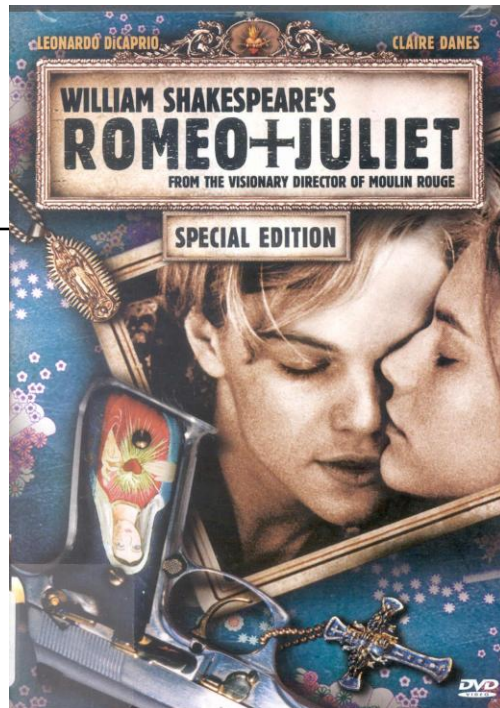
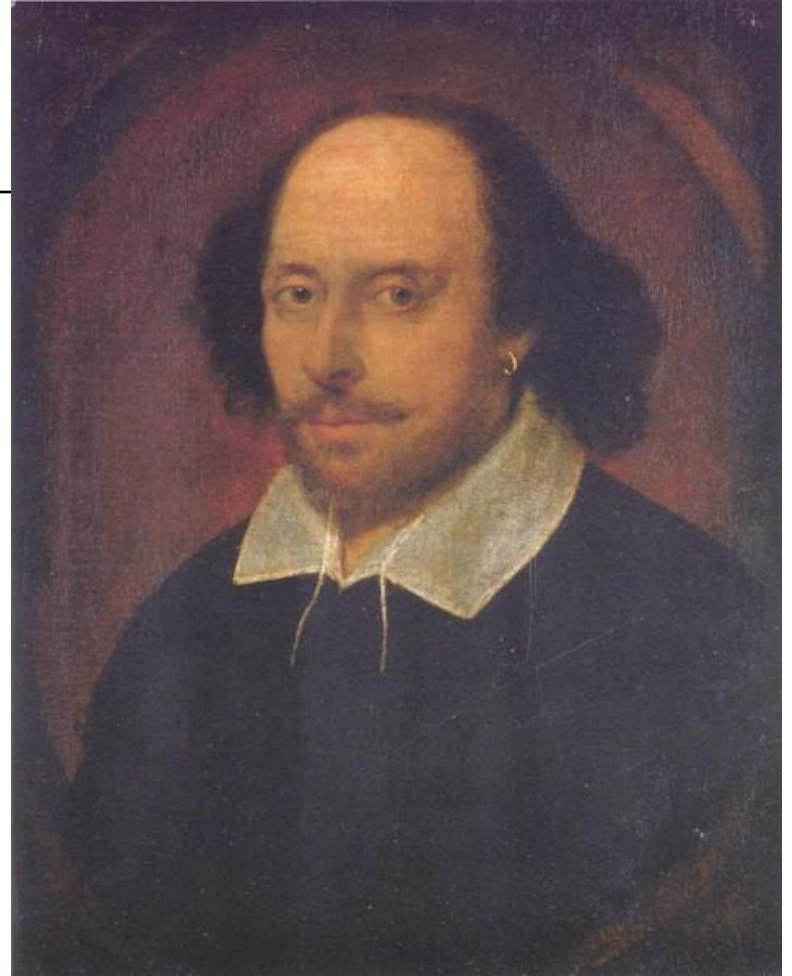


Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet



William Shakespeare

- ❑ Born in April 1564
- ❑ Born in Stratford-upon-Avon
- ❑ His parents: John Shakespeare and Mary Arden
- ❑ At age 18, married Anne Hathaway



William Shakespeare

- ❑ Had 3 children: Susanna, Judith and Hamnet (twins)
- ❑ By the early 1590's, he was established in London as both an actor and playwright
- ❑ Shakespeare died on or near April 23 in 1616.
- ❑ He was outlived by his wife and two daughters.
- ❑ Hamnet had died at age 11.



