FYEC 103-Crossing Cultures

Performance Critique

The following is meant to be a rough guide in writing your production critiques. These points should be used as a starting point for thinking and writing about the production you saw. All critiques are due within a week of seeing the performance.

First, (hopefully obviously) identify the performance to be discussed.

Write a short (!!) synopsis of the plot.
Analyze the idea, theme, or meaning of the play.
   Consider what the playwright might be trying to do.
   how well is it done?
   Is it worth doing in the first place?
How does the structure of the play serve the idea, theme, etc.? 
How does the title of the play tie into the theme or meaning?
Do you like the play? Why or Why not?

Having commented on the play, concentrate on the performance

Did this production reveal the meaning of the play?
   how- or why not?
How were each of the elements used to support - or not support- the themes of the play?
   (consider each of the following- acting, directing- also, scenery, props,
   lighting, costumes, sound,- and of course anything else that was prominent)
Was the production complete and logically sound?
Where were there- in your opinion- real problems, or real successes?
Were you moved by this production? Why or why not?
Were you excited? Surprised? Did the production (or the play) cause you to think?
Were you caught up in the action (or the characters), or were you just waiting for the production to end?
Did what you saw seem original- or was it the same old stuff?
Were there particular moments that attracted you or repelled you? Why?

You can of course like the play and not like the production.
Or like the production and not like the play.

BUT-
   Support your points with reason, rationale, and purpose…

Your finished paper should be three to four pages minimum, and I expect common writing standards to be followed- ie. don’t move from topic to topic in the same paragraph, make sure there is a clear introductory paragraph and a concluding paragraph, make a point then back it up, don’t use glowing platitudes that don’t add anything to the paper; etc., etc., etc.