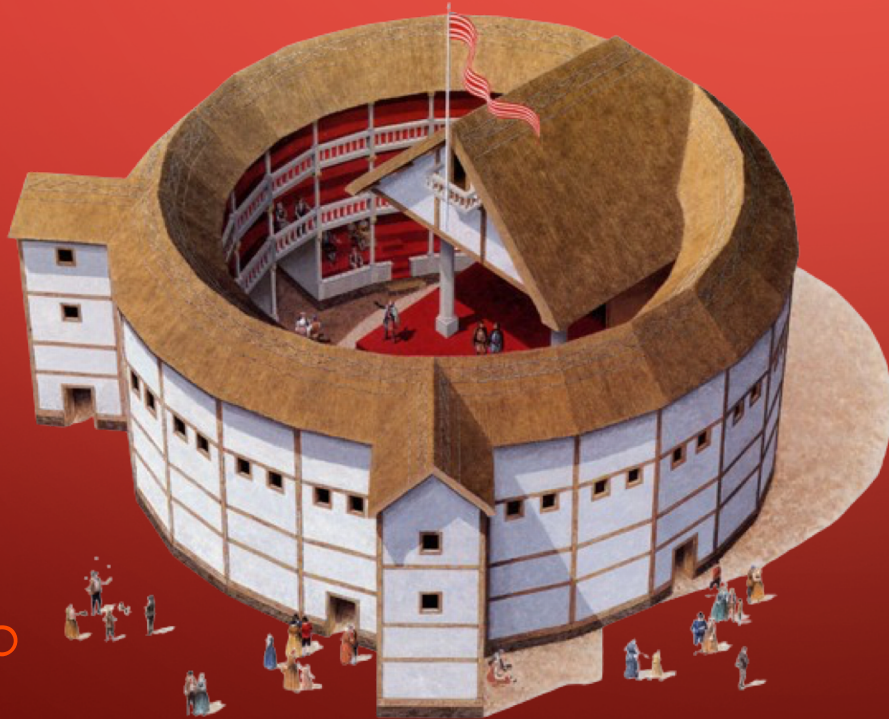


ELIZABETHAN PLAY HOUSES

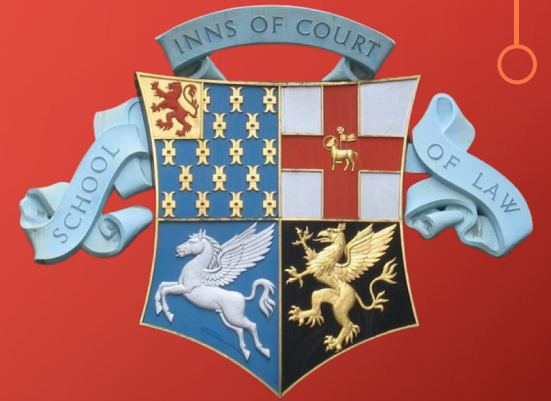


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- 
- The background is a solid dark red color. In the four corners, there are decorative elements consisting of thin, light orange lines that resemble circuit traces or a stylized tree structure. These lines connect to small, hollow orange circles. The lines are more dense in the bottom-left and top-left corners and more sparse in the top-right and bottom-right corners.
- Court Theatres
 - The Public Theatres
 - The Private Theatres

COURT THEATRE

- Appealed to the highest classes
- No audience outbursts.
- Advanced stage effects
- Inns of Court: The Inns played an important role in the history of the English Renaissance theatre
- Inns were more comfortable in chilly and rainy English winters, with warm rooms and beverages.





Innyard that served as a playhouse

THE PRIVATE THEATRES

- Smaller, Indoor venue
- Catered to the higher classes
- Spectators were seated (in pit, galleries, and boxes)
- Extra price for stools on stage.
- Roofed; used artificial lighting

THE PUBLIC THEATRES

- Accessible to lower-class
- Outdoors and rambunctious venues
- Round, square, or octagonal, with thatched roofs covering the structure surrounding an open courtyard.

- All outdoor playhouses had:
 - a central yard that was open to the sky;
 - a raised stage sticking out into the yard;
 - a roof over the stage, which was called ‘the heavens’
 - a tiring house behind the stage with a backstage area, where actors dressed and waited to come on. Above this were lords’ rooms, rooms for storage, and a room level with ‘the heavens’ to work the special effects from;
 - galleried seating all around the yard, on several levels, which was roofed.

