

History Of The English Theatre

Presentation Of The Research Project

Periods

- I. Late 15th – 16th century. **The Tudor Era.**
English Renaissance Theatre.
- II. 17th century. **Stuarts Period.** Theatre Royal
Drury Lane.
- III. 18th – early 19th century. **Georgian Period.**
Hay Market Theatre.
- IV. 19th century. **Victorian Era.** The Golden Age
of British Theatre.
- V. English Theatre in the 20th century. Royal
Opera House.

The Tudor Era

- English Renaissance Theatre is also called:
- 1) **Early Modern English Theatre**
- 2) **“Elizabethan Theatre”**

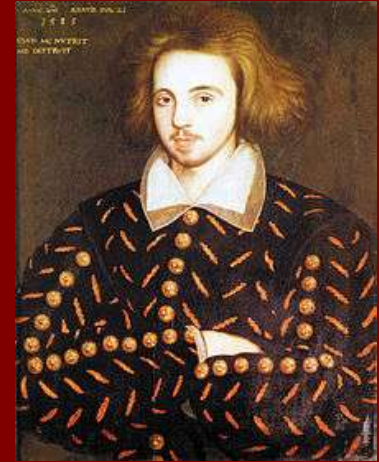
Renaissance theatre derived from medieval theatre traditions, such as the mystery plays that formed a part of religious festivals in England and other parts of Europe during the Middle Ages.

The public theatres were built around an open space at the centre three stories high.

The Renowned Playwrights



William
Shakespeare



Christopher
Marlow



Benjamin
Jonson

The First Theatres



"The Rose" (1587)



"The Swan" (1595)



"The Fortune" (1600)



"Curtain Theatre" (1577)



"The Theatre" (1576)



"The Red Bull" (1604)

The Globe

The Globe was opened in autumn 1599, with “Julius Caesar” one of the first plays staged. Most of Shakespeare’s greatest post-1599 plays were written for the Globe, including “Hamlet”, “Othello” and “King Lear”.

The Globe Theatre was built in 1599 by Shakespeare’s playing company, the Lord Chamberlain’s Man. It was destroyed by fire on 29 June 1613 during a performance of “Henry the Eighth”. A second Globe was built on the same site by June 1614 and closed in 1642. A modern reconstruction of the Globe, named “Shakespeare’s Globe”, opened in 1997 approximately 230 metres from the site of the original theatre.



The first Globe



17th Century Stuarts Period

- During the period of Interregnum(1649-1660) the Puritans closed English theatres for their own religious purposes and ideological reasons .The rising Puritan movement was hostile toward theatre, as they thought that “entertainment” was sinful.
- The theatres remained closed for most of the next eighteen years. However, the theatres in London were reopened soon after the ‘Restoration of the Monarchy’ in 1660 with the support of Prince Charles II.



Charles II

- The restoration gave rise to the inclusion of new genres in drama, such as heroism and Restoration comedy. The most popular plays were.
- George Etherege's 'The Man of Mode' (1676)
- William Wycherley's 'The Country Wife' (1676)
- Aphra Behn's 'The Rover' (1677)
- John Dryden's 'All for Love' (1677)



William Wycherley

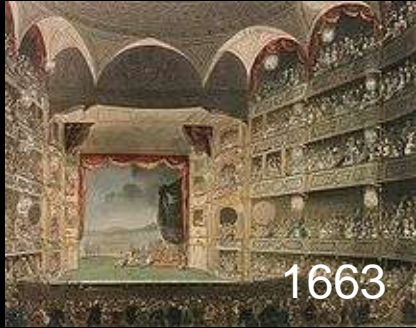


Aphra Behn



John Dryden

Theatre Royal in Drury Lane



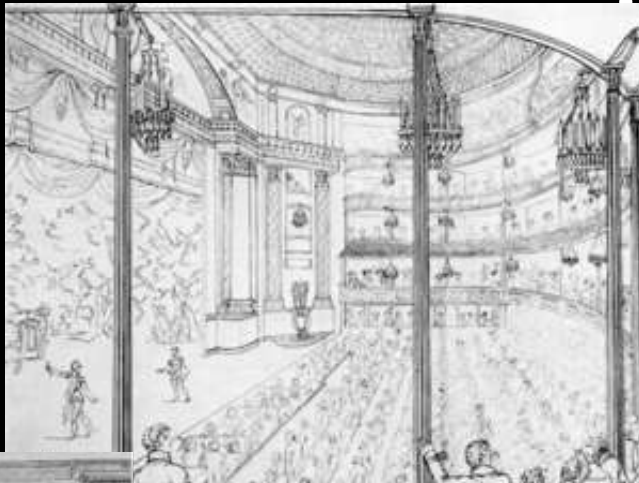
- The Famous Theatre Royal in Drury Lane was founded during that period.

