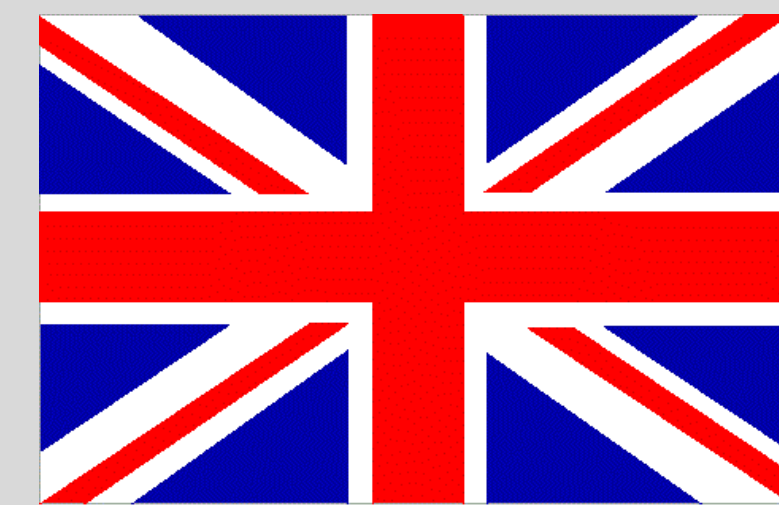


# London Theatres



One of the oldest theaters in England, "**The Globe**" was a public theater in London. It was in use from 1599 to 1644. The troupe "Lord Chamberlain's servants" was led by the main actor of this theater tragedian R. Burbage. It was the staging of Shakespeare and other playwrights' works of the Renaissance that made this theater one of the most important centers of cultural life. The Globe Theatre was octagonal in shape. Its auditorium was oval surrounded by high walls, on the inner side of which there were boxes for the aristocracy. Above them a gallery for the wealthy citizens was placed. The audience stood around the three sides of the stage. Some of the privileged spectators sat on the stage. The theater could accommodate up to 2000 people.

There were very few painted decorations in the Globe Theatre. The theater helped the spectators understand what was going on the stage by posting, for example, tablets with a scribbled name of the play and the site of the action. A lot of things in this theater were rather uncertain - the same place represented one part of the field, then another, then the square in front of the building and the room inside it

In 1613 a wooden building burned down, and the Globe Theatre was rebuilt again in stone. In 1644 the building of the theatre was demolished by the order of the Puritan Parliament.

Nowadays in London there are a lot of interesting and beautiful theaters.

There are four theatres in London of notable beauty: the Theatre, the Curtain Theatre, the Rose Theatre and the Swan Theatre. In each of them a different play is daily performed to the audience.

Of all the theatres the largest and the most magnificent is **the Swan Theatre**: for it accommodates three thousand people. It is built of a mass of flint stones, and is supported by wooden columns painted in such an excellent imitation of marble that it is able to deceive even the most cunning people. The actual date of the building and opening of the Swan Theatre is uncertain, but it was probably about 1596.

Built by Francis Landley **the Rose Theatre** was probably opened in 1597.

**The Theatre** — the first and most appropriately named play house was erected in London in 1576.

Built by James Burbage **the Curtain Theatre** was London's second playhouse, opened in 1577, the year after the Theatre. There is no definite information as to who built it.

Every day at two o'clock in the afternoon in the City of London two or three comedies are performed at separate places.

