



SUMMARY

With his Parisian club, the Moulin Rouge, failing financially, Zidler enlists the help of his star, Satine, to secure a significant investment from the Duke. Not wanting harm to come to her friends and fellow performers, Satine agrees to meet with the Duke in her dressing room. Through a series of misunderstandings, Satine mistakes Christian, a struggling songwriter seeking her support for a new show, for the Duke. Believing Christian to be the Duke, Satine spends time with him and falls in love despite herself. The Duke, however, has other plans, and possessing Satine is among them. With her community depending upon her, the possibility of finally experiencing true love, and her time running out, Satine must navigate impossible circumstances to achieve the outcome that she most desires.

CHARACTER GUIDE

Christian: A struggling songwriter with big dreams. He recently arrived in Paris and was immediately befriended as a fellow bohemian by Toulouse and Santiago.

Satine: The "sparkling diamond" of the Moulin Rouge, renowned for her beauty, who worked her way up from poverty to stardom. She's loyal to and self-sacrificing for those she loves.

The Duke: A wealthy, vindictive aristocrat whom Zidler wants to invest in the Moulin Rouge.

Toulouse: Bohemian playwright hired to write a new show for the Moulin Rouge.

Santiago: Bohemian choreographer and dance captain hired for Toulouse's new show.

Zidler: Owner of the Moulin Rouge and long-time friend of Satine.



EXERCISES & ACTIVATIONS

Writing

Choose one of the values of the bohemians from *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*: truth, beauty, freedom, or love. Gather two to four existing songs that are connected to your theme. Use those lyrics to write a scene moment that explores your theme.

Embodiment

In groups of four, create a series of tableaux that show the bohemian values from the musical: truth, beauty, freedom, and love. What similarities do you see among the tableaux for each theme? What might be your motto of personal values?

Contextual

Watch clips of Baz Luhrmann's film *Moulin Rouge* available online, including Satine's performance when Christian and the Duke first see her. What stands out about the setting and characters?

Learn about some of the more than 70 pop songs incorporated into *Moulin Rouge! The Musical* with the playlist found here:

<https://playbill.com/article/playbill-playlist-all-the-songs-in-moulin-rouge-the-musical>

Explore the real Moulin Rouge with an online video such as this one: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkpO0pSb3kQ>