English Renaissance Theatre History
Who Wrote.....?

• Hamlet
• Romeo and Juliet
• A Midsummer Night’s Dream
• The Scottish Play
• **Inn-yard**: Courtyard of Carrier Inn, served as stages for early English dramas
Beargarden: Ring where packs of dogs were released to maul chained bears or bulls, early theatre also performed here
• **The Red Lion**: First purpose built theatre in Europe during the Renaissance (1567)

• **The Theatre**: The second permanent theatre build in London, First to be successful (1576)
• **Master of the Revels:** Office designed to oversee royal festivities, became responsible for stage censorship, and sponsoring theatre.
• Playing Company: troupe of actors, often tied directly to a member of the royalty
• **Royal Patent**: License to perform theatre, granted by the nobility to a playing company

• **Earl of Leicester’s Men**: First major playing company in London, granted first royal patent
• **Lord Chamberlain’s Men**: playing company in which William Shakespeare acted and wrote plays (*became King’s Men*)
• **James Burbage:** Actor and leader of the Earl of Leicester’s Men.

• **Richard Burbage:** Actor, son of James Burbage, was the first to play many of Shakespeare’s leading roles
• **Bankside**: Southern bank of the River Thames, theatre district of English Renaissance
• **Swan Theatre**: Only picture of the inside of an Elizabethan Theatre
• **Globe Theatre:** Bankside theatre built by Lord Chamberlain’s Men, became closely associated with William Shakespeare
• **Groundling**: Poor person who paid a penny to stand and watch a production
• **Break a leg**: means good luck. In Elizabethan theatres, if an actor was very good, a groundling might be entranced and drool on the stage, and the actor might slip on this spot and ‘break a leg.’
**Odin**

- Set in America, Odin is only black player on his college basketball team.
- Odin (Mekhi Pfifer) is dating Desi (Julia Stiles), daughter of dean.
- Odin’s best friend is Hugo (Josh Hartnett)
  - Hugo is jealous of Odin’s popularity, plans revenge by making Odin think that Desi cheated on him.
- Odin goes crazy with jealousy, loses Desi and his starting spot.

**Othello**

- Set in Venice, Othello is the only black general in the army.
- Othello is married to Desdemona, (white) daughter of Brabantio.
- Othello’s first lieutenant and friend is Iago.
  - Iago is jealous of Othello’s position and his love, plots revenge by making Othello think Desdemona is cheating
- Othello goes crazy, kills Desdemona.
West Side Story
- Set in 1950’s NY, warring gangs Jets (white) and Sharks (Puerto Ricans)
- Maria is betrothed to Chino.
- Tony (Jet) meets Maria (Shark) at a dance.
- Tony serenades Maria on a fire escape.
  - In a big fight, Bernardo (Maria’s brother) kills Tony’s best friend Riff, Tony kills Bernardo in revenge.
  - Tony is killed by Chino.

Romeo and Juliet
- Set in Verona, feuding families Montagues and Capulets.
  - Juliet is betrothed to Paris.
  - Romeo (Montague) meets Juliet (Capulet) at a party.
  - Romeo woos Juliet on her balcony.
  - In a big fight, Tybalt (Juliet’s cousin) kills Romeo’s best friend Mercutio, Romeo kills Tybalt in revenge.
  - Romeo, believing Juliet is dead, drinks poison. Juliet, seeing him dead, kills herself in grief.
10 things I hate about you

How do I loathe thee? Let me count the ways.
10 Things I Hate About You

- Set in Padua High School
- Kat (Julia Stiles) and her sister Bianca (Larisa Oleynik) are daughters of Walter.
- Bianca cannot date until Kat dates.
- Patrick (initially) agrees to take Kat on a date because he wants to win a bet.
- Patrick (Heath Ledger) wants to date Kat, and Cameron (Joseph Gordon Levitt) wants to date Bianca.

Taming of the Shrew

- Set in Padua
- Katherina (the shrew) and her sister, Bianca, are daughters of Baptista Minola.
- Bianca cannot marry until Katherina weds.
- Petruchio (initially) accepts challenge to marry Katherina because of the large dowry.
- Petruchio falls in love with Katherina, and Lutensio falls in love with Bianca.
She's the Man

Duke wants Olivia who likes Sebastian who is really Viola whose brother is dating Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montague so sensitive Olivia who is really Sebastian whose brother is Montagu...
She’s the Man
• Viola (Amanda Bynes) joins the boy’s soccer team at Illyria high school, dressed as her twin brother Sebastian
• Viola (as Sebastian) rooms with Duke Orsino (Channing Tatum)
  • Duke likes Sebastian’s lab partner, Olivia
• Olivia has a crush on Sebastian
• Viola falls in love with Duke
• The real Sebastian shows up, Olivia falls for him.
• Viola and Duke end up together.

Twelfth Night
• Viola is shipwrecked on Illyria, thinks brother Sebastian is dead
• Dresses as a young boy (Cesario), takes a job as page for Duke Orsino
• Orsino is in love with Lady Olivia
• Olivia falls in love with Cesario (really Viola)
• Viola falls in love with Duke Orsino
• Sebastian (actually alive) shows up, Olivia falls for him.
• Viola and Duke end up together.
THE LION KING
2-Disc Special Edition

FEATURING AN ALL-NEW SONG
The Lion King
• Mufasa, leader of the tribe, is murdered by his brother Scar
• Mufasa’s spirit comes to his son, Simba, and tell him to avenge the murder, take his place as leader.
• Simba is aided by his childhood friends, Timon and Pumba
• Simba returns home, Scar is killed in battle.

Hamlet
• King Hamlet is murdered by his brother Claudius
• King Hamlet’s ghost comes to his son, Hamlet, and tells him to avenge the murder, take his place as King.
• Hamlet’s childhood friends, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern
• Hamlet returns home, Claudius is killed while watching a fencing match (along with many other characters)
The First Folio: earliest full collection of Shakespeare’s plays, published seven years after his death.
• **Masque**: musical production in later English Renaissance, characterized by very elaborate costumes and sets

• **Ben Jonson**: leading playwright of masques
**Inigo Jones**: Major British architect, also first significant set and costume designer of masques.
• **Salmacida Spolia**: last masque performed before outbreak of English Civil War, focused on the ‘Divine Right of Kings’

• **Divine Right of Kings**: idea that rulers power came from God, power was absolute
Interregnum: Period between Kings (1649-1660), Parliament ruled England, banned theatre
Charles II: King of England, instated after Interregnum, helped restore theatre to England
**Property (prop):** small item that actors carry onto the stage

**Strike:** to dismantle the set and remove it from the stage

**Off Book:** the date the actors of a show have all of their lines/blocking memorized