Shakespeare’s Globe Archive:
Theatres, Players and Performance
A Digital Resource
Overview

Renowned worldwide for the iconic reconstruction of the original Globe Theatre, Shakespeare’s Globe celebrates William Shakespeare through the power of performance to make his work accessible to all.

From architectural plans to costume designs, prompt books and programmes, the digitised archive of Shakespeare’s Globe offers researchers a comprehensive insight into performance practice in this unique theatre space.

Documenting over 200 productions from 1997-2016, this digital collection is a critical resource for the study of Shakespeare, theatre, cultural history and early-modern literature.

“A vital resource for scholars and students interested in contemporary performances of Shakespeare’s plays. This collection offers new perspectives for thinking about how performances at Shakespeare’s Globe work.”

Susan Bennett,
Professor of English, University of Calgary

About the Archive

Shakespeare’s Globe was opened in 1997 and conceived as a project decades earlier by the actor and producer Sam Wanamaker. It is the result of painstaking academic research and represents as accurate a reconstruction of the 1599 Globe as evidence offers.

The archive and library specialise in Shakespeare in performance and document the process of performance at Globe theatres as well as touring productions.
Collection Highlights

- From inception to completion, track the journey of Sam Wanamaker’s dream to reconstruct the Globe through architectural plans, photographs and research.
- Prompt Books and Wardrobe Notes for Original Practice performances.
- Early-modern and contemporary musical scores, including compositions by the award-winning composer Claire van Kampen.
- Oral Histories offer reminiscences on the genesis of the reconstructed Globe.

Material Types

- Prompt Books
- Wardrobe Notes & Jottings
- Programmes
- Architectural Material
- June Everett Artwork
- Annual Reports
- Around the Globe
- Show Reports
- Posters
- Performance Photographs
- Globe Research
- Music Archive
- Props
- Oral Histories
Shakespeare's Globe Archive offers insights into performance practice in the particular space and playing conditions of the reconstructed Globe Theatre.

Key Themes

- Theatre Studies
- English Literature
- Performance
- Shakespeare Studies
- Early-Modern Literature
- Cultural History

“A treasure trove of material for theatre scholarship, documenting the pioneering artistic practice at Shakespeare's Globe. Wide-ranging and accessible, this resource is sure to open up the study of this important period of modern theatre history in new and unexpected ways.”

Stephen Purcell, Associate Professor of English, University of Warwick

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