

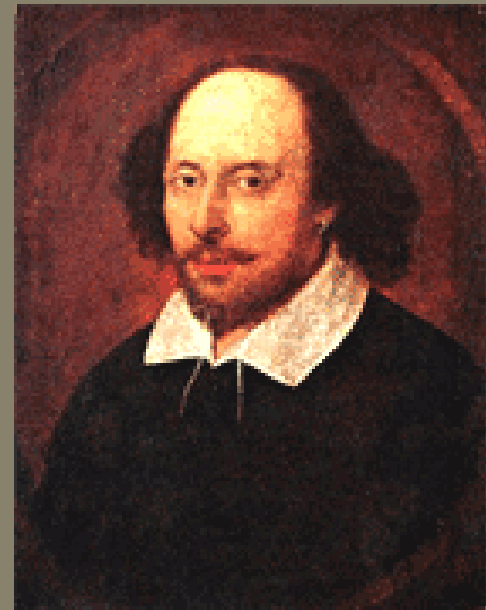
Romeo and Juliet

A decorative architectural frame in a light gray color. It features a horizontal top bar with a row of small, semi-circular decorative elements along its bottom edge. The frame is supported by two vertical columns on the left and right sides, each with a spiral capital at the top and three vertical flutes. The text is centered within the frame.

An Introduction to Shakespeare

William Shakespeare

- ◆ Shakespeare wrote 37 plays.
- ◆ His first play was performed in 1592.



Shakespeare's Stages

◆ Troupes

- ◆ Groups of actors who travel from town to town and put on plays for the local people.
- ◆ Usually performed in courtyards using wagons as stages.

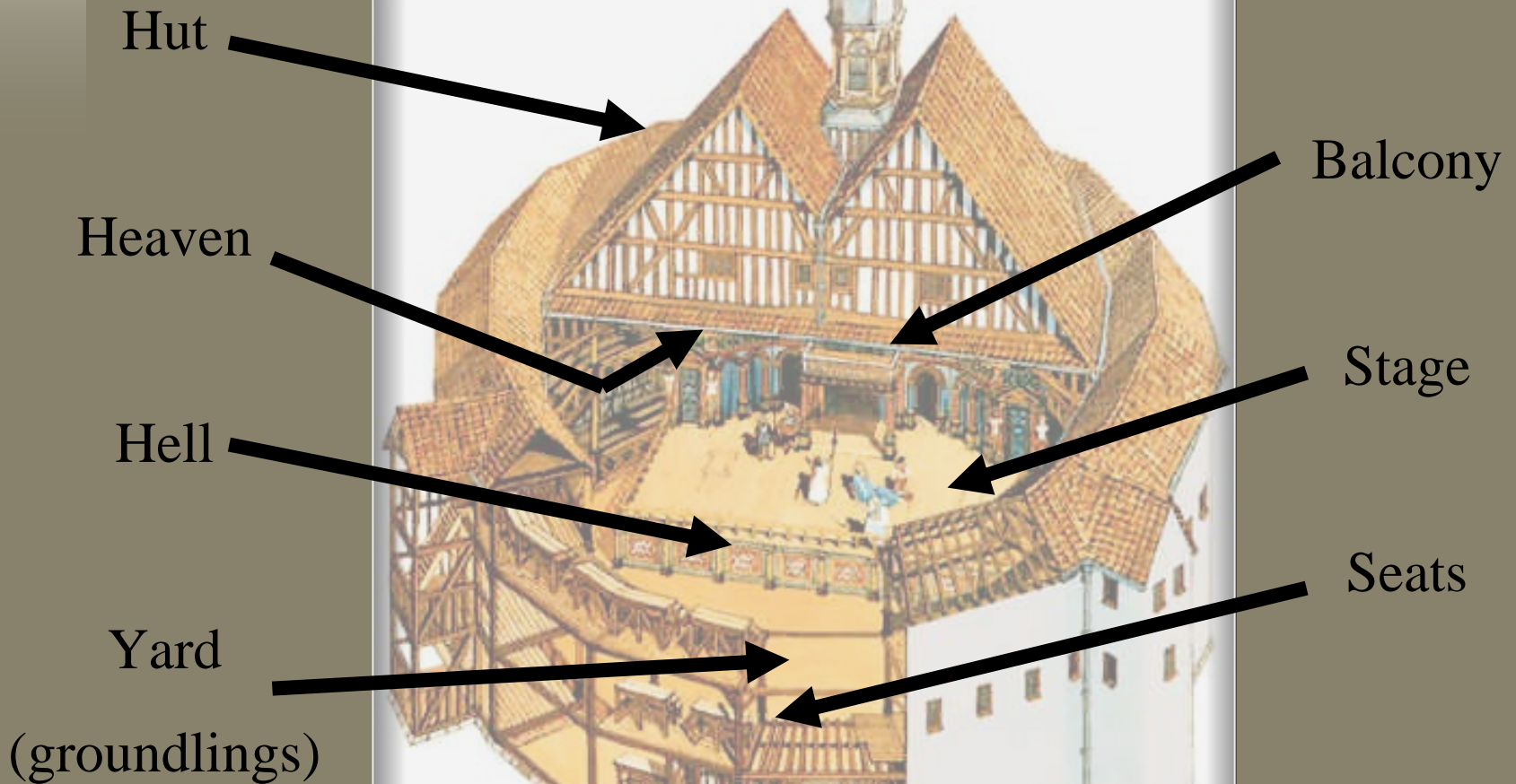


The Globe Theatre

- ◆ Shakespeare's first theatre was the Globe.
 - ◆ Circular
 - ◆ Wooden
 - ◆ Allowed Shakespeare to stay in one place and perform all his plays in London.



The Globe (continued)



The Globe Seats

- ◆ Sitting was more expensive than standing.
- ◆ Usually only wealthy people bought seats.



The Groundlings

- ◆ Groundlings were the people who paid less money to stand and watch the play.
- ◆ These were poor, uneducated people who often made rude comments.



The Stage

- ◆ “Heaven” was a trapdoor in the Hut where Angels, ghosts, and gods could be raised and lowered using ropes.
- ◆ “Hell” was a trapdoor in the floor of the stage where demons and ghosts could mysteriously rise up from beneath the actors.

The Actors

- ◆ Actors were always men or boys.
 - ◆ Boys whose voices hadn't changed would often play women's roles.
 - ◆ The idea of female actors was more shocking to people during Shakespeare's time than the idea of men wearing women's clothes.

The Stage (continued)

- ◆ A balcony high above the stage allowed actors to get up off the stage floor and act out scenes like the balcony scene in Romeo and Juliet.

