

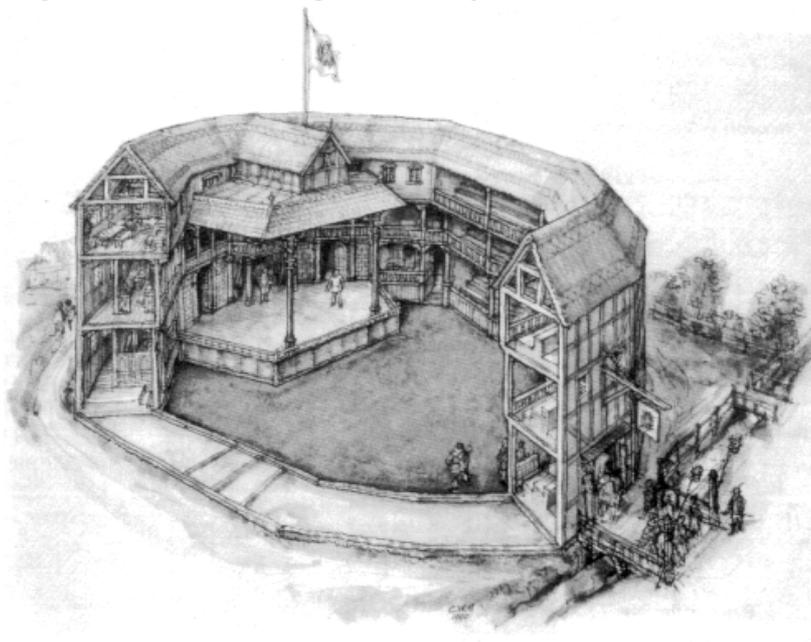
Henslowe's Five year old Playhouse undergoes major reconstruction

The Rose Theatre has undergone some major refurbishment and alteration although it is just five years old. The building has been enlarged to hold well over 2,000, and a roof has been placed over the stage. The rebuilding has cost £105 - and it is said that 54,000 nails have been used in the reconstruction.

The Rose, usually the home of the Admiral's Men and Edward Alleyn, is owned by Philip Henslowe. It has been leased on a short-term basis - February to May - to Lord Strange's Men who usually perform at the Theatre, north of the Thames. This temporary season played every day except Sundays and Good Friday, and no play was repeated two days running.

Henslowe has reported some of the box office takings: the March 3rd performance of "Henry VI" amounted to £3.16s.8d, with the overall income from 14 performances of this play amounting to £30. Other single performance takings include "Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay" (17s/3d), "Orlando Furioso" (17s/6d), "A Looking Glass for London" (7 shillings), while the performance of "The Jew of Malta" on 26th February took £2.10s.

The Admiral's Men will return to the Rose at the end of the Lord Strange's Men season.



Museum of London

*The re-constructed Rose as suggested by C. Walter Hodges,
The 20th Century Theatre Historian*

Lord Mayor Wants to Ban Playhouses

London's Lord Mayor has written to the Archbishop of Canterbury complaining about the number of players and playhouses in the City. He complains that theatre is corrupting youth, keeping them from their daily Christian devotions, and providing opportunities for prostitution and crime. He has appointed a committee of Aldermen to meet with Edmund Tilney, the Master of the Queen's Revels, to find ways to restrain theatrical activity.

The Lord Mayor is urging the Archbishop to support his anti-theatre crusade.

Riots and then Plague close Playhouses

1592: Following a riot by London Apprentices on 11 June, the authorities have temporarily closed all London's theatres. Protest meetings have been banned, but the apprentices gathered on the "pretence of their meeting at a play".

The ban on theatre performances extended through the summer and early autumn because of an outbreak of plague. Lord Strange's Men moved to the provinces for an extended tour, while Richard Burbage's company has moved out of town to the theatre at Newington Butts.

Better the Devil you know...

Christopher Marlowe's new play, "Dr Faustus" has had its first performances out of town because London's theatres are closed by plague. The tour included Exeter, where the audience fled after a rumour that the Devil himself suddenly appeared onstage to join actors portraying demons.

Alleyn Marries the Boss's Daughter

1592: The Henslowe/Alleyn theatrical partnership has been further cemented by the marriage of Edward Alleyn to Joan Woodward, his employer's step-daughter. Alleyn is second only to Richard Burbage as the most famous actor in the country, and Henslowe is the only serious rival to Burbage as a theatre manager.

Robert Greene Dies, Alcoholic & Destitute

Robert Greene has died, alcoholic and destitute. At the end of his life he had even been deserted by his mistress, Em Ball, who moved in with him after the death of her lover, Richard Tarlton. Em Ball was the mother of Greene's son, Fortunatus. Robert Greene's final writings include an attack on actors, especially on actors who dare to write their own plays. This is seen as a thinly veiled attack on William Shakespeare.

Greene, only 32 years old, has lived a life of dissipation ever since his days at Cambridge University. He was rejected by his well-to-do Norwich family because of his outlandish behaviour, and he joined Henslowe's company as an actor some seven years ago. He was famous for his outrageous clothes - usually coloured "goose-turd green" - and for styling his long red hair into a stiffened foot-high peak. He also stiffened his beard and wore pearls on the end of it.

He wrote eight plays, including the successful "Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay" and collaborated with many other writers, possibly including his arch-enemy, Shakespeare.