



# Cappies Writing Workshop!



# Welcome!

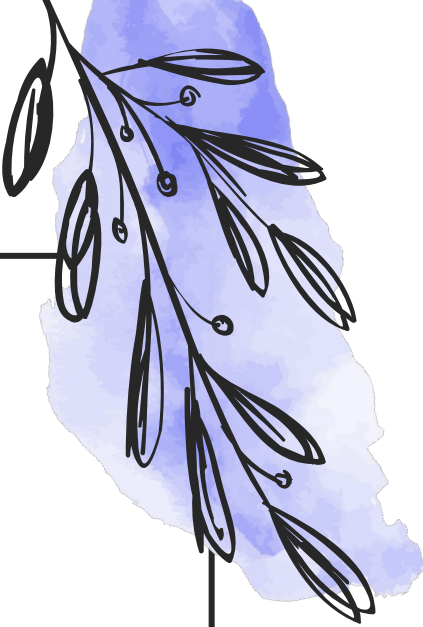

Thank you for your  
interest in Cappies.  
We're so excited to  
meet you!



# What are we doing today?



- 1) Learning to write Cappies critiques using the four step process
- 2) Reading sample critiques and learning about structure
- 3) Showing the application video you will be critiquing
- 4) Q & A



**Celebrate high school  
theatre!**

—Cappies motto :D



01

## Describe

Create a visual  
description of the  
**moment**



02

## Analyze

Think of **how** a production  
element, acting choice, etc. was  
used in the scene/song. What  
was used?



03

## Interpret

Think about **why** a  
production element, acting  
choice, etc. was used



04

## Judge

Consider the **effectivity** of the  
production element, acting  
choice, etc.

# 1. Describe

- ❖ What do you see?
  - Acting AND tech
    - Singing, dancing, acting
    - 9 values: sets/scenery, props/SFX, running crew, hair/makeup, costumes, marketing & pub, lighting, sound, stage management



# 1. Describe

Leading the performance and the pack is longtime newsie Jack Kelly (Michael Liebig). Liebig opens the show with the emotional 'Santa Fe', his **smooth voice** filled with longing for the western city. Infuriated when he learns of the fee raise for newsies, he rallies the group in 'The World Will Know', **arms firmly at his side** and **eyebrows furrowed**, honestly portraying his indignation.



## 2. Analyze

- ❖ What specifically was used in the moment you're describing?
  - Spotlight vs. Elipsoidal Reflector Spot

Ex: Bettger's design features cleverly placed spotlights from which comforting golden light spills across the floor.





### 3. Interpret

- ❖ **Why** do you think a specific choice was made?
  - How did this choice contribute to the story as a whole?
  - Somewhat script-driven
  - Everything is intentional



### 3. Interpret

Adjacent Liebig, Grant Halliburton seizes the spotlight as newcomer newsie Davey. With a clear voice and coherent intonation, Halliburton successfully establishes his character's intelligence and apt for leadership. Halliburton also shows considerable vocal skills, beautifully harmonizing with Liebig in 'Once and For All'.



## 4. Judge

- ❖ **How effective was the choice?** Did it make sense?
  - Was an actor's character voice charismatic, or did it make it difficult to understand? Were the costumes cohesive or did they feel mismatched? Reflect whether a choice supported the story and the design of a show.



## 4. Judge

The set, designed by Skye Fielder and Madeline Halliburton, is **impressive** for its function and mobility. Composed of two three-story staircase units and a bridge scaffold piece, the set is **cleverly** rearranged by the Deck Crew throughout the show to communicate different locations, from the theatre to the office to the street.



# Critique Structure Basics

- ★ Catchy title
  - < TEN WORDS
  - Puns, alliterations, references to show
  - Include show's title & school name
- ★ Brief summary
  - 2ish sentences– VERY brief
  - Don't give stuff away! Only any necessary context
- ★ Acting and tech reviews follow the 4-step process.
  - Pretty flexible, but between 4-6 “body paragraphs”
- ★ 350-400 word limit
- ★ Third person



# Title Examples

- ★ Joke/reference to show's content:
  - Simply Iconic: San Juan Hills' *Chicago* is All That...Jazz!
- ★ Puns
  - University's *Urinetown* is a Royal Flush!
  - Beckman's *Maul of the Dead* is a No-Brainer!
- ★ Alliteration
  - Perfectly Pink Pandemonium Prevails at *Legally Blonde*



# Intro Paragraphs

**Intro Paragraph Possibilities** - Intro paragraphs are perhaps the most flexible section of a Cappies Critique. While you do have to include the name of the school and the production within the first two paragraphs, that is about the only limitation. However, here are a tried-and-true few examples:

