

The Elizabethan Age

and the Arts





Two areas that flourished during the Renaissance:

- Language: Many new words and terms were invented or reinvented
- Literature: For those who could read, it was a great way to pass the time.



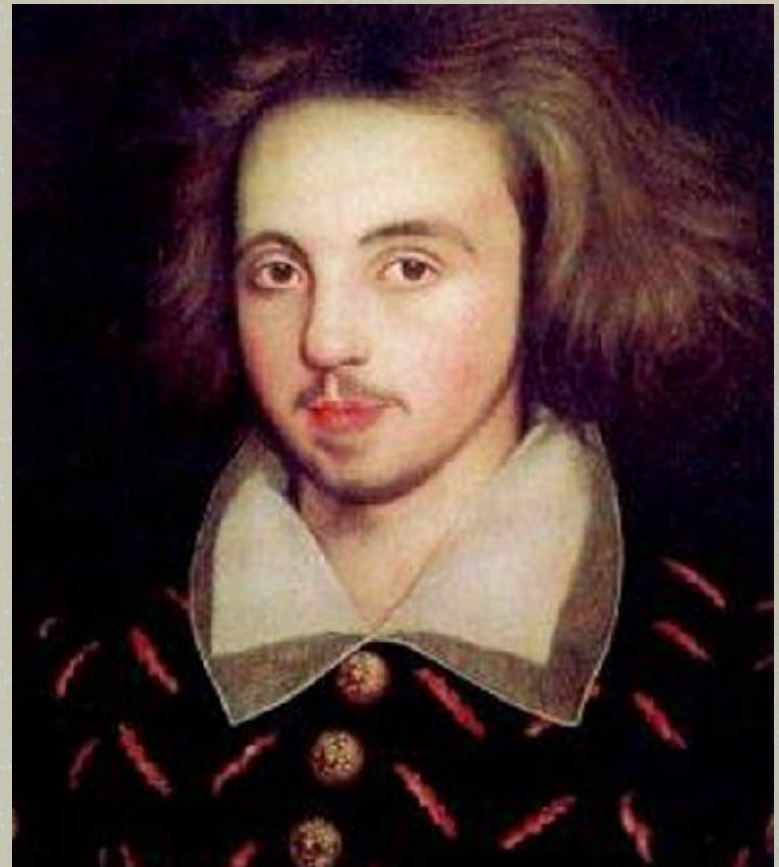
Influential Writers

of the Era



Christopher Marlowe

- One of the first playwrights to use iambic pentameter.
- He was the playwright for The Rose playhouse.





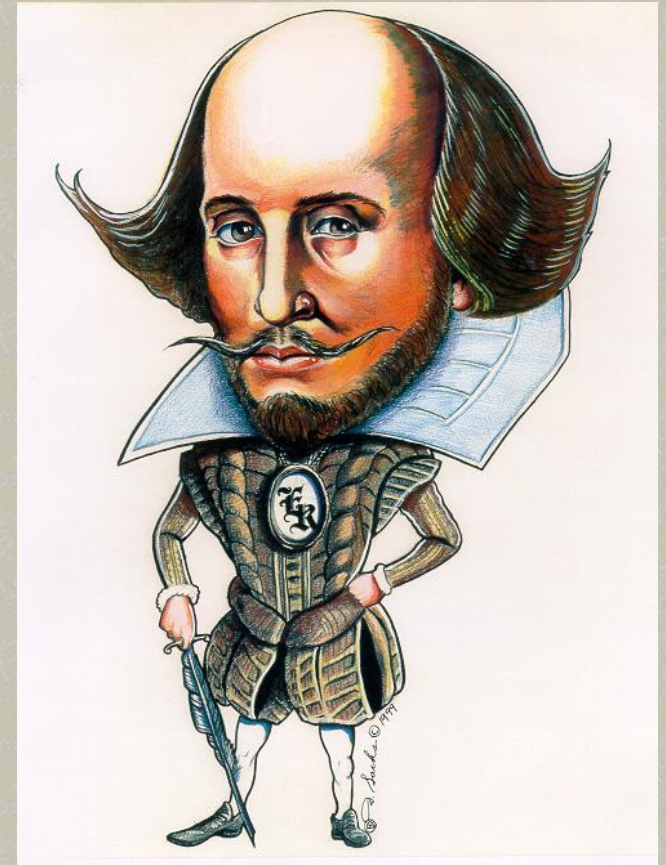
Edmund Spenser



- He was best known as a poet
- He wrote a poem called *The Faerie Queen* and dedicated it to Elizabeth I.

William Shakespeare

- He was regarded as a(n):
 - a. Poet
 - b. Playwright
 - c. Actor
 - d. Gentleman
- Dubbed the greatest dramatist of all time.
- He helped found and wrote plays for the Globe Theatre.





Elizabethan Actors

- Traveling actors often performed in:
 - a. Inns
 - b. Courtyards
- During the Elizabethan Era, acting changed from an amateur to a professional status.

