

**Globe Theatre. London: Saturday 18th September 1999** by  
Terry Harris

Our 32 thespian lovers were “slowly” coached on the M4 cycle path from 4 pick up points between Peasedown (11.30 a.m.) and Bath (12.30 p.m.) to London, arriving 3.30 p.m., later than expected due to M4 barriers & heavy traffic outside London. Any future trips to London must start earlier.

Myself and family then walked to our afternoon planned pre-theatre entertainment, the London Dungeons (owned by Tussauds/Alton Towers group) where, a bit like a Monty Python sketch, you pay to be insulted throughout your visit. Apart from that, it was gruesomely good, with authentic smells and “orrible bits”, my two girls loved it. We had lunch in an excellent Pizzeria opposite, as we didn’t fancy the menu at the Dungeons’ Cafe, as you’d imagine. Well would you eat “friars fingers” and “bloody chips off the old block”? Yuk!

We were all looking forward to the evening’s 7.30 play, William Shakespeare’s “Antony and Cleopatra”, first performed at the Globe between 1606 and 1608, and second in 1999. It was indeed a brilliant performance with Mark Ryland, the Artistic Director, as Cleopatra, and oh yes, it was an all male cast of about 15, in period recreated costume and live music played on the early instruments. Not as glittery as last year’s “end of season” performance of “The Merchant of Venice”, but magical none the less. A homophobic member of the audience heckled the cast at one point, and some of us felt after, that maybe the heckler was a plant, but Mark Ryland dealt magnificently with him, plant or no. The play itself? Well, a trifle heavy for me, we can all understand it a lot better now having seen it at the Globe, but I just like the atmosphere and the wonderful recreated architecture of the place. Oh, and my family were all glad they went. After a much shorter journey home than going we were the last no doubt to bed at 2 a.m. ZZZ