

## Swept along by waves of energy



### MUSICAL **AMERICAN IDIOT**

MAYFLOWER THEATRE  
SOUTHAMPTON: TOURING

- 1 A rock musical can never be quite as thrilling as a rock gig. The constraints of theatrical production will compromise the raw immediacy of a great live performance: simply, you can't script spontaneity. And this applies particularly when the music is by a band as headbangingly nuts as US punk-pop pranksters Green Day.
- 2 But *American Idiot*, based on the band's 2004 album of the same name, works because it's such a terrific show, bursting with vitality and lit with flashes of visual invention (the appearance in mid-air of what seems to be a burka-clad angel is jaw-dropping). Though the central characters are never fleshed out and the plot's a bit thin, you're swept along by waves of mayhem and energy – and some great tunes.
- 3 After more than 400 performances on Broadway (where it won two Tony awards), the show kicked off a UK tour in Southampton. The 20-strong company, young, well-drilled and impressively limber, fill the stage with relentless exuberance, while the onstage band reproduce the rattle and hum of Green Day with precision and panache.
- 4 And, in the end, it's the musical numbers, from protest songs to anthems for doomed youth, that are the stars of this rollicking, thunderous but frequently moving show.

*Tour details:* [americanidiotthemusical.co.uk](http://americanidiotthemusical.co.uk)

adapted from an article by **Marc Lee**

*Daily Telegraph, 2012*

## Tekst 9 Swept along by waves of energy

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- 1p 37 How does Marc Lee start his review of "American Idiot"?
- A by admitting that a show about Green Day has commercial potential
  - B by emphasising that he is a well-informed and regular concertgoer
  - C by making clear that he is not really a fan of the band Green Day
  - D by stating that the format does not do justice to Green Day's music
- 1p 38 What is a weak point of the show, according to paragraph 2?
- A The actors that play the lead roles are second-rate.
  - B The music is too wild and loud for a theatre setting.
  - C The special effects are completely over the top.
  - D The story lacks a truly interesting development.
- 1p 39 What is the function of paragraph 3?
- A To comment on how the show is produced, directed and promoted.
  - B To point out what makes *American Idiot* an excellent musical.
  - C To shed light on the history and background of *American Idiot*.
  - D To stress the differences between the American show and the British show.

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### Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.