



Frederick A.O. Schwarz Children's Center

# MCNY Investigations

## *Perform*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The Museum of the City of New York's *Perform* exhibition explores the special relationship between theater and New York City. Look around! The picture on the walls near the theater-style seats was taken by the Byron Company and is from a production of *Ted Mark's Sunday Night Concert* in 1903. Follow the written directions to explore the exhibition and learn more about the history of theater in New York City.

***Find and read the text panels about different theatrical genres on the walls.***

1. Choose one type of theater that interests you and record information about it below. Make sure to include the name of the genre, the years that it was popular, and a few interesting facts about it.

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***Find the Theater, 1830 text panel. Read the text and look at the picture.***

2. New Yorkers have always enjoyed plays and performances. Describe some of the people who went to plays at the Park Theater in the early 1800s.

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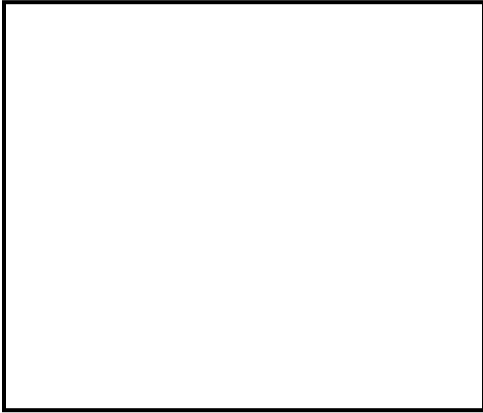
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***Walk into the next section of the exhibition. Read about some important actors and actresses on the wall to your left.***

3. Many actors and actresses became famous for their work in New York City productions. Choose two actors or actresses that interest you. Draw their picture and record information about them below.



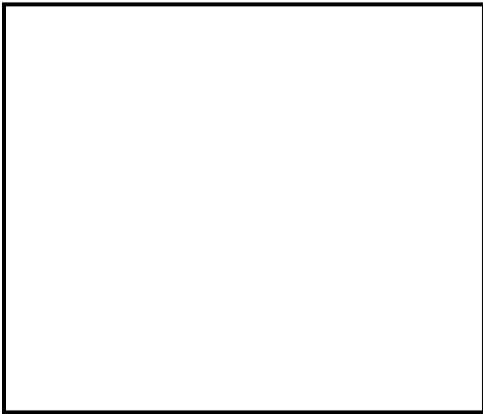
Actor or actress's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Years during which he/she lived: \_\_\_\_\_

Important plays or productions: \_\_\_\_\_

Interesting fact about him/her: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Actor or actress's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Years during which he/she lived: \_\_\_\_\_

Important plays or productions: \_\_\_\_\_

Interesting fact about him/her: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***Walk forward until you see the Avenue Q display on your left and the Mrs. Potts's costume from Beauty and the Beast on your right.***

4. How many people worked to put on the play *Avenue Q*? Write your guess below. (You can find the answer on the last page of this MCNY Investigation!)

I guess that

people worked on the play *Avenue Q*.

In your opinion, why does it take so many people to put on a play?

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5. Look at Mrs. Potts's costume from *Beauty and the Beast* and read the story on the wall. Why was the actress who played Mrs. Potts dressed in the wings before her stage entrance?

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6. Can you guess why the Museum of the City of New York was given Mrs. Potts's costume?

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***Walk forward until you see the Innovators display on your right. Read about some of New York City's most innovative theater companies and look at the pictures.***

7. Choose one theater company that interests you and record information about it below. Make sure to include the company name, the year it was founded, and its goal or mission. What was important about the company?

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***Find the wall text entitled The Theater of City Life on your left. Read the text and look at the pictures.***

8. Where is Times Square located in New York City?

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9. What was Times Square called before it got this name? Why was the name changed?

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***Find the object with many light bulbs. Read the wall text and look at the picture.***

10. These light bulbs are part of an object called the “zipper.” Where was the zipper located? What was it used for?

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11. For many years, Times Square was known as “The Great White Way.” Why do you think it got this nickname? (*Hint: Look at the zipper and the other lights in the room.*)

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12. Have you ever been to Times Square? If so, describe what you saw and your feelings when you were there. If not, imagine what it might be like to visit this place.

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***Walk into the last room of the exhibition. Take some time to explore some of the plays and performances that are set in New York City. Then, choose one play that interests you and answer Questions 13-15.***

13. Record some information about the play that you chose. Make sure to include the name, the year that it opened, and a description of the story.

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14. Choose an object from this play and draw it in the box below. Then, write the title of the object and at least three words to describe it.



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15. How does this play represent the relationship between theater and New York City?

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***Great job! You have reached the end of the Perform exhibition. Take some time to reflect on what you learned about theater in New York City.***

16. How has the history of theater been shaped by the diversity of people in New York City?

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Question 4: Over 190 people and companies worked to put on the play *Avenue Q*. Wow!