

POST-SHOW ACTIVITY

Write a Review

WRITING ABOUT WHAT WE SEE & HEAR

Review of performances are important to every opera company. They help the company know how the performance was enjoyed in the outside world, and get other people excited about coming to see the show! You are the opera critic. Think about the performance you just saw of *La Cenerentola* and write your thoughts like you might see in the newspaper or an online review. Remember that a critic reports both the positive and negative features of a production. You might want to focus on one part of the opera that you particularly liked or disliked. Keep in mind that reviews express the opinions of the person who writes the review and different people will often have different ideas about the same performance! Below are some tips to get you started. To write your own review, you can focus on two different elements – what you saw and what you heard.

FACTS & OPINIONS

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THE ART OF THE ADJECTIVE

Critics need to have a great vocabulary of descriptive words when they write about what they hear so that the people reading their reviews can imagine what it was like to be there. People use lots of different adjectives to describe the voices of opera singers. Here's a review that's chock-full of great adjectives:

“The **light, smoky** baritone of George Gagnidze only hints at Rigoletto's outsize emotions, and the **sweet, pure** soprano of Lisette Oropesa keeps Gilda **sweet** but **inert**. The **handsome, hyperactive** tenor Vittorio Grigolo has two registers, bellowing and crooning, and the conductor, Marco Armiliato, has his hands full trying to keep up with Mr. Grigolo's **wayward** tempos.”

Sometimes it is very hard to describe the way music makes us feel. While there are definitely objective facts we can evaluate when we listen to music (qualities like loud or soft, fast or slow) most of the time we listen subjectively. This means that every opinion is valid – you don't have to know anything about opera to be moved by someone's singing or a beautiful instrumental solo.

Write a few sentences about the character you liked best and why. How did the music help tell you who the character was? Think of five adjectives to describe the way that person's voice sounded to you. How did it made you feel to listen to them?

ACTIVITY

SUM IT ALL UP

In your opinion, what did you like best about the production? What did you think could use some improvement? Would you recommend that other people come see this opera?

Share your critique with us! The Atlanta Opera wants to know what you thought of our performance. If you would like to share your review with us, please send it on!

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POST-SHOW ACTIVITY

CREATE YOUR OWN PODCAST

Prepare a podcast show featuring interviews with characters who attended Cenerentola (Angelina) and the Prince's wedding. Explore their relationships and feelings to her journey from a girl who was once badly mistreated and is now a princess.

ACTIVITIES

- Working in a small group, prepare the interview questions for the characters below.
- Take turns interviewing and answering the questions.

Her stepfather

Her stepsisters

Alidoro

The Prince

Want to make the interview more interesting? Get some background information on the story by interviewing:

Some neighbors

People who work in the castle

The King or Queen

Friends of Cenerentola

People who went to the ball

Ask them questions about:

Cenerentola's life with the wicked stepsisters

The wedding banquet

The Ball

The Bracelet

Topics for Deeper Discussion or Writing

Topic #1:

Compare and contrast two versions of the fairy tales listed in "Fairy Tales from Around the World."

How does the version of Rossini's *La Cenerentola* you saw differ from the ones you picked from the list?

How does culture influence the story?

Topic # 2

The story of Cinderella has been performed and adapted in many different ways from an opera, ballet, musical theater, and even film. Now that you've seen Rossini's *La Cenerentola*, which is an opera, watch a different version of *Cinderella* performed in a different way (film, theater, musical theater, ballet, etc.). Compare and contrast the storytelling in the opera version and the version that you picked. If you could create your own version of *Cinderella* what art form would you use to tell your story and why?