

Scrum on Stage: The Agile Opera

Objective

To internalize Scrum principles and practices through a creative, collaborative exercise where teams perform short theatrical acts demonstrating good and bad Scrum implementations.

Duration

60–90 minutes total

- 15 minutes for preparation
- 5 minutes per team performance
- 20–30 minutes for discussion and reflection

Materials Needed

- Scrum board or flipchart labeled “To Do / In Progress / Done”
- Sticky notes or task cards
- Props (optional: markers, hats, note cards, etc.)
- Timer or bell

Instructions

1. Step 1 – Team Formation

Form teams of 4–6 participants, each acting as a Scrum team:

- 1 Product Owner
- 1 Scrum Master
- 2–4 Developers

(Extra participants may serve as stakeholders or audience evaluators.)

2. Step 2 – The Challenge

Each team prepares two short opera-style acts (5 minutes each):

1. Act I – “The Tragic Sprint”: Illustrate poor Scrum practices — unclear goals, no collaboration, chaos in meetings, or ignored retrospectives.
2. Act II – “The Agile Renaissance”: Demonstrate proper Scrum values — communication, transparency, adaptability, and teamwork.

Teams may use drama, rhythm, or musical elements to enhance storytelling and exaggerate contrasts between the two scenarios.

3. Step 3 – Performances

Each team performs both acts before the class:

- Act I (Bad Scrum): 2–3 minutes
- Act II (Good Scrum): 2–3 minutes
- 1 minute for setup between acts

The audience observes and takes notes on Scrum principles violated and correctly applied.

4. Step 4 – Reflection and Discussion

After all performances, lead a reflection session:

- Which Scrum values were missing in “The Tragic Sprint”?
- What improved in “The Agile Renaissance”?
- How were roles, events, and artifacts represented?
- What lessons can apply to real project environments?

Learning Outcomes

By completing this activity, participants will:

- Understand the roles, artifacts, and events in Scrum.
- Recognize common anti-patterns and best practices.
- Develop a deeper appreciation for collaboration, feedback, and adaptability in Agile teams.