

MY HEART IN A SUITCASE

Behind the Scenes - Activity Guide

Overview

Students will engage with an online musical that introduces them to professional theatre and connects to their language arts curriculum. They will learn about the different elements of a scene and how the actors prepare to perform in the musical theatre production of ArtsPower's *My Heart in a Suitcase*.

Skills Developed

These activities are designed to advance students' skills in:

- understanding and evaluating how theatre conveys meaning
- perceiving and analyzing how scenes transform from the rehearsal process through the performance
- synthesizing knowledge and personal experiences to gain a deeper understanding of theatre
- relating theatre performances with societal, cultural, and historical context.

Materials

Video titled, "Behind the Scenes" (3 minutes)

Instructions

1. Before you watch the video, ask the question: What do you think is the most important thing an actor should know when performing in a show?
2. Watch the video that is in three sections: 1) Read Through; 2) Blocking; and 3) Filming.

Follow Up

With your students, brainstorm all the things the actors did onstage to convince you of their roles. Discuss the ways in which each actor used voice, body language, and facial expressions to portray a character in a convincing way.