

## Renaissance Theatre-Going Questions and Answers

Mathew Wotton is a young stationer in Fleet Street. He visits the Globe Theatre to see if there are any plays he would like to publish. If he likes a play he will see if he can get the rights to publish it. A good play in a small Quarto edition could make him a lot of money. However, he has some questions about how to behave in the theatre.

See if you can help him with his questions.

1. I am visiting the Globe Theatre. Can you tell me what time the play starts?
2. I only have 2 pennies spare. Can I afford to visit the theatre?
3. The weather does not look too great. What shall I do if it rains?
4. Will there be an interval when I can buy some ale?
5. I am quite hungry. Can I eat whilst I watch the show?
6. Where can I leave my cloak and purse during the performance?
7. What if I need to use the toilet during the performance?
8. What if I don't like the play?



Alexander Cooke

## Answers

1. I am visiting the Globe Theatre. Can you tell me what time the play starts?

Plays in the outdoor Globe Theatre started at 2pm in the afternoon. You can tell when there is a play on that day because they fly the flag.

2. I only have 2 pennies spare. Can I afford to visit the theatre?

Yes and you can even afford to sit or stand in the galleries if you want to spend both your pennies. If you only want to spend 1 penny you can stand in the yard.

3. The weather does not look too great. What shall I do if it rains?

If you are standing in the yard and it starts to rain you can pay your extra penny to gain admittance to the galleries. If you don't have any money you will just have to get wet, but you won't be the only one.

4. Will there be an interval when I can buy some ale?

No there is no interval. However, the play will not be too long, probably just over 2 hours.

5. I am quite hungry. Can I eat whilst I watch the show?

Yes and if you want something more you can stop a fruit-seller as they move amongst the audience and buy whatever is for sale. It might be fruit or nuts. When you have finished just throw the shells or peel on the floor.

6. Where can I leave my cloak and purse during the performance?

You will have to keep them with you. Your cloak will keep you warm outdoors and I would keep a very close eye on your purse, pick-pockets love to visit the theatre and steal people's pennies whilst they are watching the show.

7. What if I need to use the toilet during the performance?

You can just go outside if you really need to, but there are no public toilets you just have to go where you can.

8. What if I don't like the play?

Just leave whenever you like – no one is making you stay.

