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Ex.1-2

Glossary + Text

* Pit
* Tiers of galleries
* Trap door
* Tiring house
* Props
* Rehearse
* Scenery
* Differently from the modern theatre, the Shakespearean one was built in order to be really high and have three tiers of galleries (the higher were addressed to the richer people), from which spectators could see the plays. There was no curtain, the theatre was roofed over to protect the actors and their costumes. There was an uncovered area, called the “pit” which was surrounded by the galleries.

There was no scenery: only a limited number of props (tables, chairs, swords,…) and actors, who played during the day, had to rehearse constantly. Another important difference from today is that women could not take part into any play.

Ex. 5

Key ideas of Elizabethan playhouse:

* High
* Round or octagonal
* 3,000 people
* Three tiers of galleries
* No scenery
* Daily plays
* No female actresses

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Ex. 6

The audiences

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-**in**, whistling and even throwing things.

Ex. 7

Key ideas of Elizabethan audiences:

* Privilege for nobles
* Payment of the entrance
* Express of emotions by spectators
* Applauses
* Approval and disapproval by the public, expressed by shouts, whistles
* Audiences sat and could eat and drink