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## Curtain up at Shakespeare theatre development

A total of 412 flats are planned on the site of the Curtain theatre, where *Henry V* was first performed.

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By Nicky Burridge  
April 8, 2016 10:00

### What's the latest?

More than 80 apartments worth £60m have been sold at a development on the site of London's oldest Shakespearean playhouse, where *Henry V* was first performed.

Prices at The Stage, the £750m transformation of the site of Shakespeare's Tudor Curtain theatre in Shoreditch, were close to £1,600 per sq ft.

And individual apartments were snapped up for between £696,000 and more than £1m at the launch of the first phase, according to the developer, Galliard Homes.

The Curtain theatre opened in 1577, staging plays with Shakespeare himself in the cast.

It closed in 1622 and it wasn't until 2011 that the Museum of London Archaeology rediscovered the remains of the theatre buried beneath a disused Victorian goods yard.



### Why is this happening?

Galliard Homes believes buyers were attracted by the historical nature of the development.

The developer added that the project also offers an alternative to the developments in Vauxhall and Nine Elms, where prices are significantly higher at an average of £1,800 per sq ft.

David Galman, sales director at Galliard Homes, said: "The Stage is a unique development, rich in history and character, the scheme is in a good location on the doorstep of the City of London and we are selling a high quality product."

### Who does it affect?

Some 95% of the sales were to domestic buyers. And the remaining 5% of homes purchased by overseas buyers went mainly to people from Asia and the US.

But with a total of 412 studio, one, two and three-bedroom flats and four-bedroom penthouses in a 37-storey tower planned at The Stage, there will be more opportunities for buyers interested in snapping up a slice of history.



### Sounds interesting. What's the background?

The regeneration of the 2.3-acre site follows previous Shakespeare heritage projects, including the Globe theatre reconstruction on London's Bankside in 1997.

Located off Curtain Road in Shoreditch, The Stage is designed around a public square - one of the largest to be created in the capital.

A new centre at the development will allow visitors to walk on a glass platform just above the sunken theatre remains. And objects found from the excavation will also form part of the cultural centrepiece.

The square will be bordered by cafes, restaurants, shops and offices, as well as a Shakespeare-themed leisure and performing arts pavilion.

High-end services will be available to residents, including a health club, fully equipped games room, a private 20-seat screening room and a 24-hour concierge service. Construction is due to finish in early 2019.

In its heyday, Elizabeth I would visit the theatre. And after her death in 1603, the new king, James I, became its Royal patron.

