

Theatre in Shakespeare's time

The scene takes place inside, in a theatre. We can see the stage (= la scene) and the comedians. The audience (=le public) seems angry : people are insulting the comedians ("rubbish, get off") and they are throwing rotten fruit towards the stage. There are groundlings and gallery seatings. There is no roof (= toit). There are musicians.

This theatre is Shakespeare's theatre : the Globe. The Globe was built in 1599 on the river Thames in London. It was circular and it was nicknamed "the wooden O"

The Gallery seatings:

Rich people used to sit on benches at the top of the theatre. They had to pay 2 pence (or 3 pence to have a cushion- = un coussin) They could be protected from the rain (they could watch the play without getting wet if it was raining)

The groundlings :

Poor people had to stand in front of the stage (the pit = la fosse). They had to pay 1 penny to watch the play. It was less comfortable.

During Shakespeare's time, the spectators had to react to the play : they could cheer or boo the actors. They could throw rotten fruits at them.

The plays had to be performed during the day because there was no electricity.

the audience = le public

throw..... at somebody = jeter ... à quelqu'un

rotten = pourri

cheer = encourager, applaudir

boo = siffler, huer

perform a play = jouer une pièce de théâtre