THE RED LION THEATRE

- Built in 1567, by John Brayne, outside London
- Technically an inn-yard
- Open farm with single gallery and fixed stage
- Short lived
- Later acted as a receiving house for touring companies

COURT AGAINST CITY OVER THE THEATRES

- **Anti-theatrical laws** : Religious, Medical, Economic reasons
- ‘Home of the Devil’, ‘The Chapel of Satan’
- Crowds invited thievery; small riots
- Spread of infection during Plague (Theatres closed 1592-94)
- Kept apprentices away from work

- 1574 an Act of the Court of Common Council placed a ban on the building of theatres within the city limits.
- Public theatres were built Outside London jurisdiction
- A writer called actors “crocodiles which devour the pure chastity both of single and married persons”
- Their plays teach “All things that appertain to craft, mischief, deceits, and filthiness”

THE THEATRE

- First permanent public theatre
- Constructed in 1576 by James Burbage
- Located in Shoreditch (outside city)

THE CURTAIN

- Built in 1577 in Shoreditch
- Rectangular
- Lord Chamberlain's Men performed here until 1599

THE ROSE

- Built in 1587 by Philip Henslowe.
- Rival to James Burbage.
- Emergence of a new theatre district, as the Rose was the first of the five public playhouses to emerge on the Bankside or the South bank of the Thames.

