



Special Interest Day

SPIES AND SHOWBIZ

Wednesday 16 October 2024



The Gritty Side of Elizabethan Theatre

Speaker: Giles Ramsay

This is a morning Special Interest Day, focusing on Elizabethan theatre and will include the politics, espionage and show-business developments of the period.

First lecture - Christopher Marlowe: Poet and Spy

When men were prepared to murder and be martyred for their religious faith and the Elizabethan security services were zealously gathering intelligence against a militant enemy, a Golden Age of Theatre emerged in England. Assassinated at the age of 29 Christopher Marlowe was very much a man of his times.

Second lecture - William Shakespeare: The Birth of Modern Show-Business

Poet, playwright and theatre entrepreneur, William Shakespeare became one of the wealthiest theatre entrepreneurs of the Elizabethan age. A shrewd businessman, his career coincided with the emergence of the English playhouses and the beginnings of theatre as a commercially viable form of popular entertainment.

Giles Ramsay returns to The Arts Society South Downs following a compelling lecture to us in 2022 on, 'Greeks: Where we Began'. Giles combines academic analysis with hands on experience to bring a unique insight to the world of the theatre. He is the Founding Director of the charity Developing Artists (www.developingartists.org), a former Fellow of St. Chad's College, Durham University and Course Leader in Theatre at The Victoria and Albert Museum in London. He regularly lectures on the history and practice of theatre on the Queen Mary 2 as it sails from New York to the UK.

Images: Christopher Marlowe 1564-1593.
The Flower Portrait of William Shakespeare, 1564-1616

Members of The Arts Society South Downs: £35, non-members: £40, to include a sandwich lunch with vegetarian choices. We are sorry we cannot cater for any other dietary options.
9.45 coffee and tea served; 10.30 'Christopher Marlowe: Poet and Spy'; 11.30 short break; 11.45 'William Shakespeare: The Birth of Modern Showbusiness'; 12.45 questions, followed by lunch.
For further information contact: nicky.donker@gmail.com or go to <https://www.theartssocietysouthdowns.org.uk/>