

Stage Directions Vocabulary

above or **aloft**: scene played in the balcony above the stage level or from up in the loft

alarum: a call to arms (with a shout or bugle)

aside: spoken directly to the audience and not heard by the others on stage

below or **beneath**: speech or scene played from below the surface of the stage the actor stands inside an open trap door

enter: indicates the entrance on to the stage of a character or characters

exit: indicates the departure of a single actor from the stage

exeunt: indicates the departure of more than one actor from the stage

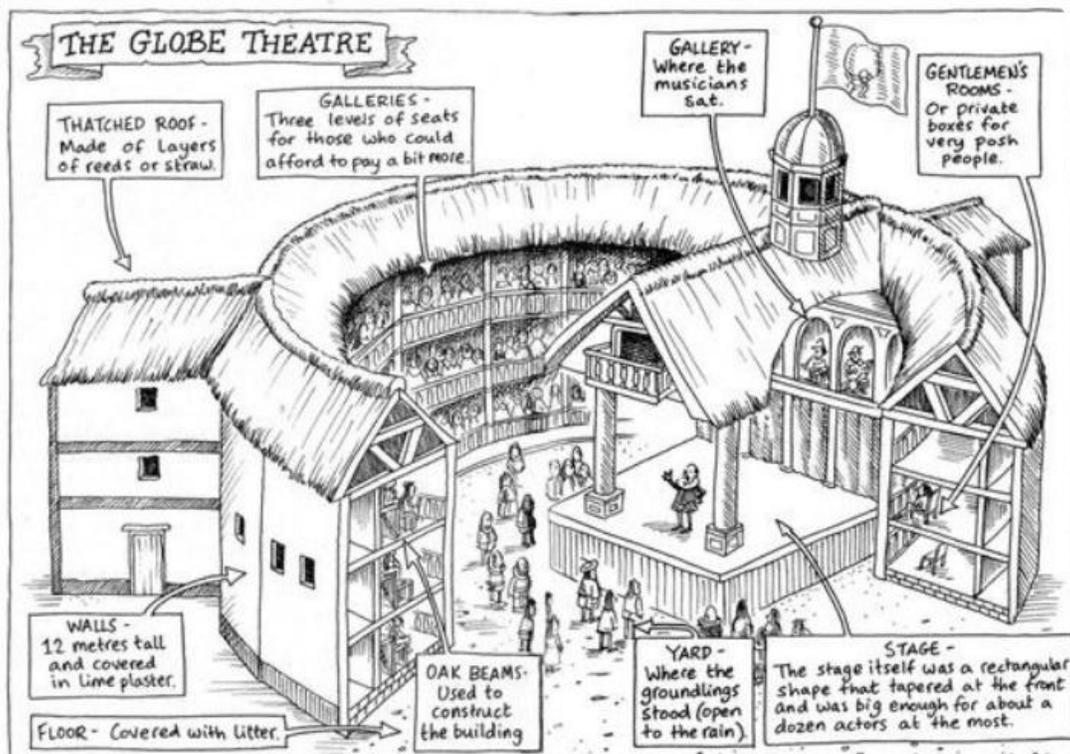
flourish: fanfare of horns or trumpets, usually accompanying an entrance or exit, usually of a king or another important person