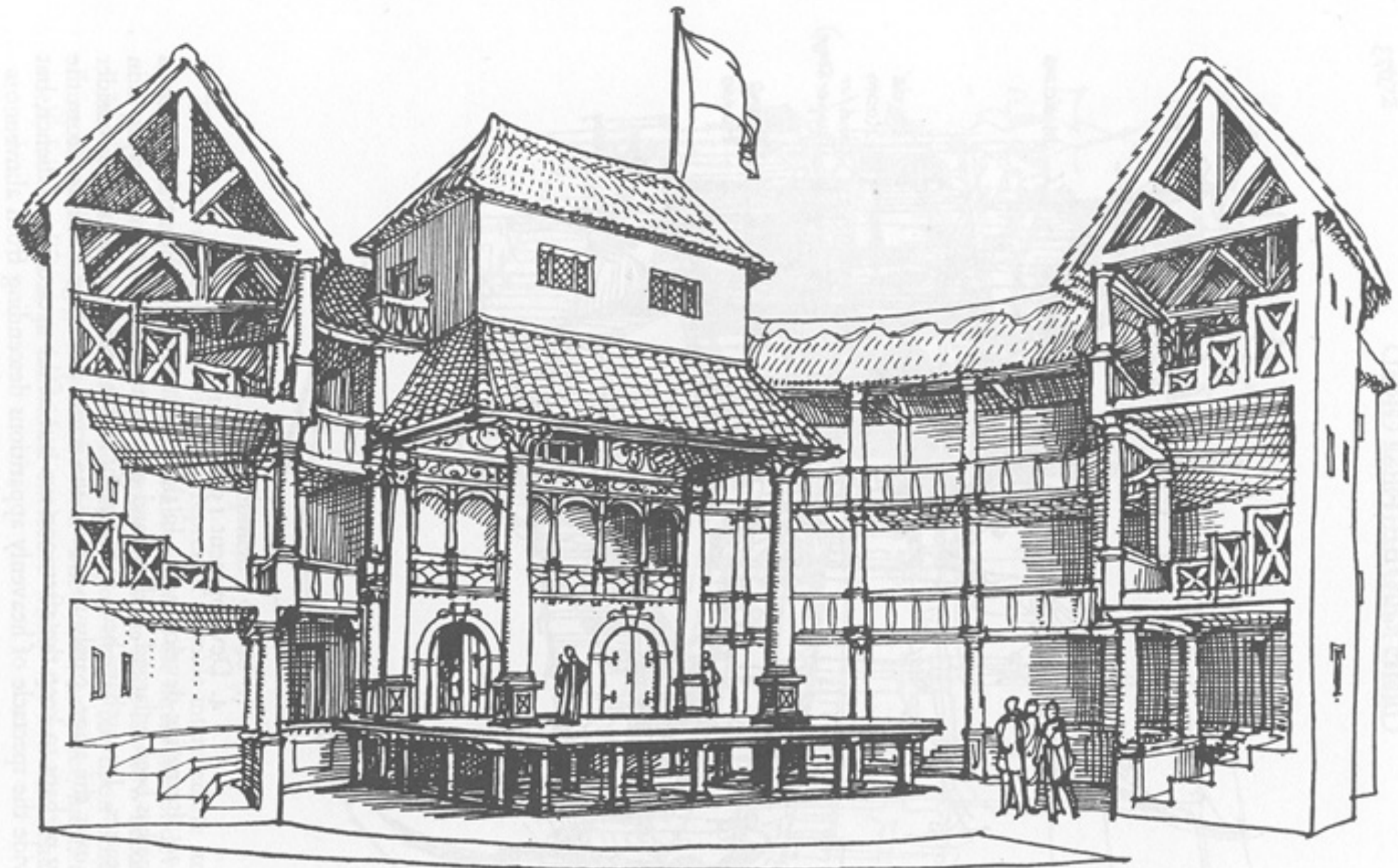


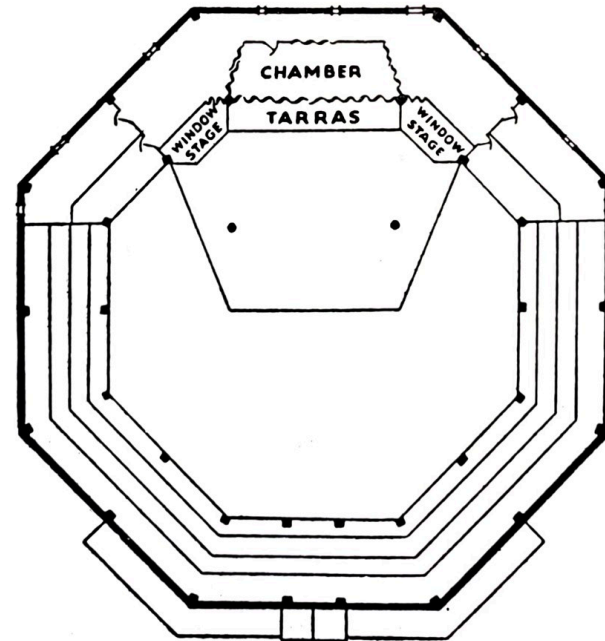
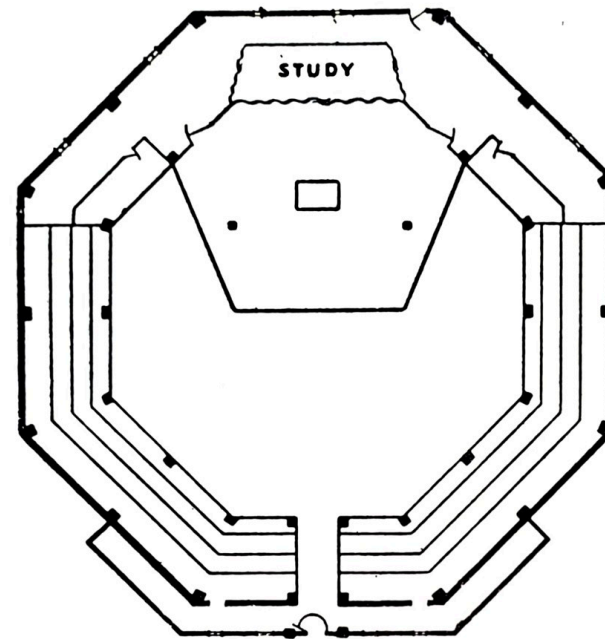
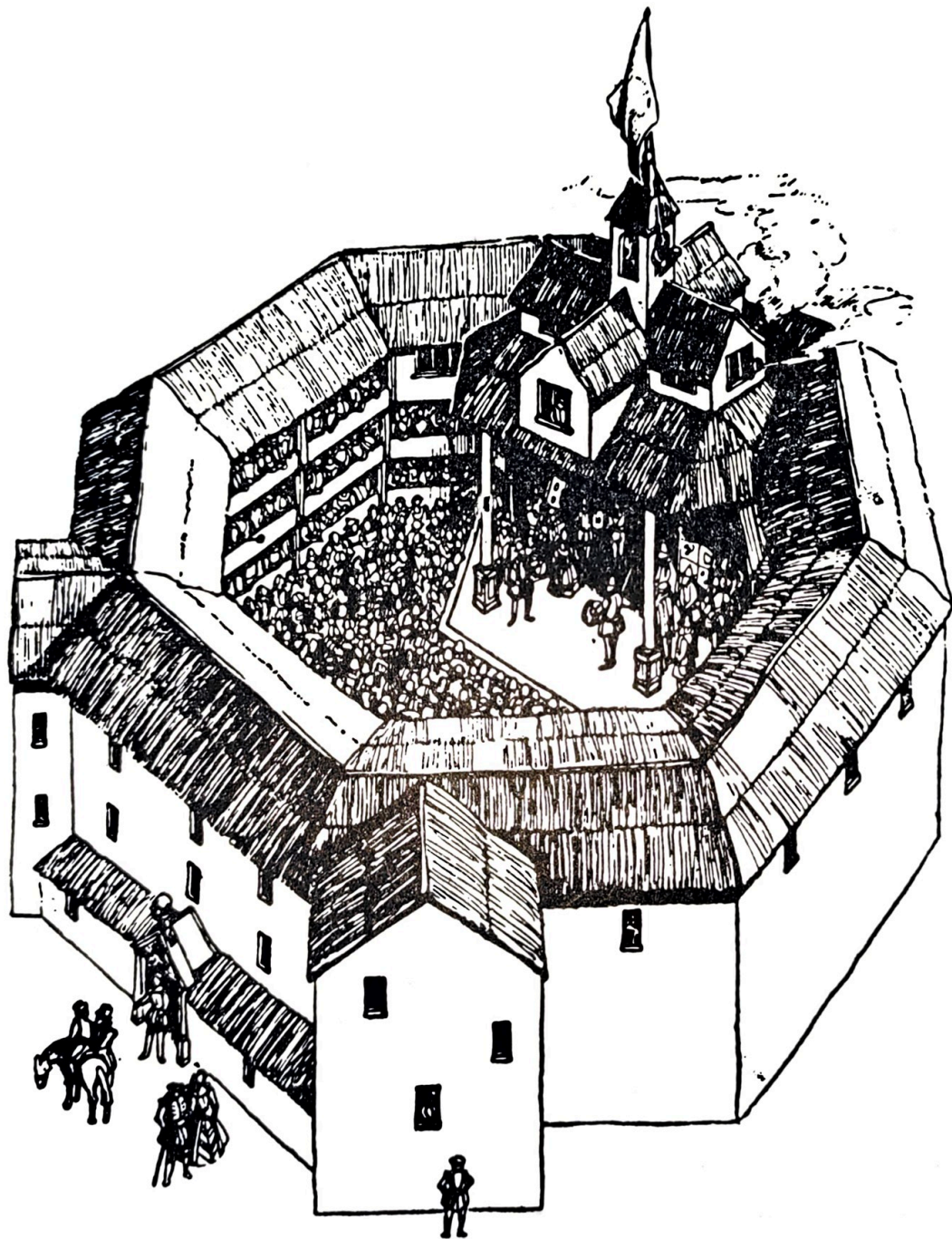
THE SWAN