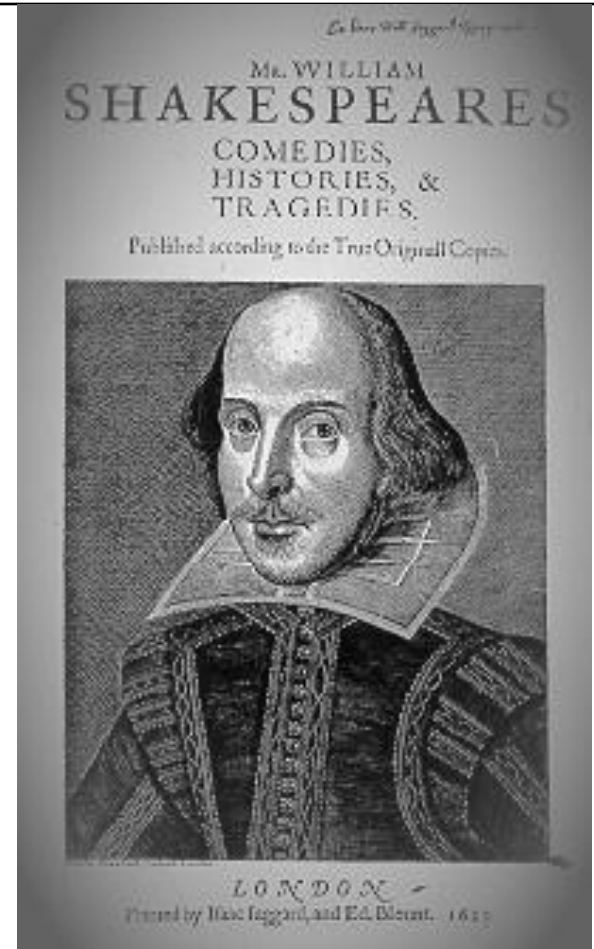
Shakespeare the Playwright



- A play in that time was often commissioned by an acting company which could then sell it to a publisher at its own discretion without further compensating the author.
- Shakespeare did not take part in the process of publishing his own plays.
- An important patron that supported Shakespeare was **Queen Elizabeth I**

Shakespeare the Playwright

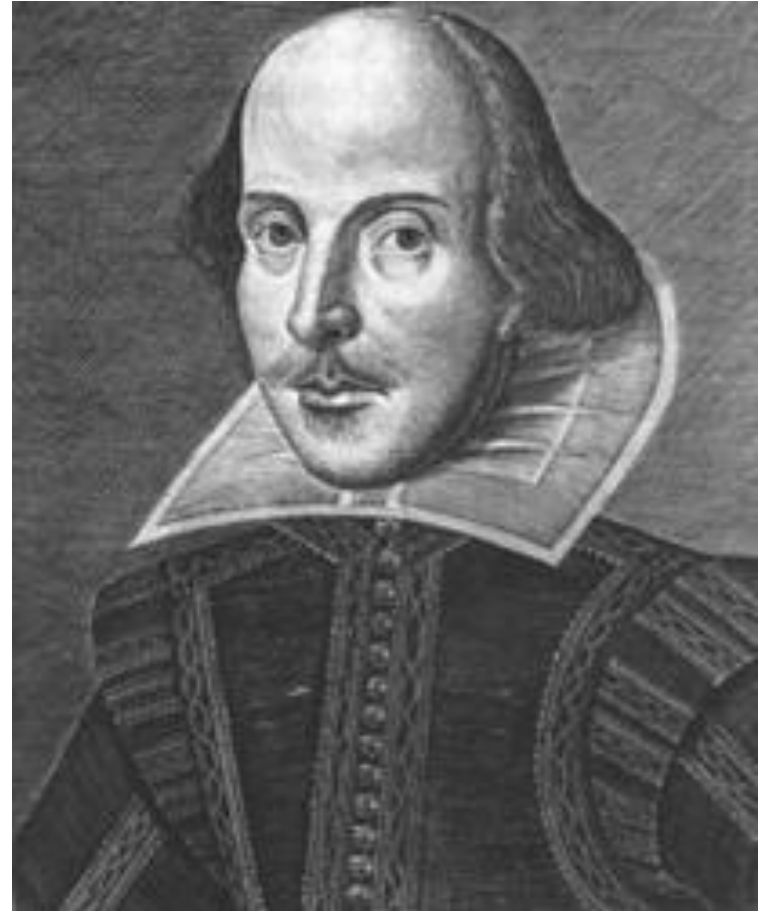
- ❑ In his lifetime alone, twenty publishers bought different editions of his individual plays but none took any special steps to ensure that the text was correct.
- ❑ His name was rarely printed on his work until the 1623 publication of the **First Folio** because it's use had little commercial value at the time.
- ❑ Shakespeare's First Folio was not published until 7 years after his death.