First theatre: 1663 (was built at the behest of Thomas Killigrew)

Second theatre: 1674 (was built when the first was destroyed by fire)

Third theatre: 1794

Modern theatre: 1812



- After the eleven year long Puritan Interregnum, which had seen the banning of pastimes regarded as frivolous, such as theatre, the English monarchy was restored to the throne with the return of Charles II in 1660. Soon after, Charles ordered the formation of new acting companies. One of them went to Thomas Killigrew, whose company became known as the King's Company. They built a new theatre in Drury Lane.

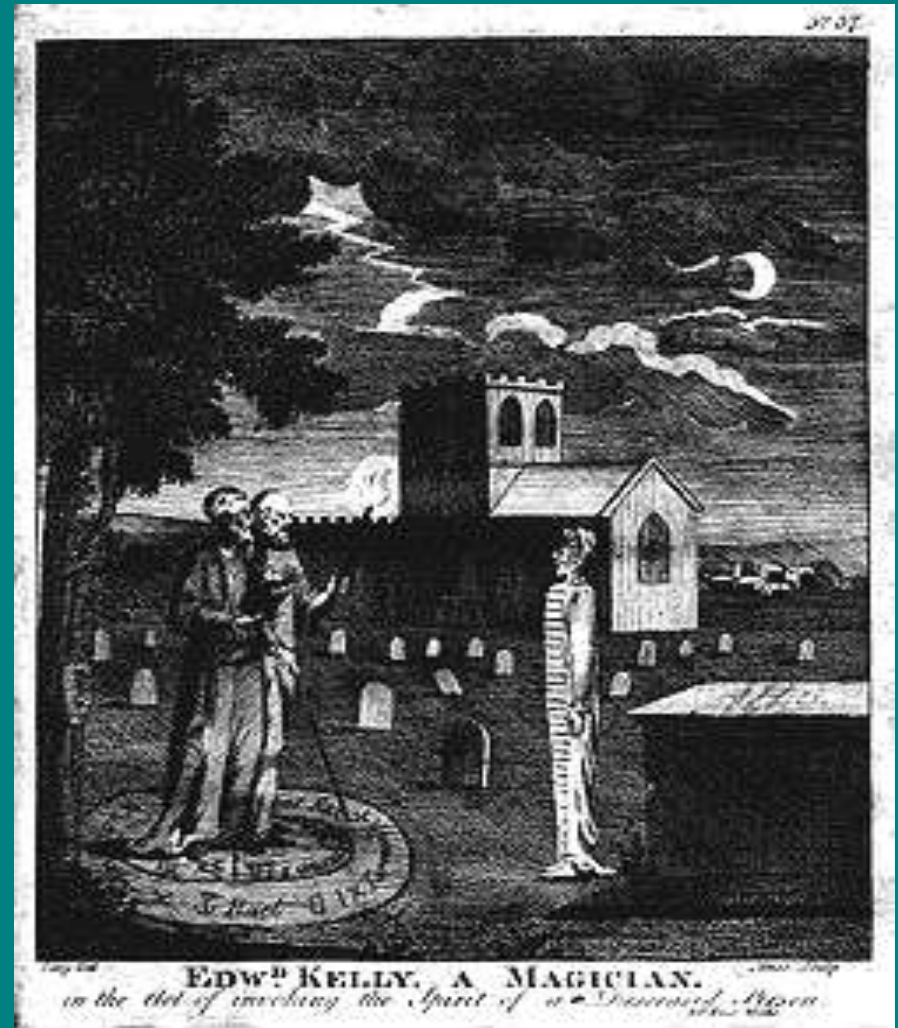




- Nowadays the Theatre Royal
- Drury Lane is West End theatre in Covent Garden, in the City of Westminster. The building faces Catherine Street and backs onto Drury Lane.



- Drury Lane has **been** called one of the world's most haunted theatres. The most famous ghost is the "Man in Grey", who appears dressed as a nobleman of the late 18th century: powdered hair beneath a hat, a dress jacket and cloak or cape, riding boots and a sword. Legend says that the Man in Grey is the ghost of a knife-stabbed man whose skeletal remains were found within a walled-up side passage in 1848.



18th – early 19th Century

Georgian Period

The Restoration comedy in England, which had started in the later half of the 17th century, faded away with the advent of the 18th century. Theatre, which had been so popular under the Stuart Restoration, became a little too loud for the taste of the city authorities. Domestic tragedy and sentimental comedy became the new flavor of the period.

The “Lord Chamberlain” was given the power of censorship over all public theatre performances till 1968.

