

How to Play

Seating the Audience

Nicholas has been asked to show the audience members to their places in the theatre. He has a lot to learn about Renaissance Theatre. The first screen you see shows the theatre-goers gathered outside the theatre – explore the scene by clicking on a character to find out more about them and then choosing the option to take them to their place.

Discuss where each person might sit and then click to place them into the theatre map. Get it wrong and you get insulted by Burbage – but also get a clue as to where they should really sit.

Once Nicholas has seated the theatre-goers and the play begins he must deal with some difficult behaviour inside the theatre itself. Discuss what he should do and learn about manners in the public playhouse.

The game ends with Nicholas being promised an acting lesson ...

Suggestions for use:

This game is simple to play as a whole class activity – you might take a vote on where to seat people.

A fun extension activity to do in class would be to give out character cards from the handouts section and to rearrange your classroom like a public theatre and try to decide where each person would have sat. Ask pupils to stay in character as they choose where to sit or justify their choices. Remember there are no hard and fast rules – a man like John Howe might have sat in the gallery if he was feeling rich that week or stood in the yard on another day.

Before or after the game try the Renaissance Theatre going Q and A exercise – a kind of time traveller's guide to 1601 theatre-going! You could also have pupils write a guide for a Tudor gentleman to visiting the modern theatre. If he didn't get some advice he would behave pretty rudely by modern standards.

