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All the world's a stage *UPEI students visit The Globe Theatre*

By CINDY VENEMA

The words of Shakespeare are continually being resurrected in movies and plays, and now the very stage on which Shakespeare presented his words has also been resurrected and given new life.

UPEI, due to the efforts of Dr. Shannon Murray, participated in the construction of the new Globe Theatre by donating \$1,400 to the "Help Raise the Heavens" campaign. The money was raised last year through a very successful Bardathon.

This donation made UPEI a Globe-Link school, earning the university three time-capsules. Every \$500 donation "bought" a time-capsule to bury under the Globe Theatre's stage. This ceremonial burial recently occurred; however, the occasion did not pass without UPEI's presence.

Once again the efforts of Dr. Shannon Murray enabled UPEI to play a small part in the Globe Theatre. A group of 26 students and faculty travelled to London, England from February 21 to March 1.

The trip allowed the travellers to visit the sites of England, to take in a couple of plays performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company, such as *Macbeth*, but most importantly, the UPEI tourists got to witness the time-capsule burial.

Sealed in a lead box in a

room below the stage called the undercroft, there will remain UPEI's time-capsule until the day of "unveiling". The date for this anticipated re-opening is still being debated. Three suggested dates are 50 years from the opening of the Globe; 500 years after the birth of Shakespeare; or 500 years after the first Globe was built.

Until the capsules are unearthed, they will protect select items from Canada's smallest province. Such items include: a two dollar bill, a ferry receipt from the Abegweit, the Charlottetown *Guardian* article about the event, a UPEI calendar, and sand from the North and South Shores.

The members of UPEI were given royal treatment during their visit to the Globe Theatre. One UPEI guest, Cathy Gillan, voiced her surprise at the extreme hospitality, stating, "I was very impressed by how much recognition we were given for a relatively small gift".

This personal recognition given to the Canadian guests included a guided tour of the theatre. Escorted by an aspiring young actor, the UPEI group learned information about the Globe that is not included in a regular tour.

The actor explained to his guests that performing on the new stage is different. They are experimenting with a way in playing Shakespeare that has not been done in close to

400 years.

Unlike most theatres where the best seats in the house are in the front, the Globe's best seats are on the sides of the stage. Therefore, the stage is described as transverse and the actors have to learn to pay attention to the audience on the side.

Another difference about acting at the Globe is the audience interaction. While the actors know the audience of the Globe would interact with the play, they did not expect the level of interaction

received, such as loudly booing the bad guys and enthusiastically cheering the good guys.

Dr. Murray found the visit "extraordinarily moving. This is a thing we read about and see sketches, but to be actually standing there where they will be performing...". And now UPEI will always be a part of this remarkable connection to Shakespeare.

Kathryn Brown, another UPEI Globe-traveller, awed by the grandeur of the theatre, stated, "I can only

imagine just how wonderful and vibrant the productions of Shakespeare will be when performed on this stage".

The official opening for the Globe Theatre is June 8. On this day, the Globe-Link schools will be honoured by burying the final time-capsules, unveiling the heavens, and staging a special performance of *Henry V*. Unfortunately, UPEI cannot arrange another group trip to go see this ceremony, but, according to Dr. Murray, "We will be there in spirit".

