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## Fine Arts Unit | Grades 8-12 | Lesson 2: Silver Dollar Saloon Show

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### Lesson Description

Head on over to the Silver Dollar Saloon and pull up a chair as the saloon gals & the saloon owner sing and dance your socks off. Grab some peanuts or order one of the Saloon's famous Root Beer Floats while you learn a thing or two about producing the show. Turns out the saloon owner needs a new ending to his show and he hired just the two to do it. As you watch the show, identify aspects of the 3 elements of Drama and laugh while you watch the two city-slickers test out possible acts for the new ending. Then snap a picture with one of the saloon girls after the show for a great keepsake!

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### Concepts

**Literary Elements:** Script, Plot, Character, Story Organization, Setting, Dialogue, Conflict

**Technical Elements:** Scenery, Costumes, Props, Sound & Music, Make-up

**Performance Elements:** Acting, Speaking, Non-verbal Expression

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### Objectives

Students will:

- Learn the 3 elements of drama
- Break down elements of the show and how they add to the production
- Name some of the instruments used in the performance

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### Content Standards

#### National Standards in Theater

- **Standard 1:** Demonstrates competence in writing scripts.
  - Benchmark 1, Grades 5-8: Creates characters, environments (e.g., place, time, atmosphere/mood), and actions that create tension and suspense.
- **Standard 3:** Designs and produces informal and formal productions.
  - Benchmark 1, Grades 5-8: Understands the functions and interrelated nature of scenery, properties, lighting, sound, costumes, and makeup in creating an environment appropriate for the drama.
  - Benchmark 4, Grades 5-8: Selects and creates elements of scenery, properties, lighting, and sound to signify environments, and costumes and makeup to suggest character.



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- Benchmark 2, Grades 9-12: Understands production requirements for a variety of dramatic texts from cultural and historical perspectives.
- Benchmark 5, Grades 9-12: Conceptualizes and realizes artistic interpretations for informal or formal productions.
- **Standard 5:** Understands how informal and formal theatre, film, television, and electronic media productions create and communicate meaning.
  - Benchmark 2, Grades 5-8 Articulates the meanings constructed from one's own and others' dramatic performances.
  - Benchmark 1, Grades 9-12: Understands how the elements of music and expressive devices are used in music from diverse genres and cultures.

### National Standards in Music

- **Standard 7:** Understands the relationship between music and history and culture.
  - Benchmark 1, Grades 9-12: Classifies unfamiliar but representative aural examples of music (e.g., by genre, style, historical period, culture).

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## Time Required

Varies by student

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## Materials

- Silver Dollar City Pathfinder & writing utensil
  - Student activity sheet from the Kids-U-Cation website
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## Procedures

1. Go over the basic elements of Drama before coming on the field trip.
  2. Print off student activity sheet from Kids-U-Cation website (teachers).
  3. Watch "Frontier Follies" at the Silver Dollar Saloon to complete the exercise.
  4. Complete and turn in activity to the teacher for a participation or accuracy grade
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## Closure

Review the key points of this lesson by discussing the following:

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- What are the 3 elements of Drama?
  - Name at least 3 of the characters in the show.
  - If you were the director, what would you add or change about the show? Or did you like it just the way it was?
  - If you were producing this show, what specific element of Drama would you enjoy the most?
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### Assessment/Independent Practice

Give an assignment or test of your choice.



Name/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Frontier Follies – Silver Dollar Saloon Show

A drama is composed of three major elements: literary, technical, and performance. Literary elements can be explained by asking: What is needed to write a script or story? Technical elements can be explained by asking: What is needed to produce a play? Performance elements can be explained by asking: What do the actors do on stage to make a character come alive? Using the information above, answer the questions based on Silver Dollar City’s Frontier Follies show.

Describe aspects of the show for each of the 3 major drama elements:

### 1. Literary Elements:

Plot - Describe the storyline of the show:

Character - List 3 of the characters (by name):

Setting – Describe the setting in which the show takes place:

Dialogue (two-person conversation) vs. Monologue (one-person speech) – Would you say that most of this play is spoken in a dialogue or monologue format?

Conflict – Describe the show’s major conflict?

### 2. Technical Elements:

Scenery & Props – Describe the articles used to create the dramatic production:

Sound & Music – The music of the show is produced by what instruments?

Costumes & Make-up – Explain how the costumes, hair and make-up are appropriate for the show:

3. Performance Elements:

Acting & Speaking – List one of the characters whose vocal expression and movements make them stand out. What is it about that character that makes you notice them?

Non-Verbal Expression – List one part of the show where lots of non-verbal expression is used: