**Cultural Event Critical Review: Theater**

**1. Brief Description of the Event**I watched *Nerdy Prudes Must Die* on StarKid’s YouTube channel. The play was written by Team StarKid and directed by Nick Lang. Even though I didn’t see it live, the recorded performance still captured the energy and excitement of the show.

**2a. Personal Connection to the Play**I’ve never seen a play or musical before, but I was really interested in this one because I’m a fan of horror comedies like *Shaun of the Dead* and *Scary Movie*. The mix of humor and horror seemed right up my alley, and I was interested to see how it played out on stage. As I watched the performance, I found myself really engaged with the characters and the story.

**2b. Connections with Classroom Learning**Aristotle’s *Poetics* talks about six important elements of drama: Plot, Character, Thought/Theme, Diction, Song, and Spectacle. When looking at *Nerdy Prudes Must Die* through this lens, it’s clear how well it was put together.

* **Plot:** The play had a clear beginning, middle, and end. The story started with nerds being bullied at school, then took a dark turn when the nerds killed Max and his ghost came back for revenge. Knowing that Max was back for revenge and unstoppable made it really exciting to watch.
* **Character:** One of the most interesting characters was Richie. He was really sarcastic and relatable, and his fear of Max’s ghost made for some of the funniest moments in the play. The way the actor portrayed him made it easy to feel for his struggles, especially when he realized he was being hunted.
* **Thought/Theme:** The play had themes of social hierarchy, revenge, and dealing with insecurities. It made me think about how people in school often feel stuck in the roles they’ve been assigned, and how sometimes they just want to break free from expectations.
* **Diction:** The dialogue was super funny and full of clever jokes, but it also had some deep, emotional moments that made the characters feel real.
* **Song:** The music was one of the best parts. The songs were catchy and helped tell the story in a way that made it more exciting. My favorite song was *"Nerdy Prudes Must Die"*, which was performed at the end of Act 1 when the ghost of Max kills Richie. The way it was staged made it a really intense and memorable moment.
* **Spectacle:** The technical aspects, like lighting and costumes, added a lot to the experience. The use of dramatic red lighting during the ghost scenes made certain moments feel extra intense, and the way the actors used the stage made everything feel immersive.

**3. Personal Evaluation**I really enjoyed *Nerdy Prudes Must Die* because it had such a cool mix of humor, horror, and music. The actors did an amazing job making the characters feel real, and the songs were super catchy. My favorite part was the end of Act 1, with the performance of *"Nerdy Prudes Must Die"*, where Max’s ghost kills Richie. The energy in that scene was incredible, and it really set the tone for the rest of the musical.

One thing I learned from this experience is that theater can be just as engaging as movies, even if it’s recorded. Seeing how everything came together—acting, music, and staging—made me appreciate live performances more.

I would definitely recommend this play to a friend, especially if they like musicals with humor and dark themes. It was such a fun experience, and it made me want to check out more plays in the future!