- Built between 1594 and 1596 by Francis Langley
- West end of Southwark, across the River Thames.
- “Finest and biggest of the London theatres” - Johannes De Witt
- 3000 spectators

THE GLOBE

- Built in 1599, with lumber from the demolished “Theatre”.
- Burbage sold shares to five of his actors, including Shakespeare
- Principal playhouse of the Lord Chamberlain's Men
- This structure burned to the ground in 1613 as a result of an accident during a performance of *Henry VIII*.





TWO FLOORS OF THE GLOBE. At the top, the ground floor with the inner stage, or study, the side doors, and a trap in the middle of the main stage; the two black squares on the plan indicate the pillars supporting the "heavens," or roof protecting the stage. Below, the second level with the inner chamber, the "tarras," or transverse balcony, the two windows at the sides, and the roof of the "heavens." (From Watkins, *On Producing Shakespeare.*)

FORTUNE THEATRE

- Built around 1600 by Philip Henslowe
- To compete with the newly constructed Globe Theatre.
- Premiered a performance by Admiral's Men

THEATRE BUILDERS AND THEATRE MANAGERS

- James Burbage (carpenter-actor) and Philip Henslowe
- Burbage's 2 sons – Richard, Actor; Cuthbert, business manager
- Henslowe's Son-in-law – Edward Alleyn, Actor

HENSLOWE

- Businessman, speculator
- Worked as Dyer's apprentice, Bailiff's assistant, pawnbroker, lime and leather dealer, buyer and seller of land, monopolist of bear-baiting.
- Then he entered into theatre business and banking.
- Built "The Rose" in 1587, "The Fortune" in 1600

ELIZABETHAN PLAYHOUSES

- By 1605, London had 6 public and 1 private playhouses

Public – Theatre, Curtain, Rose, Swan, Globe, Fortune

Private – Blackfriars

- “The Hope” opened in 1613
- Three Private Theatres during reign of James I and Charles I
 - Whitefriars (1608)
 - Phoenix (1617)
 - Salisbury Court (1629)

London Theatres c. 1600



REFERENCES

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