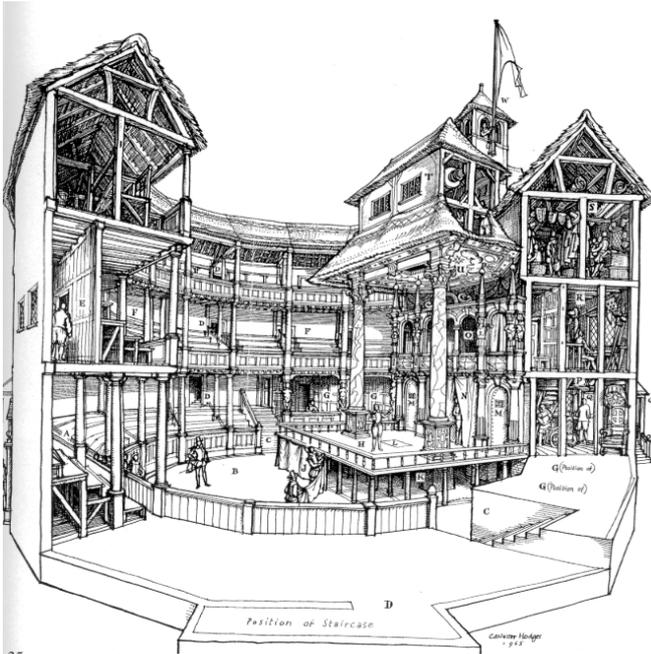


# GLOBE THEATRE OPENS ON SOUTH BANK



C. Walter Hodges & The Times



Guildhall Library

*The new Globe Playhouse— an interior re-construction (as pictured by C. Walter Hodges, the 20th Century Historian) and an exterior view (a detail from Norden's London Panorama of 1600).*

## Red Bull's Gallery Collapses

At a performance of a puppet show the Red Bull was so overcrowded that a gallery collapsed under the weight of the spectators. Many people are reported to be seriously injured, but it is not known if anyone was killed as a result of this accident. However, it has added another weapon to the armoury of those who oppose such public entertainments. So far their main attacks have concerned public morality. Now they can add public safety to their list.

Richard Burbage and twelve sturdy fellow workers moved quickly on December 28, 1598 to beat the restrictions on the lease of The Theatre in Shoreditch. The 21 year lease on the building was about to expire and the landholder, Giles Allen, had refused to extend it.

Richard Burbage claimed that the original lease said the timbers belonged to his father, James Burbage, and he had the right to remove them from the site at any time prior to the expiry of the lease. So, Richard did just that - he demolished the theatre piece by piece and transported it across London Bridge to a new site, just 100 yards away from the Rose Theatre.

The next seven months were spent in frantic building activity - re-assembling the timbers and improving the facilities for a new theatre which has now, in July 1599, opened as the Globe Theatre.

The new site has been acquired by Richard Burbage on a 31 year lease, and is clearly unwelcome competition for Henslowe's Rose Theatre, a very near neighbour.

The Globe had a triumphant opening with Shakespeare's "Henry V" and has been much praised for incorporating the very latest in theatre design.

## Globe hits Business at Rose and Newington Butts closes down

Business at the Rose has been patchy due to competition from the newly-opened Globe. With only a few years left on his lease, Philip Henslowe is in a quandary. His son-in-law, Edward Alleyn, has emerged temporarily from his retirement to help out with money, and they are both making plans for the eventual replacement of the Rose.

They have leased some land near Cripplegate for the purposes of building a new theatre once they lose control of the Rose.

Henslowe's Company has also acquired a new name, and are now known as Nottingham's Men, following the elevation to the peerage of their patron.

Meantime the "out-of-town" playhouse at Newington Butts seems to have closed permanently. It has never been a successful venue, and the attractions of the newly opened Globe would appear to have been the last straw.

## "War of the Poets" Begins

It all started when John Marston re-wrote his old play "Histriomastix" and changed the character of Chrisogamus so that it contained some of the peculiarities associated with Ben Jonson. Marston claimed he was a great admirer of Jonson's and that this was an affectionate tribute and a compliment.

However, Jonson, known to be very touchy, was not flattered. He was furious. He changed the character of Buffone in his own "Every Man in His Humour" so that it was a direct attack on Marston.

Now the fight was on. Marston hit back with "Jack Drum's Entertainment" - this time attacking Jonson's pomposity through the thinly veiled characterisation of Master Brabant Senior. Jonson's fury now widened, and his "Cynthia's Revels" ridiculed Marston and, for good measure, attacked Thomas Dekker as well. This was all highly entertaining for audiences, who began to pack the theatres for the latest episode in this ongoing and highly entertaining "war of the poets".