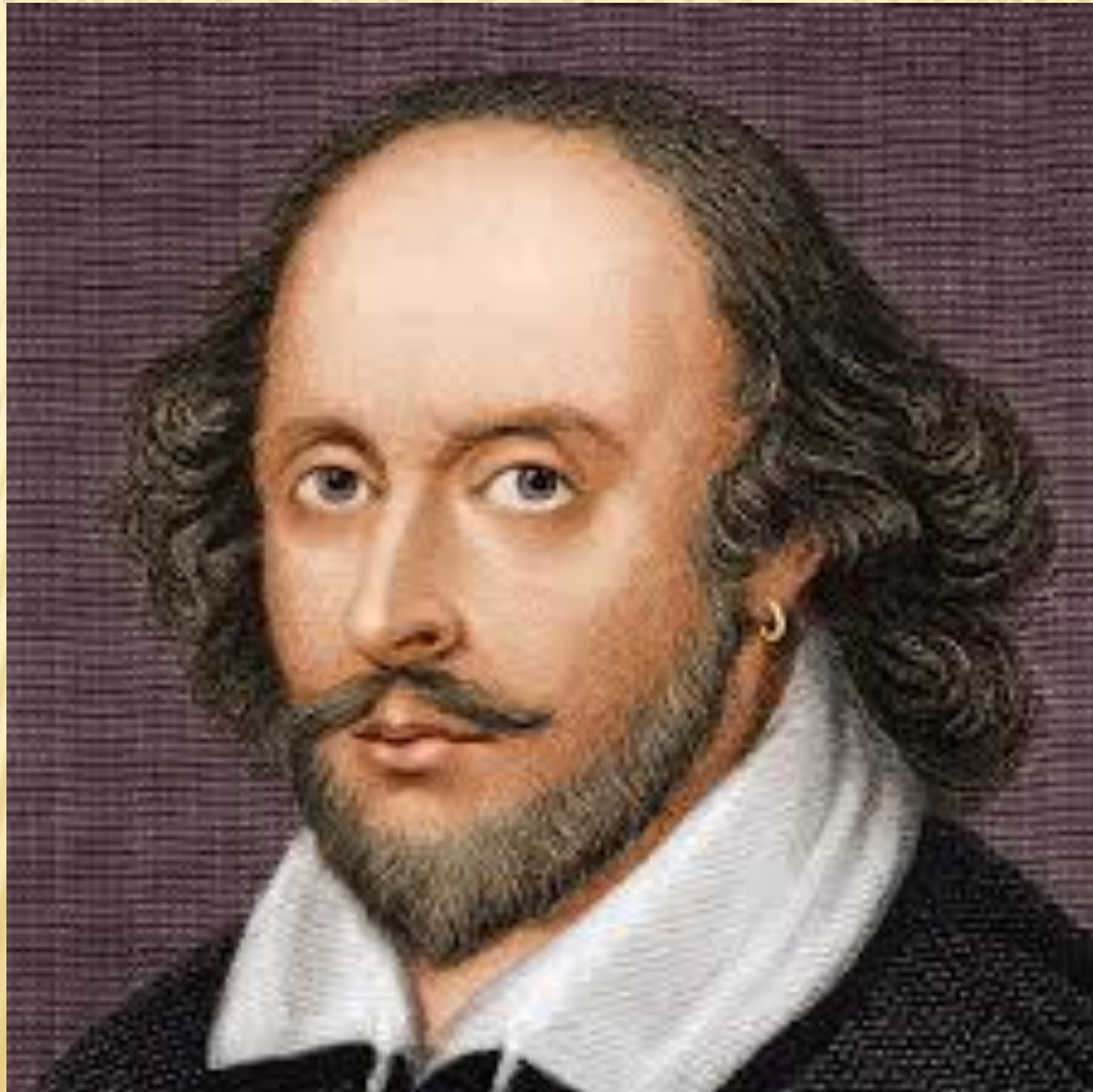


# WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE - HAMLET



# WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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1564: William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon; he was baptized on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1564.

1582: At the age of 18, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway – she is two months pregnant with his child.

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1583: birth of first child, Susanna

1585: birth of twins: Hamnet and Judith

1596: death of Hamnet, age 11, of Bubonic  
Plague



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1597: about 15 of Shakespeare's 37 plays have already been performed for the public.

1616: Shakespeare dies on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. He is buried at the Holy Trinity Church in Stratford.

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1670: Shakespeare's direct line of descendants ends with the death of his granddaughter.

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- England's most famous playwright.
  - World's greatest writer in the English language.
  - His plays are more widely translated than any other works except the Bible.



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- Most of his life remains something of a mystery.
  - He did not come from a noble family.
  - He grew up in what would be considered a middle class family.
  - His father was a glove maker (and other leather works) and served as a “mayor” of Stratford.

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- Unlike most writers of his day, he did not attend college (married Anne Hathaway at 18).
  - Moved to London – worked as an actor and playwright.
  - Became a member of the Lord Chamberlain’s Men (later called the “King’s Men”), a company of actors.
  - Shakespeare’s plays helped to make the company successful.



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- by 1600, London had more playhouses (theaters) than any other place in Europe.
  - Through his success as an actor, playwright, and a real estate investor, Shakespeare became quite wealthy.
  - 1608 – Shakespeare acted less & spent more time writing.
  - He wrote no plays after 1613
  - Died in 1616.

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- During this time, women were not allowed to perform. All the actors were male, with young boys usually playing the female roles.
  - With the Renaissance, most plays fell into two main categories: comedies and tragedies. Shakespeare's tragedies are most often cited as his greatest works.



# GLOBE THEATER



Photo Credit: Tom Green



