

Ten Fun Facts About Shakespeare's Theatre



1. It was acceptable to shout at an actor if you didn't think they were any good.
2. It was important to keep an eye on your money as cut-purses liked to steal a few pennies whilst the audience enjoyed the show. Money was kept in a leather pouch tied onto your belt. The cut-purse would try and snip these free if they found someone who looked like they were engrossed in the play.
3. If you didn't have a good view you could just push your way through the crowd until you had the view you wanted. It might be a bit of a struggle though as lots of other people would also be trying to see from the best spots.
4. Excluding the really exciting bits, the audience tended to be quite noisy during the performance so it was likely that you would not hear everything.
5. If you were a woman you would want to go to the theatre with some friends or a male companion. Otherwise it was likely for you to get teased and be made fun of.
6. You might see ambassadors and wealthy people at the theatre. The King or Queen, however, would never visit the theatre. When they wanted to see a play they would have the actors visit them and perform their show for them.
7. There were no female actors. All the roles were played by men. The younger men performed the lady's roles and the older men performed the men's roles.
8. You could buy food from people wandering through the audience during the play such as fruit or hazelnuts.
9. The theatre was next door to the bear-baiting pit which cost the same amount of money to attend as the theatre. In the bear-baiting pit you could watch bears and dogs fighting – sometimes to the death.
10. There were lots of fights and brawls after many performances so it was important to be careful leaving the theatre. Some young men liked to wait outside to see if they could pick a fight with the young apprentices after the show.