Unit 2 Culture vulture

Synopsis

The video is set in Edinburgh, Scotland, during the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the biggest arts festival in the world, which is held every August. After some background information we see four short interviews with people attending the festival. Each person talks about what they have seen at the festival and gives their opinions on the various shows and on the festival itself.

Target Language

Grammar: comparatives with *as … as* and *not as … as*, superlatives.
Vocabulary: adjectives for expressing opinions, cultural activities.
Language points: talking about cultural activities.

Procedural Notes

Before you watch

1 **As a class.** Elicit some of the different types of performances you might see at an arts festival. This should act as a review of the vocabulary from the unit. Then put the different performances listed on the worksheet on the board and check understanding as necessary (probably *clown*, and possibly *opera* as it is only mentioned in passing in the unit).
Individuals. Ask the students to tick the performances that they would like to see.

2 **In pairs.** Ask the students to compare their answers to Ex. 1 with a partner and explain why they would or wouldn't like to see the various performances at an arts festival, using some of the words from the box. Note that they are unlikely to be able to use all of the words, but it will give them a chance to review them.

3 **As a class.** Play the video all the way through and ask them which of the performances from Ex. 1 are mentioned. Stronger students could also be asked to say if the speakers enjoyed the performances or not.

Answer key:
A comedy show, a play, a ballet, a clown doing an outdoor show.

While you watch

1 **In pairs.** Ask the students to try and match the performances to the opinions. They may not know what physical theatre is, but the correct matching statement will give them a definition. Monitor but don't give the answers.
As a class. The students watch the video again and check their answers. Confirm answers as a class and check understanding by asking if the speakers liked the performances or not.

Answer key:
1 a clown doing an outdoor show
2 physical theatre
3 a comedy show
4 the musical Bugsy Malone
5 a ballet
6 a play

2 **Individuals.** Ask the students to complete the sentences. Then let them check their answers in pairs.
As a class. Check as a class, but be careful not to talk about whether the statements are actually true.

Answer key:
1 as big as
2 as boring as
3 as quiet as
4 as good as
5 the best

3 **As a class.** Watch the video again and ask the students to decide if the statements are true or false. As you go through the answers, you could ask the students to correct the false statements.

Answer key:
1 False 2 True 3 False 4 True 5 True

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After you watch

1 **Individuals.** Ask the students to try to choose the best adjectives to complete the reviews.
In pairs. Check answers in pairs.
As a class. Go through the answers as a class. Check the students can pronounce the longer adjectives correctly.

Answer key:
1 fascinating
2 ridiculous
3 rubbish
4 brilliant
5 dull
6 weird

2 **Individuals.** Ask the students to read the facts and complete them with the superlative form of the adjective.
In pairs. Ask the students to check in pairs and remind them to check that their spelling is correct.
As a class. Check answers, including the correct spelling.

Answer key:
1 the biggest
2 the most popular
3 the busiest
4 the most expensive
5 the most exciting

Over to you

In pairs or small groups. Ask the students to discuss the questions, encouraging them to use comparatives and/or superlatives where appropriate.

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Video script

The Edinburgh Fringe is the biggest arts festival in the world. Every August, thousands of performances take place in venues all over the city. The Fringe began in 1947, as a smaller version of the Edinburgh International Festival. Today, it is much bigger and people come from all over the world to watch comedy shows, theatre productions, street performers and much more. We asked some visitors what they thought of this year's festival and its shows.

Man 1: I love stand-up comedy, so I come here every year. I always watch lots of different kinds of comedians. The Edinburgh Fringe Festival is great because you can watch comedy shows all day, from early in the morning until late at night. I don't know of any other festival which has as much great comedy as the Edinburgh Fringe. And it's not only about comedy. I saw a ballet yesterday and it was amazing! I didn't really want to go, to be honest, but I'm very glad I did. The dancing was incredible!

Woman 1: I live in Edinburgh, so I have a whole month to see a lot of different kinds of performances. Some local people don't like it because there are so many tourists, and the city gets very busy and crowded. But I like seeing so many people coming to our city and having a good time, so I think the Edinburgh Fringe Festival is a good thing. I don't like everything I see here though. I saw a physical theatre performance yesterday. It was a bit like dance, but there wasn't as much music. It was… interesting. The actors were very good, but I didn't really understand the story.

Man 2: I just saw a play and it was awful! I read a review that gave it five stars but I didn't like it at all. There wasn't any action; it was just some people standing around talking. It was really dull. Next, I'm going to see a comedy show. I can't remember the comedian's name, but my girlfriend thinks he's hilarious, so it should be good.

Woman 2: People say it's the biggest festival in the world. I think that must be true, because there are so many different shows and performances here. The streets are full of performers and there are posters for plays and comedy shows everywhere. I just saw a clown doing an outdoor show. He was really funny, everyone stopped to watch him, even the police officers. It was brilliant! I come here every year, but not just for fun. Actually, I'm the director of a youth theatre group. This year we're doing Bugsy Malone. It's been really popular. The kids always enjoy coming here. In my opinion, the Edinburgh Fringe is the best festival in the world.

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