



Instructions:

In your group, using Web and print resources, research Broadway musical revues. Your research should address the following issues:

- What is the basic presentation mode of the revue? In what way does it coincide with the present-day variety show?
- Compare the performance mode of the revue format with that of other performance genres explored in this lesson. What are the differences? Are there any common denominators?
- Develop a brief overview of some of the famous Broadway musical revues of the early 20th century; for instance, *The Music Box Revues*, *George White's Scandals*, *Earl Carroll's Vanities*.
- Explore the definition of the term "Tin Pan Alley." Listen to some of the musical scores and lyrics written by composers Jerome Kern, George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, Vincent Youmans, Lorenz Hart, Richard Rodgers, and Oscar Hammerstein II for the Ziegfeld Follies and Broadway musical revues. (Give particular attention to Richard Rodgers' contributions to the 1925 revue *The Garrick Gaieties*.)
- Collect some information on how the sheet music of Tin Pan Alley was promoted in the five-and-dime stores in America in the early decades of the 20th century.
- After scanning the music, lyrics, and choreography of some of the revues, how would you describe the basic tone quality of performances? (Consider jotting a list of words that come to mind in making this assessment.) What shifts in the American cultural scene after World War I could be considered as contributing factors in explaining the development of the type of entertainment found in the Broadway musical revue? Give particular attention to expanded recording capabilities, the development of the Model T Ford, Prohibition, college life, new "freedom" of youth.