Shakespeare's Language

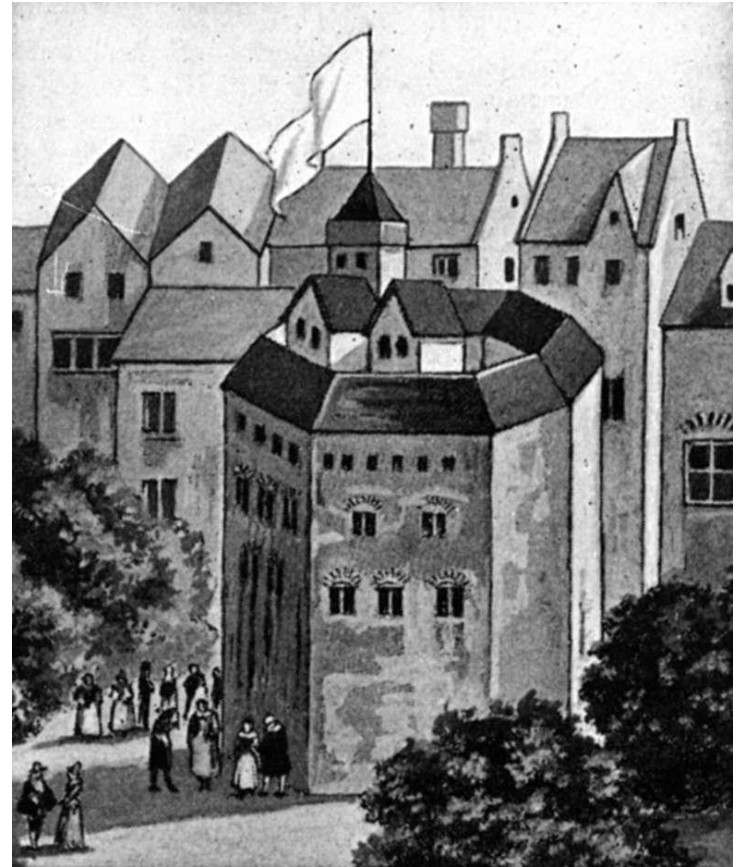
- Quest Resources

- So – Why didn't he write his plays in English???