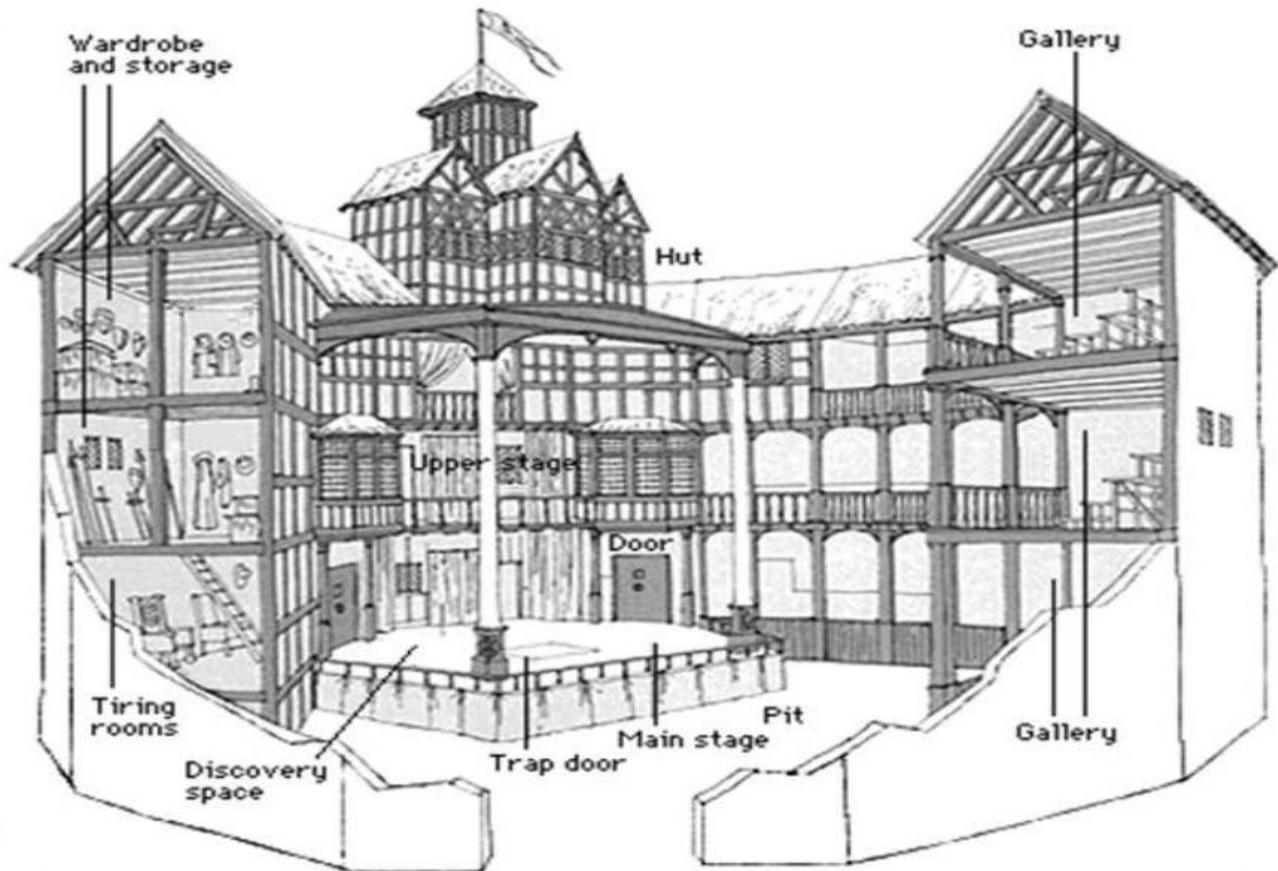
hautboys: Elizabethan oboes

sennet: trumpet flourish to introduce the entrance of a character, such as a king

torches: indicates that entering characters are carrying lit torches

within: indicates that a person speaking or being spoken to is somewhere offstage





Parts of an Elizabethan Theater

discovery space: also known as the study; rear of stage, curtained; used to show a character eavesdropping, spying, hiding; could be used to show interior scenes

galleries: different levels of benched seating that looked down upon the stage; more expensive than standing in the pit

heavens: underside of half roof

hut: where the big machinery and other sound effects were held; above half roof

music gallery: one level up from upper stage; where musicians sat to play; could be used as acting area

tiring rooms: dressing rooms as well as some prop storage

pit: where the groundlings (who would pay a penny to watch) would stand during performances

trap door: used for ghosts, a grave, and various other special effects

upper stage (window stage): gallery above main stage; can be used as the balcony for some plays