Hay Market Theatre

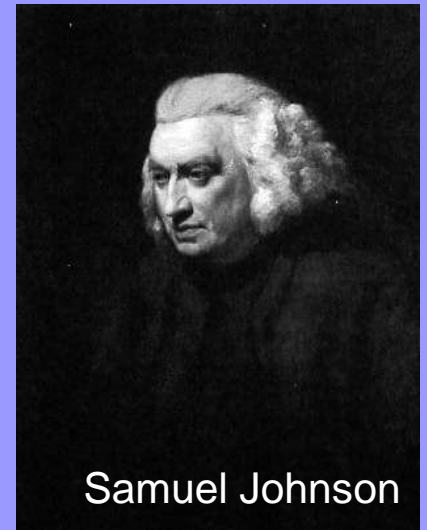


- A series of satires were staged at the Theatre Royal Haymarket – this is the West End theatre in The Haymarket in the City of Westminster which was built in 1720 by John Potter, making it the third-oldest London playhouse still in use.





- The theatre's first major success was a 1729 production of Samuel Johnson's "The Supernatural", which ran for 30 nights (not as long as John Gay's "The Beggar's Opera"). In 1730 the theatre was renamed by an English company to the 'Little Theatre in the Haymarket'.



Samuel Johnson



Dreadful Accident

DREADFUL Accident AT THE NEW BRUNSWICK Theatre, WELLCLOSE SQUARE.

THE utmost alarm was occasioned on Thursday morning, about twelve o'clock, in the vicinity of the above Theatre, by a most dreadful crash, and the spectators ran out in great haste with all possible dispatch, on the apprehension that a shock of an earthquake had been experienced. It was soon discovered that the roof of this new Theatre had fallen in, and the cause was general, that the event must have occasioned great loss of life, as many of the parties concerned with the Theatre, Workmen, &c. were known to be within the walls. It will be remembered that this Theatre, only opened on Monday last, for the first time since its completion, and was considered a well built edifice. The roof was composed wholly of cast-iron, and it would appear that the walls were so fortifically strong to bear the immense pressure, and bulged out. The heat too, which arose on the evening of performance, it is imagined caused the iron to expand, and forced away part of the building, by which it was threatened. The reports circulated that many individuals had perished under the large mass of iron having proved to be well founded, it being at present calculated at not less than one hundred and fifty to have been killed. The reports to the Theatre were repeating at the time and in the as well as the Workmen as they under the ruins. In fact, at present no one could tell how many lives have been lost. The roof of the Theatre is nearly level with the ground, and only two persons have yet been taken out wounded. A number of soldiers was just arrived from the F. F. W. and a strong party of militia were made for the unfortunate individuals who have fallen a sacrifice to the accident. Had it happened a little later, the workmen and others would have been the building, the remains of the walls not stand-

ing in a most dangerous condition, and one can scarcely imagine until made secure for being propped up. It is feared that at least eighty or ninety persons must have been killed. One of the performers a female has just been taken away wounded. The performers were rehearsing a piece called "Guns" Manoeuvring's at the time with an audience of about fifty or sixty persons. A Day and three hours were hurried in the street by the ruin falling on them. Little or no progress has yet been made in clearing away the ruins the number of the dead have been dug out is quite generally small. Among those who have escaped are Mr. Peck, Farren, Mr. Murray, Mrs. Dixon, Mr. Goldsmith, Mr. Wynne, Mr. Farren, and Mr. Lewis. The escape of Mr. D. was truly miraculous. On the first alarm, he threw himself out of a window but had scarcely a light on the ground, when he was nearly overthrown by the rubbish. In this position he stood for some time, but the pressure near him refused from fear of the consequences, at length one or two of the crowd rescued him although the ruins were tumbling about him.

His wife continued in the ruins for a quarter of an hour afterwards. One Dublin friend will be glad to hear that their friend Mr. Farren is safe, she had been seen by the manager but denied it was necessary to attend the rehearsal, as she had regular attendance then previous to the production of the play.

Her daughter did so, and was on the stage when the roof fell on her. She is severely wounded, no the back of the head Mr. Monro, who has been several times of the workmen have declared that they have no more.

Several dead bodies lightly mingled were being extricated from the ruins. Among them were two in all, whose names were said to be Mrs. Jackson, and Mrs. Farren.

Printed, Printed, & Gilt. Standard Press.

- During the season of 1793-1794 when Drury Lane Theatre was being rebuilt, the Haymarket was opened under the Drury Lane Patent.

The season was notable for a 'Dreadful Accident' which occurred on 3 February 1794, 'when twenty persons unfortunately lost their lives, and a great number were dreadfully bruised owing to a great crowd pressing to see his Majesty, who was that evening present at the performance.'

19th century. Victorian Era.

The Golden Age Of British Theatre



- Victorian Era is famous for flourishing of British Theatre
- The years 1880-1920 are called The Golden Age Of British Theatre

Famous Actors And Actresses Of The Golden Age Of British Theatre



Charles Courtice Pounds was born in Pimlico, London on May 30, 1862.