Acting companies of the time period



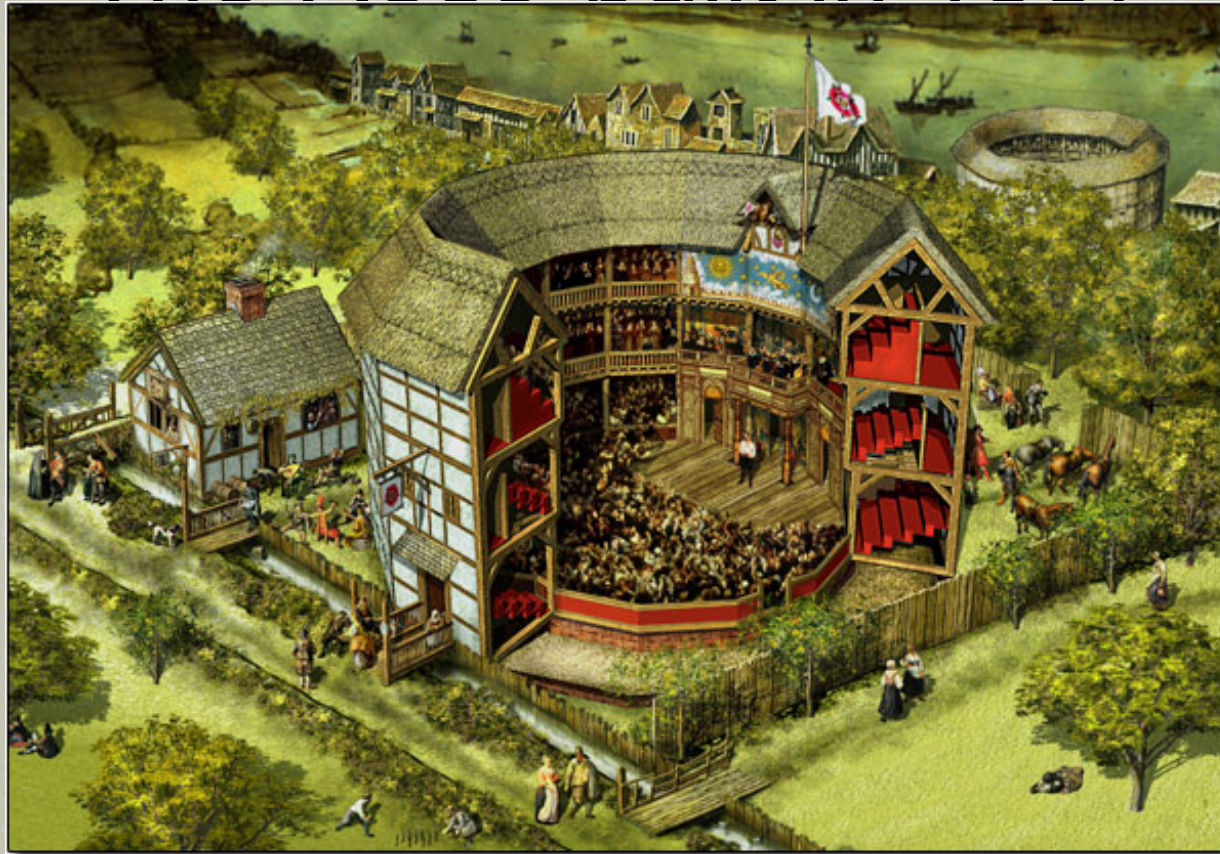
- Admiral's Men
- Lord Chamberlain's Men
- Queen's Men
- King's Men
- All companies were sponsored by a member of the Royal Court and that is how the acting companies got their names.



Theatre in the Elizabethan Age

- There were no permanent Theatre structures in England until 1576.
- The first “modern” theatre was built by James Burbage.
- He named it, appropriately enough, The Theatre.
- It became England’s first public playhouse.

Other Theatres of the
Elizabethan Age:
The Rose-built in 1587





The Swan built in 1595





The Globe built in 1599


- The Globe Theatre began as James Burbage's The Theatre.
- The landlord of the site where The Theatre made doing business difficult.
- In the middle of the night, a team of workers disassembled the entire structure, walked it across the Thames River, and put it back together.
- The Theatre was then renamed The Globe.
- A replica of this theatre still stands today.



Structure of a playhouse



- Playhouses were modeled after animal bating arenas.
- Most playhouses were built circular in shape.
- The center platform was a thrust type of stage.
- The roof was open air meaning there was no roof on the theatre.



Inside the playhouse

- The balconies were covered.
- Only the middle and upper classes could afford to sit here.
- Peasants were referred to as groundlings and stood on the ground.





Parts of the Elizabethan stage

- “The Heavens” was located in the roof of the acting area.
- It was painted to look like the sky.
- “Hell” was a trapdoor located on the floor of the stage.
- Little to no scenery was used during the performance of a play.





Flying a flag...early advertising



- A raised flag over a playhouse meant a play would be performed that day.
- Flag colors:
 - White = Comedy
 - Black = Tragedy
 - Red = History