

## Writing a review

Today is the first day at your new job as performing arts critic for a popular teen magazine. The editor has given you the job of reviewing the work of theatre companies touring schools in the North West.

As well as reviewing live performances in your weekly column you also write reviews on new film releases and television dramas.

When making notes on performances you always follow these guidelines for review writing-

- Title of performance (live or recorded)
- Date of performance (live or recorded)
- Venue of performance (live or recorded)
- Write a short description of the storyline or plot.
- How many actors were in the cast?
- What kind of stage/acting area was used?
  - Draw a sketch of the setting – simple and naturalistic
- Was any lighting used?
  - How was the light used?
- Was music used in the performance?
  - If so, how was it used to communicate mood/atmosphere, time, place, information/storyline ideas and themes.
- How were the performers dressed?
  - Historical period
  - Colours
  - Suited to the character
  - Imaginative
- Were any props (properties) used in the performance?
  - How did the actors/performers use them?
- What was the standard of the acting like?
- Were there any actors who stood out because they were;
  - very good / very poor?
  - How did they create their characters?

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- Which dramatic conventions were used during the performance?  
- eg. Flashback, role play, mime etc.
- How did the audience react?  
- Bored, laughter, restless, loud applause?
- Did the production/performance communicate its message/  
information, and story clearly to the audience?
- Overall comment on the performance including your thoughts on  
highlights (best bits) of the piece and some of the performances  
weaknesses (bits that weren't so good).