

OPERA UNIT
Day One



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OBJECTIVES:

- Introduce opera and demystify stereotypes associated with it.
- View the similarities and differences opera has with musicals and plays.

LESSON PLAN:

"Opera is when a guy gets stabbed in the back and, instead of bleeding, he sings." - Ed Gardner

1. Open discussion - What does the class know about opera? Write down all the responses given on the board.

Cue up You Tube/Movie clips for typical responses -

"Boring."	Clip from Pretty Woman (5:58-6:18)	Roberts' character describes her 1 st experience at the opera.	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32RKTcN1a_U
"Something only old people like."	Clip from the Rabbit of Seville	Music from opera has been used in the most familiar of places.	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j97EJQ1z7nY
"Something only rich people go to."	Clip from Moonstruck (3:32-3:51)	Do these people sound like your typical rich people?	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EKPg4MKSeQ
"A bunch of fat people sing."	Clip of Anna Netrebko	Netrebko is the opera darling of the moment. She also happens to be gorgeous.	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsHKWGHkH0M

"They wear stupid costumes like horns on their heads."	Clip from Fifth Element	This alien from a sci-fi movie is singing opera. There's nothing stupid looking about her. Weird maybe....	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4PMHt7vSE8
"The sing in a language I don't understand."	Clip from Threepenny Opera	There are many operas in english – even Cyndi Lauper can sing them!	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzB6Pf-jemo

2. Definition of Opera – A type of play that is entirely sung (with some exceptions).

"If a thing isn't worth saying, you sing it." - Pierre Beaumarchais

ACTIVITY: Create a chart on the board with three separate categories marked "Opera", "Play" and "Musical". Ask the class to give you similarities between them and write them in the appropriate category.

ASSESSMENT: Using the above activity as a guide, ask them to list all the similarities and differences Opera has with other performance mediums (theater, dance, rock concerts, etc.)