

The Globe Theatre, London

The Globe was built during Shakespeare's early period for the Chamberlain's Men (end of 16th century until 1603), including their chief writer, William Shakespeare. The theatre had a total capacity of between 2,000 and 3,000 spectators. Because there was no lighting, all performances at the Globe were conducted, weather permitting, during the day. Because most of the Globe was open air, acoustics were poor and the actors were compelled by circumstances to shout their lines, stress their enunciation, and engage in exaggerated theatrical gestures.

The original structure of the Globe Theatre stood until 29 June, 1613, when its thatched roof was set ablaze by a cannon fired in a performance of Henry VIII and the Globe burned to the ground. The Globe was reconstructed in 1614. In 1642, the Puritan regime assumed power in England and closed down all of the country's theatres. Two years later, the Globe was demolished and tenement housing was built upon it.



1 Complete the chart with the required information.

1. Period of building	
2. Chief writer	
3. Time of performances	
4. Acoustics	
5. 29 June 1613	
6. Reconstruction	
7. Closure	
8. Demolition	

THE NEW GLOBE

The New Globe Theatre, built according to Elizabethan plans, was the creation of American actor and director Sam Wanamaker. The theatre, as designed by architect Theo Crosby, opened in 1997.

It is located on Bankside, about 183 meters from the original site. Similar to the original, the stage of the new Globe Theatre extends into a large circular yard, which is surrounded by three tiers of very steep seating. The most expensive seats are covered, while all the others are exposed, which is why plays are held here only during the summer months. While designers tried to remain as faithful to the old plans as possible, there are modern differences that are apparent. Lighting is high-tech, sprinklers are present everywhere, and there is a lobby and visitor centre for guests as well as an expanded backstage area for the actors and technical staff.



2 Complete the chart with the required information.

1. Opening	
2. Director	
3. Designer	
4. Location	
5. Form	
6. Seats	
7. Differences	
8. Backstage	