

U3A Visit to the Globe.

On November 16th, a party of U3A members and friends visited the Globe and Rose Theatres on London's South Bank.

On arrival at the Globe, we were able to spend time perusing the exhibition. This was a fascinating glimpse, not only of the history of Shakespeare's Globe, but also of many of the productions, which the Globe has staged. Particularly interesting were a number of videos found at various points in the exhibition, notably one of Mark Rylance (first Artistic director) being made up and dressed as Cleopatra. The finished product was incredible and utterly believable – what can be done with make-up and costume is amazing.

Next, we were given a real treat, when the costume department dressed one of our members as Ophelia, in authentic Shakespearean garb. Thanks go to Maggie, who was an excellent model and withstood the weight of the outfit (including some very scratchy looking stockings) with fortitude!

We were then met by our guide, who accompanied us on a tour of the Globe. He proved to be a real entertainer – very knowledgeable, but also a great raconteur, regaling us with tales of Judy Dench, Jane Lapatoire as Elizabeth I and even a visit by Elizabeth II. The splendour of the Globe is awe inspiring and we were all thrilled by the very believable marble columns, the impressive backdrop and the sheer authenticity of this recreation of Shakespeare's theatre. It was very easy to imagine ourselves as an Elizabethan audience, shouting at and cheering the actors, while crushing the nutshells beneath our feet.

Our guide then took us to the site of the Rose Theatre. Entering this small, dark space had an almost reverend feel – it was so moving to tread the same ground as famous Elizabethan actors like Richard Burbage and even Shakespeare himself.

The backdrop of the Globe is the Thames, of course, and the magical quality of London's Christmas lights along the River and in the City itself was the icing on the cake of our visit. Thank you so much to Paul and Sue Young for organising such a successful and extremely enjoyable day out.

See Pictures of our trip below! (4 photos)