- 1) Rhetorical Question
  - a) There's a stranger in tiny River City, Iowa. He goes by the name Professor Hill, he's a music aficionado, and he plans to develop a boys' band right there in town. But how much of the schpiel is true, and how much is simply part of the salesman's scam? **(Emi Nishida)**
- 2) A moment...
  - a) In Tesoro High School's "The Diviners," a young, barefoot boy walks on stage bathed in a soft, cool light, a forked stick in his hands. The crowd around him waits with bated breath until he finally finds what he was looking for: water. **(Sheridan Mapstone)**
  - b) In the corner, a girl sobs. A man lies center stage, shoulders heaving, utterly beaten. A horde of townspeople stand in the back, stricken and horrified. Suddenly, the tense silence is broken by a quiet hymn. **(Audrey Mitchell)**
- 3) Mandatory introduction information (School, summary of talent)



# Formatting

- ★ *Formatting will not impact our judgment of your critique.*
  - If possible:
    - single spaced
    - alignment justified
    - no indentation
- ★ NO NAME (long ID at the top)
  - IT IS SO IMPORTANT that you do not write your name!! We read the critiques blindly to give everyone an equal opportunity





## Example 1

Throwing herself into the arms of Grace Fryer, Rosey Bagnara as Kathryn Schaub wails with grief at the overlooked death of her dear friend Irene. The raw, keening emotion she tapped into successfully showcases the anger held in the heart of her character and the disgust for the corporation responsible for her friend's morbid death.

Stumbling over her words, she pleads with Grace to take action, while maintaining her crisp enunciation and clear projection.



## Example 2

Costumes by Holiday Jones and Emily Smith transform the show into a bedazzled 2000s wonderland. On her first day in class, Elle's attire makes her a bubblegum beacon in the sea of blacks and greys. Navy slacks and a modest briefcase take over as she refines her academic performance, but eventually, Jones and Smith combine her styles into a bright pink pantsuit as the character learns to embrace all aspects of herself. The designers effectively integrate costumes into Elle's growth, reflecting her developing character along her journey.



## **Paranoia Takes the Stage at Dana Hills' "The Crucible"**

As the show opens with a low, ominous rumbling, a paranoia fueled witch hunt rips through the quiet, religious town of Salem. In a time when no one is exempt from suspicion, relationships are torn apart, loyalties are questioned, and even the concept of right and wrong itself is scrutinized.

The show begins with a foreboding, thunderous grumble and the sounds of a rustling forest, designed and implemented by Marina Kosor. It sets the scene for the chaos to come and establishes the mood of the piece even before any actor has said a word. As the actors do enter, an argument ensues between Reverend Parris (Sebastian Bojorquez-Cantu) and Abigail Williams (Nici Curry). The tension between them is palpable; they give a believable and layered performance in this opening scene.

The familiar arguing of Parris and Abigail well underway, they are suddenly interrupted by the ragged screams of Betty Parris (Marina Kosor). Kosor's cries are laden with emotion; they own the stage with a tremendous commitment to their distressed character. Also evident in this scene and throughout the play are the costumes (Nici Curry, Raechel Newman, and Serena Pearl). The costumes are well researched in their historical accuracy, and clearly detailed and well made. They serve to elevate the performance, and excel in building the world of Salem from cotton and wool.

John Proctor (Riley Lenthall) absolutely commands the space. Lenthall's range throughout the show from an authoritative confidence to a conflicted inner struggle is well done. This louder stage presence presents a beautiful balance to Elizabeth Proctor (Alex Ushiyama), as Ushiyama's performance displays the quiet strength of her character. She paints Elizabeth's pain with grace and authenticity, a grounded character in the sea of uproar that is Salem.

The props throughout the show, designed by Evelin Chavez, Luke Inman, and Katharine Robinson, were creative, well-utilized, and tied the play together under a common design aesthetic. They layered in well with the minimalistic yet effective set (designed by Sebastian Bojorquez-Cantu) to truly create the world of Salem. The cast and crew of Dana Hills High School, under the guidance of their capable student stage manager Caroline Field, stun with their portrayal of the hysteria sweeping the town of Salem.

Even in a show full of distrust and accusations, the company has succeeded in creating a unified and thoughtful piece.



**Access more example reviews  
on the [unitheatreats.org](https://unitheatreats.org)  
Cappies page :D**

Watch this video!



Cappies Application Form: (also available on [unitheatreats.org](http://unitheatreats.org))



Or click [here](#) :)



# UNI THEATRE ARTS' WEBSITE

unitheatarts.org

ACTING PATHWAY

TECHNICAL PATHWAY

PRODUCTIONS

AWARDS

CAPPIES

UNI COMEDY SPORTZ

THESPIANS

LINKS & MORE...

GALLERY

POSTS

PARENT INFORMATION



## Cappies

## What is Cappies?



# HOW TO FILL OUT YOUR CAPPIES APPLICATION



## 23-24 CRITIC APPLICATION

This is the Application form for the UHS 2023-2024 Cappies Critics Team.

Because Google Forms can time out, we highly suggest using a Google Doc to type your answers thoughtfully, and then copy and paste the information into this form.

Access the Interest/Drama Meeting slides [here](#) , and the Writing Workshop slides [here](#) !

Remember to upload your critique by Friday, September 1 at 12:10pm (noon, lunchtime).

<https://forms.gle/G2wb25Yx5FVhf7aw5>









**Thank you!**

*due 9/1 at 12:10 noon*