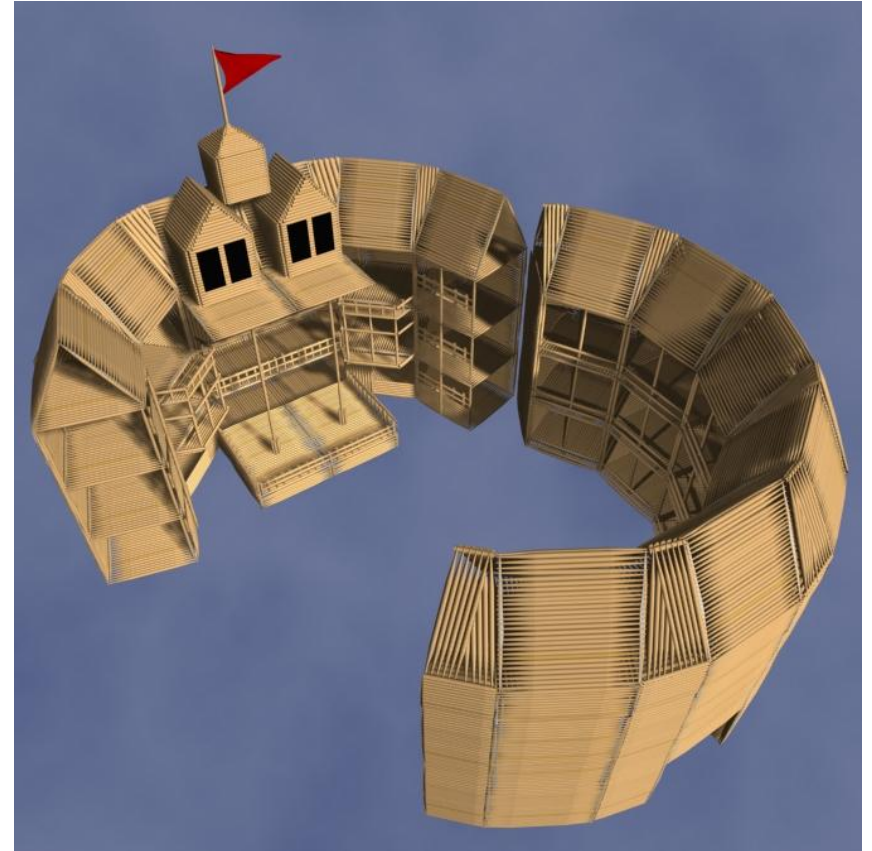
Globe Theater

- Built of wood, these theaters comprised three tiers of seats in a circular shape, with a stage area on one side of the circle.
- About 1,500 audience members could pay extra money to sit in the covered seating areas,
- While about 800 "groundlings" paid less money to stand in this open area before the stage.



Globe Theater

- ❑ Opened in 1599
- ❑ Burned down in 1613 – it was immediately rebuilt
- ❑ Closed by the Puritans in 1642
- ❑ In 1970, a trust was established to rebuild the theater
- ❑ Reconstruction began in 1987



•The stage itself was divided into **three levels:**

•**a main stage area** with doors at the rear and a curtained area in the back for "discovery scenes";

• an upper, canopied area called **"heaven"** for balcony scenes;

•**and an area under the stage** called **"hell,"** accessed by a trap door in the stage. There were dressing rooms located behind the stage, but no curtain in the front of the stage, which meant that scenes had to flow into each other, and "dead bodies" had to be dragged off.

Globe Theater – Stage



Women in the Theater

- ❑ **The public acting of women was prohibited** in the England of Shakespeare's time and so writers would often emphasize the femininity of their female characters so as to remove the necessity of an actual female in the role.
- ❑ Shakespeare was greatly responsible for roles in which female characters spent much of their time disguised as boys.
- ❑ **This helped to deflect attention from the fact that the part was actually played by a young boy.**



Setting

Two households, both
alike in dignity,
In fair Verona, where we
lay our scene,



Characters in Romeo & Juliet

□ House of Montague

- Lord Montague
- Lady Montague
- Romeo
- Benvolio
- Balthasar
- Abraham

□ House of Capulet

- Lord Capulet
- Lady Capulet
- Juliet
- Tybalt
- Nurse
- Peter
- Sampson
- Gregory

Characters in Romeo & Juliet

□ **The Royalty of Verona**

Prince Escalus

Mercutio

County Paris

The Catholic Church

Friar Lawrence

Friar John

Apothecary-(Means
Pharmacist– Minor
Character – Act V)





Themes in Romeo & Juliet

- ❑ Love
- ❑ Family Feud
- ❑ Hate
- ❑ Fate
- ❑ Power & Control



Themes - Love

- ❑ Lustful love (sexual pleasure)
- ❑ Infatuation (crushes)
- ❑ “Arranged” Love
- ❑ 100% Pure Love



Themes – Family Feud

- ❑ The feud between the Montagues and Capulets ends up killing their only two children.
- ❑ It was just an ancient feud: no one remembered how it started or bothered ending it.
- ❑ If the two families had just stopped feuding earlier, the lives of the two lovers could have been saved.



Themes - Hate

- ❑ The role of hatred also plays an important role in Romeo and Juliet.
- ❑ The hatred between the Montagues and Capulets ends up killing their only two children.
- ❑ Shakespeare tells us that it is senseless in fighting with someone just for the sake of fighting.

Themes - Fate

- ❑ Romeo and Juliet were "star-crossed lovers," as the prologue at the start of the play indicated. They had fate against them.
- ❑ In that time, people were very wary of what the stars said. If two people's stars were crossed in the sky, they would never remain together.
- ❑ Obviously, Romeo and Juliet didn't live happily ever after, as their death in the end showed.
- ❑ Fate was not on their side.



Themes – Power & Control

- ❑ People who act in a rash manner sometimes live to regret their actions.
- ❑ Children are often victims of their parents' inflexible decisions.
- ❑ Children do not understand that they sometimes need parental guidance.
- ❑ Positive and negative human emotions, love and hate, are so closely related that one often leads to the other.
- ❑ Suffering often causes alienation, but paradoxically it is often the only means that can bring people together.

Foreshadowing

- ❑ Basically, everyone can figure out what is going to happen to Romeo and Juliet.
- ❑ The prologue states that the "star-crossed lovers take their life." But as the play progresses, there are many subtle clues that confirm the fact that Romeo and Juliet will die.
- ❑ This is the literary device known as foreshadowing.
- ❑ Foreshadowing is the use of symbols to show what will happen in the future.