25-10-2016

ES 1, PAG 90.

1. Rehearse,
2. Trap door,
3. Scenery,
4. Tiring house,
5. Props,
6. Tiers of galleries.

The Shakespeare’s theatre is also called “playhouse”; these playhouses were round or octagonal in shape, twelve metres high and with a diameter of twenty-five metres. They could help up to 3.000 people.

They have three tiers of galleries and the higher were addressed to the richer people.

The theatre was roofed over to protect the actors and their costumes. There also was an uncovered central area, called the “pit”, surrounded by three roofed tiers of galleries.

There wasn’t a scenery and there was only a limited number of props (tables, chairs, swords,…) .

The actors was a busy man, constantly rehearsing new plays.

In that period the women couldn’t act, and their parts were acted by boys.

ES 1, PAG 90.

The key ideas that describe the Elizabethan playhouse are:

1. No scenery,
2. Round or octagonal,
3. 3,000 people,
4. High,
5. Three tiers of galleries,
6. No female actresses.

ES 6, PAG 92

Queen Elizabeth I loved watching ***plays***, but these were generally performed in indoor playhouses for her pleasure. She would not have attended the plays performed at the playhouses such ***as*** the Globe.

The upper-class nobles would have paid for the better seats in the ‘Lord’s rooms paying 5p for the privilege. The ‘groundlings’ were the standing members of the audience. For one penny, ***which*** was the price of a loaf of broad, they could stand in the open yard. They used ***to*** put money in a box at the theatre entrance, hence the term ‘box office’. The gentry would pay to sit in the galleries, often using cushions for comfort. Rich nobles could watch the play from a chair set on the side of the stage itself. The crowd of spectators ate and drank during the performance and freely expressed their emotions. They loved metaphor and extremes and ***were*** deeply moved by long speeches and soliloquies. Horror, macabre scenes and revenge tragedies were very popular, as ***soon*** as history plays where heroic deeds, battles and weapons evoked strong feelings.

People used to applaud any notable event during the play, but it was only ***during*** the end that they could be really noisy. There was often a ‘jig’, a comic song and dance story, and the company would announce the next play in the repertoire. The audience would show their approval or disapproval of the choice by calling, whistling and even throwing things.

ES 7, PAG 92.

The key words and phrases that describe the Elizabethan audiences are:

1. The payment of the entrance,
2. Privilege for the nobles( Lord’s rooms”),
3. The spectators could eat and drink,
4. A lots of applauses,
5. The spectators could express their emotions.