

Your critique must be typed, double-spaced, with a 12-point font *or* neatly handwritten in pen. The use of proper grammar, syntax, and spelling is required. The titles of plays/musicals should be underlined or *italicized*.

1. Your **program** must be stapled to the back of the critique.
2. Your **ticket** must be stapled to the front of the critique.
3. Critiques should average 1½ to 2½ pages in length.
4. Late critiques are worth *up to* ½ credit.
5. **Problems?** See Pschirrer.

DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE CRITIQUE GUIDELINES

NOTE: The theatrical definition of criticism is to evaluate a production for its worth to you as a spectator. To effectively critique/review a performance, you should be able to discuss the positive and negative aspects of the play based upon your knowledge of theatre. Critiques/reviews are **NOT** *plot summaries*.

TO EFFECTIVELY CRITICIZE/REVIEW A PERFORMANCE, ASK THE FOLLOWING:

- Did the actors portray believable characters for the time/place that was being depicted? Why or why not?
- Did the technical elements help establish the time/place being depicted? Why or why not?
- Did there seem to be a smooth flow to the action of the play? Remember, actors rarely decide how a scene will be played. This is the director's job. Actors move and interpret according to the director's vision.

YOUR CRITIQUE INCLUDES THREE SECTIONS:

INTRODUCTION (1 paragraph)

The introduction contains the title of the production, author(s), producing organization (usually the name of the theatre or group), director, and the date and time of the performance. If the show is a musical, it should have a choreographer, musical director, composer, and lyricist. Plays with intricate fight scenes may also have a fight choreographer. This information is found in the program issued by the theatre or sometimes online. You must include a short 2-4 sentence plot summary and a catchy critique title.

BODY (5 paragraphs)

This section is the bulk of the paper. In it you will determine how well the artists (directors, actors, designers, dancers, etc.) accomplished their goals.

Comment about individual acting/singing performances of *at least* FOUR performers in detail. Each actor/character should get their own paragraph. Mention the performers by their name and the character they portrayed when evaluating their performances. For example: *Gene Kelly's (Don Lockwood) performance was heartfelt and pure. His singing, dancing, and comedic talents were artfully blended into a unified characterization which accurately portrayed the trials and tribulations of the silent movie actor.*

The final body paragraph is devoted to the technical elements (costume design, set design, lighting and sound) and their overall contribution to the production.

- What effect did the costuming/lights/set/sound have on the overall performance? Be sure to address each.
- Did the technical elements (or lack thereof) allow you to believe the illusion of time and place?
- How did each technical element enhance the performance?

CONCLUSION (1 paragraph)

Summarize your overall thoughts about the impact of the show and give a final recommendation. Was it worth the time and money to see it? Why or why not? Also briefly recap of the overall highlights or disappointments.

CRITIQUE DUE DATES: