

5 STEPS TO LIVE THEATRE EVALUATION

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN:

This scheme of work can be used for pre-GCSE, GCSE and A-Level students who need to gain skills in **evaluating and analysing live performances and creative decisions** of theatre makers. Each activity in the scheme of work can be used by individuals or groups.

**Step 1: Pre-show
RESEARCH**
the history and context.

Ask students to use the *An American in Paris* Background and Resource Pack to gain knowledge and insight into the content of *An American in Paris*.

- Explore the different parts of the pack related to context, e.g - one group can explore and discuss the 'Art in Paris'.
- Or, set this as a research homework task, asking each student to use a section of the context pages as a starting point for their research. For example, one student could take 'Fashion in the 1940s' and another 'Pop Culture'.

**Step 2: Pre-show
APPLY AND DESIGN**

- Students use their research from Step 1 to formulate their own ideas and imagine how they might stage the production.
- Using a practical understanding of the different production elements (set design, costume, lighting design, performance or direction), ask students to develop a design for one of these scenes:
 - » Opening scene showing Paris liberated from the Nazis
 - » The three male friends meeting for the first time in a Parisian bar
 - » The two lead characters meeting on the banks of the River Seine
 - » Lise at work in a Paris department store

Students can present ideas initially through mood boards and then visually through designing what the specific staging and production elements will look like.

Step 3: WATCH
and complete the Evaluation of
Live Theatre Worksheet

Students watch the show and take initial notes on the live performance elements by using the: **Evaluation of Live Theatre Worksheet**.

**Step 4: Post-show
EVALUATE**
the creative interpretation

- Ask students to use the *An American in Paris* Drama Education Pack for creative team information, and the notes from their **Evaluation of Live Theatre Worksheet** to analyse and evaluate the work of the production's theatre makers.
- Students should read and watch the relevant material in the pack to gain insight into the creative teams' decision making.
- Students should consider the creative collaboration of the production team.
- As well as set, lighting, costume, performance and sound, students should also consider how mood, atmosphere and style were achieved and how far they were successful.

**Step 5: Post-show
PRESENT**
your analysis of the production

- Students to present back their critical analysis of *An American in Paris* to class. This could be structured in a number of ways:
 - » Students present back their evaluation of one production element- e.g. set.
 - » Students to present their comparisons of their own pre-show insights and the actual production elements and creative choices of the professional theatre makers.

Students should choose particular scenes to illustrate their opinions and evaluations.



*An American
in Paris*