

BEFORE THE MUSICAL – THERE WAS VAUDEVILLE!

AGES: High School

DESCRIPTION

A study of Vaudeville history culminating in a classroom vaudeville show.

MATERIALS

Internet access / Gypsy DVD w/ Bette Midler / PBS Musicals Series Part 1

FULL LESSON PLAN

1. Students view the PBS American Musical Part1. Students take notes and complete an open note quiz.
2. Students discuss the current meaning of variety show - we hold one at school every two years or so.
3. Students watch video clips of variety show acts - Sat Night Live Season 1 - Comedy Sketches / Commercial Parodies/ Burlesques of Government officials / Musical acts / etc. Students discuss the entertainment value - and why SNL has become a permanent fixture on USA TV.c
4. Students complete internet research of Vaudeville. They use - Rick Easton's 2002 site through Virginia U. / The Library of Congress American Memory site - the Variety Stage / Musical 101 by John Kenrick / The PBS Page on American Masters - Vaudeville. Groups research different facets of the genre.
5. Students view the DVD American Masters - Vaudeville and take notes - another quiz follows.
6. Back in their research groups - each group comes up with two or three vaudeville acts that fit into one of the nine categories of vaudeville acts that Mr. Kenrick identifies that made up a typical vaudeville billing. The groups then present these in their own vaudeville show!