Alice Ellen Terry was born on 27 February, 1847



Mabel Love (Mabel Watson) was born in Folkstone on October 16, 1874.



Gabrielle Ray (Gabrielle Elizabeth Clifford Cook) was born on April 28, 1883, in Stockport, Cheshire (UK)

Gabrielle Ray

was once described as being “The most beautiful woman in the United Kingdom”



Ellen Terry

considered to have been the greatest
Shakespearian actress of her era



Ellen Terry &
Henry Irving.
'Hamlet'.



Ellen Terry at
'Lady
Macbeth'.



Ellen Terry as
Katherine of
Aragon
Shakespeare
'Henry VIII'.

Mabel Love

a dancer and actress who was considered to be one of the great stage beauties



Gertie Millar

the much loved star of English musical comedies from 1901-1915



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MISS GERTIE MILLAR.



11412 C ROTARY PHOTO, E.C.

MISS GERTIE MILLAR.

FOLKLORE & BATHING



Miss Gertie Millar



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MISS GERTIE MILLAR

FOLKLORE & BATHING

In the 20th century the most popular theatre
was
The Royal Opera House



Covent Garden

- The **Royal Opera House** is an opera house and major performing arts venue in the London district of Covent Garden. The large building is often referred to as simply "**Covent Garden**", after a previous use of the site of the opera house's original construction in 1732. It is the home of The Royal Opera, The Royal Ballet and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House. Originally called the Theatre Royal, it served primarily as a playhouse for the first hundred years of its history. In 1734 the first ballet was presented. A year later Handel's first season of operas began. Many of his operas and oratorios were specifically written for Covent Garden and had their premieres there.

The Davenant Patent



"Rich's Glory": John Rich takes over (seemingly invades) his new Covent Garden Theatre



A satirical drawing from 1811 of the "Pigeon Holes" that flanked the upper gallery at Covent Garden



The auditorium of the second theatre shortly after opening

Theatre in different years

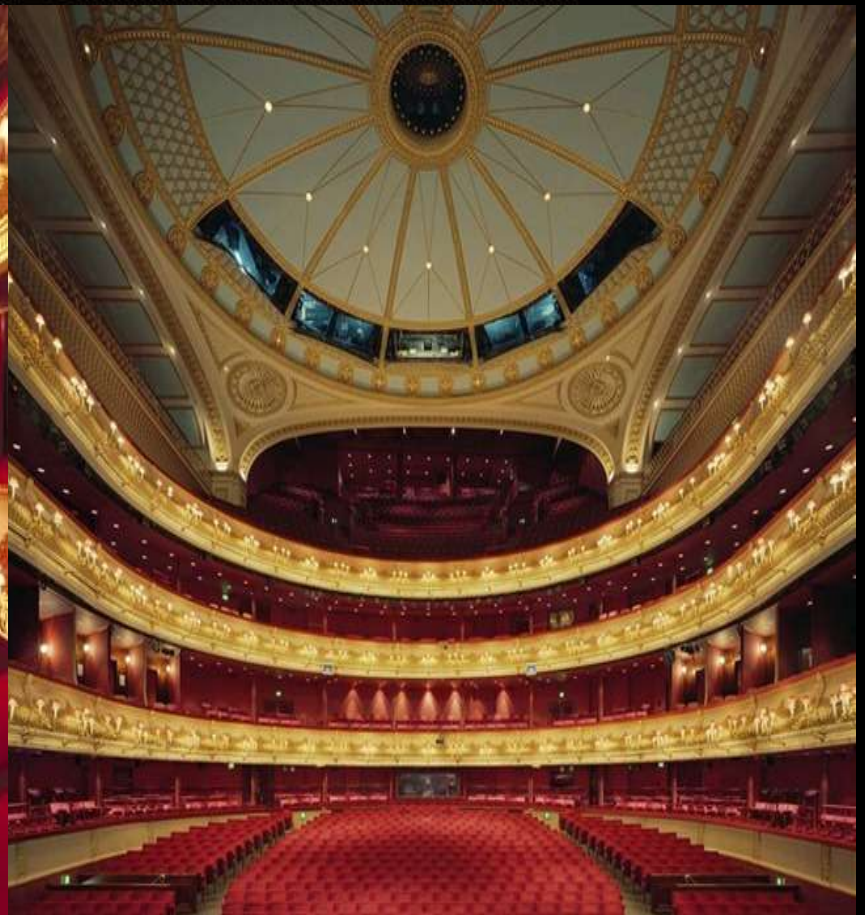




ROYAL OPERA HOUSE



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE



The End

Teacher: Kosheleva Svetlana Mikhailovna.
School # 204