

LONDON

by Tim Sailer

If I could describe my travels to London in one word, I think I'd pick "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious."

I had the opportunity to travel with my friends to the United Kingdom over this past semester break. For eight days, we wide-eyed Yanks managed to traverse through the sights, sounds and even the smells of London (which is a sort of salty fish aroma, in

Even after an hour of being in the country, I realized that we were immersed in a completely different culture—it was like nothing I had ever experienced.

Our travels did take us through the popular tourist "hot spots," such as the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace, the Tower Bridge, the British Mu-

Bloody Tower. His face contorted as spittle spewed across his lips and he captivated his audience of fifty

Aside from the tourist spots, which were certainly fascinating, I was in awe of just walking through the streets of London.

Everyone seems to be in a hurry. Ev-

size." Among the locals, it seems as if there is an understood game of "let's see how many people we can pack in a tube car." At one point, I found myself inadvertently leaning against a gruff-looking man. He managed to squeeze his arm in just before the tube doors slid together.

I felt like I was in a package of sardines, except it didn't smell as bad.

If you were to talk to any of us who went on the trip, I believe most will say that the Globe Theatre experience was a major highlight. We were able to work with Simon, a Globe teacher and actor.

He had us

everyone wears a scarf, usually accompanied with an iPod. I don't remember seeing any children running around. Nearly all the men are clean shaven. Everything is squeezed together—buildings, tables at restaurants and streets. The red, blood-thirsty buses careen through the streets and will hit you if you're not careful.

"Mind the gap...mind the gap...mind the gap..."

The polite warning echoes through the deep tunnels of the London Underground system. I can't get over the accents. They speak with eloquence and poise. In fact, that can be true for most of the people I encountered. I'm not sure the same can be said for Americans in general.

Anyway, the map for this transportation system is a dizzying array of colored, squiggly lines that have no discernable organization. But after three days, everyone in our group was able to navigate the tube.

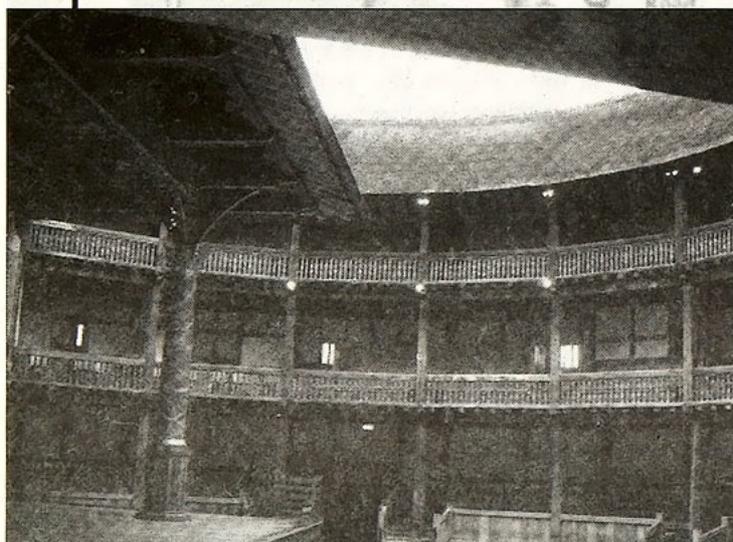
This reminds me of the fact that your "personal bubble" shrinks five times smaller than its natural "American

screaming while standing on chairs, whispering to each other in a tight circle and pantomiming speeches from Othello.

It was an intense and active workshop on the language of Shakespeare and the different approaches actors can take to be as effective as possible.

Other highlights include many theatre-goers seeing Patrick Stewart perform in *Antony and Cleopatra* and even meeting him after the show. Some witnessed the character Burt in *Mary Poppins* "chim chiminey" up the walls of the proscenium stage, tap dancing and singing upside down. We were even able to dance on Charles Dickens' grave in the Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey.

This is just a taste of my time in London. I think it's safe to say that we all came back with a different view of the world, which is difficult to describe. It became about adaptation and soaking in the rich history and culture of not only England, but of the world.



(Clockwise from bottom left) Tower of London. photo by Tim Sailer
Globe Theatre. Westminster Abbey. photos by Katrina Johnston

case you were wondering).

On January 8, 2007, fifteen Concordia students embarked on the 8-hour, non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean. We were accompanied by Prof. Michael Charron and Dr. Randy Winkler. We were primarily there for the 2-credit class THR302: London Theatre Tour to soak in the London theatre scene.

seum, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral and the Globe Theatre.

The grandeur and history of these places is unfathomable.

We had many informative and educated tour guides. One of them was Simon the Beefeater at the Tower Bridge. He didn't hesitate to divulge the grotesque details of public beheadings and the treacherous tales of the