Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre

The Globe Theatre

- Built in 1599 by Cuthbert Burbage
- Destroyed by fire in 1613; rebuilt 1993-1997.
- Located on south side of the Thames in Southwark district
- 50% owned by Cuthbert and Richard Burbage
- 50% owned by the Chamberlain’s Men

The Globe Theatre

• The “hell” at the bottom was a space for devils and others to emerge.

• Roof, or covering,” was called “the heavens.”
The Globe Theatre

• Pit, referred to as the yard, was 80 feet in diameter; platform for the thrust stage was 40 feet wide.
• Yard accommodated 800 “groundlings.”
• Gallery seated 1,500 theatre goers.
The Globe Theatre

- All actors were men.
- Specific parts were written for specific actors.

Richard Burbage, the most famous Shakespearean actor of the Elizabethan Age
The Globe Theatre

- Performances were conducted during the mid-afternoon (2 p.m. to 5 p.m.).
- Acoustics were poor.
- No background scenery was used.