



LESSON 2: 'SINGIN' IN THE RAIN'

AIM: To get to know the main characters in 'Singin' in the Rain' and to understand its plot line

LEARNING OBJECTIVE: BY THE END OF THIS LESSON I WILL...

- * KNOW a little bit about the main characters and the main plot events.
- * UNDERSTAND how the characters and the plot work together to make a memorable piece of theatre.
- * BE ABLE TO Use still images to tell a simple story.

TO BE SUCCESSFUL I WILL ...

- * Have shared some ideas with my group to create an effective presentation.
- * Have tried out a range of characters and adapted my voice and movement skills accordingly.

RESOURCES

FLIPCHART PAPER
'SINGIN' IN THE RAIN' – SONG
AUDITION PIECES

GETTING IN THE ZONE

CIRCLE:

JAZZ HANDS SWITCH

Students sit in a circle and look down. On the given signal by the teacher, the students look up and give 'JAZZ HANDS' to someone across the circle. If they make eye contact, then they get up and switch places.

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

Students go around the circle and give a phrase that uses the format of 'VERB in the NOUN'. E.G. Laughing in the Clouds, Jumping in the Mud, Dancing in the Dark ETC. until they run out. The teacher can make note of some of these and use them later in the 'TAKE IT TO THE SPACE' section.

TAKE IT TO THE SPACE

Students find a space. The teacher reads some of the phrases generated from 'Singin' in the Rain', above. Teachers read it out then give students 3 – 2 – 1 - FREEZE to get into a position that reflects that. 'Sleepin' in the grass 3 – 2 – 1 – FREEZE' Even sing the phrase to the tune of Singin' in the Rain – if you feel brave.

CAPTAIN'S COMING: SINGIN' IN THE RAIN STYLE

A variation on the Boy Scout favourite: Captain's Coming. Use the four walls of the space and assign them: Studio – Hollywood – Cinema – Don's Apartment, as these are the key locations in the film. Work on actions for the following central words or themes:

- **'You Were Meant For Me'** – students grab a partner and look lovingly into their eyes
- **Lights!** – students mime huge stage lights
- **Camera!** – students mime an old fashioned camera a la charades
- **Singin' in the Rain** – students skip around in the rain twirling their umbrella
- **Tap dance!** Students do their best cod tap dancing (worst dancer is out!)
- **Red carpet pose!** Students do best opening night photo poses.



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THE MAIN EVENT:

Following on from 'Captain's Coming – Singin' in the Rain style' teacher will read out the synopsis of the play with certain words generating an action from the students. Each character also needs a gesture which the students can come up with:

- Don Lockwood - big Hollywood start; amazing dancer; handsome and adored, ex stuntman
- Kathy Seldon – innocent starlet; clever, sassy and a talented dancer, singer and actress
- Cosmo Brown – piano player and comedy genius: best friend to Don
- Lina Lamont – blond bombshell, big star, no real talent

In addition, they need to think of an action for the following words:

- Hollywood
- Silent movie
- Talking picture
- Singing
- Actor
- Love
- Rain
- Speaking
- Dancing cavalier

Teacher then reads the plot and the students respond with the agreed actions for both character names and key words above. It can be repeated just to make sure that they have the story in their heads.

GROUP ACTIVITY

Students to tell the story of Singin' in the Rain using 3-5 still images (depending on ability of students). After preparation students perform whilst the song 'Singin' in the Rain' plays in the background.

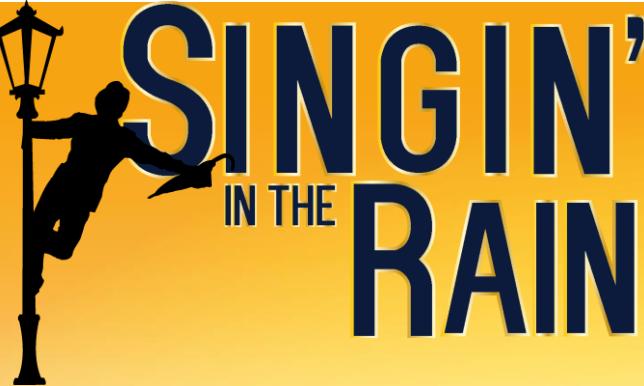
MIX IT UP

Students can bring one of their freeze frames to life with 10 seconds of action or dialogue

SCREEN TEST

Students imagine that they are being asked to try out for one of the main parts in Singin' in the Rain. They need to work with a partner. They can, as a pair go for:

- Don and Kathy
- Don and Cosmo
- Don and Lina



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Using the appropriate audition piece, they prepare their scene using what they know already about their characters. They need to use some movement and interact with each other. Their aim is to be impressive and get the part. Teacher can set up an 'audition room' for the screen tests and see as many as possible. Comments can be given in or out of character. Students can imagine that they are the 'wannabe starlets' from the Golden Age of Hollywood, hoping they can impress the directors.

SUCCESS CRITERIA:

* Do I understand the basic plot and characters of 'Singin' in the Rain'? Did I prepare an adequate audition that captured some of the characterization of the part I was going for? *

PLENARY:

What are your first impressions of this iconic musical? Why do you think it is still so popular and regularly rated the best musical film of all time? How does it compare to the movies and TV shows that you watch and enjoy?

*IF THERE IS TIME, WATCH THE 'GOOD MORNING' SEQUENCE FROM THE MOVIE

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN 'GOOD MORNING' SEQUENCE :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GB2yiloEtXw>