



**Fort Wayne Civic Theatre**  
**IN THE WINGS Arts-in-Education Program**  
**Study Guide**

**MAMMA**

**MIA!**™

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## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

The Characters	3
The Songs	4
The Creators	5
Story Synopsis	7
ABBA: The Group Behind the Music	10
ABBA: Fun Facts & Figures	10
Mamma Mia!: History of the Show	11
Cultural Influence	12
The 1970's: Those Crazy Years	12
The 1970's: Timeline	13
The Film	16
True/False	17
Internet Quiz	18
Activities/ Classroom Lesson	19
Resources	20

## THE CHARACTERS

**DONNA:** Sophie's fiercely independent and hard-working mother, Donna, is the owner of a taverna (a small restaurant) on a beautiful Greek island. She is the former lead singer of "Donna and the Dynamos." Age: 40 to 50, Vocal range: E3-A5

**SOPHIE:** Donna's headstrong 20-year-old daughter, Sophie is determined to have what her mother never had: a traditional family. Age: 20 to 25, Vocal range: F#3-E5

**SKY:** Sophie's fiancé is a former stockbroker who got tired of the cut throat world of Wall Street. Age: 20 to 30, Vocal range: A2-A4

**TANYA:** One of Donna's oldest and best friends, Tanya has married several millionaires, but has never found the right man. Wild and sensual, she catches Pepper's eye. Age: 40 to 50, Vocal range: E3-E5

**ROSIE:** Another of Donna's old friends, Rosie is an author of cookbooks. Age: 40 to 50, Vocal range: E3-D5

**ALI & LISA:** Two of Sophie's friends who have come for the wedding. Ali: Age: 20 to 25, Vocal range: G3-D5. Lisa: Age: 20 to 25, Vocal range: G3-Db5

**PEPPER & EDDIE:** Donna's employees, these two are the bar-staff, waiters, boatmen and general help around the Taverna. Both are relaxed and good-natured. Pepper: Age: 20 to 25, Vocal range: A2-A4. Eddie: Age: 20 to 25

**SAM CARMICHAEL:** An architect, Sam has regretted leaving Donna all his life. Age: 40 to 50, Vocal range: D3-Ab4

**HARRY BRIGHT:** Although he was known as the wild "Head Banger" when he first knew Donna, today Harry is a respected banker. Age: 40 to 50. Vocal range: C#3-F#4

**BILL AUSTIN:** A well-known travel writer, Bill has visited the far reaches of the earth, but is afraid of making a commitment. Age: 40 to 50, Vocal range: Bb2-F#4

**FATHER ALEXANDRIOS:** The minister of the island.

## THE SONGS

### Act I

- "Overture"
- "Prologue" - Sophie
- "Honey, Honey"  
- Sophie, Ali & Lisa
- "Money, Money, Money"  
- Donna, Tanya, Rosie, Pepper  
& Company
- "Thank You for the Music"  
- Sophie, Sam, Harry & Bill
- "Mamma Mia"  
- Donna & Company
- "Chiquitita"  
- Donna, Tanya & Rosie
- "Dancing Queen"  
- Donna, Tanya & Rosie
- "Lay All Your Love on Me"  
- Sky, Sophie, Male Ensemble
- "Super Trouper"  
- Donna, Tanya, Rosie, Female  
Ensemble
- "Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!"  
- Female Ensemble
- "The Name of the Game"  
- Sophie & Bill
- "Voulez-Vous" - Company

### Act II

- "Entr'acte" - Orchestra
- "Under Attack"  
- Sophie & Company
- "One of Us" - Donna
- "SOS" - Donna & Sam
- "Does Your Mother Know"  
- Tanya, Pepper & Company
- "Knowing Me, Knowing You"  
- Sam
- "Our Last Summer"  
- Harry & Donna
- "Slipping Through My Fingers"  
- Donna & Sophie
- "The Winner Takes It All"  
- Donna
- "Take a Chance on Me"  
- Rosie & Bill
- "I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do"  
- Sam, Donna & Company
- "I Have a Dream" - Sophie

## THE CREATORS



**BENNY ANDERSSON** (Music and Lyrics) was born in 1946 outside of Stockholm, Sweden. His father and grandfather both being musicians, Benny was introduced to the accordion at an early age. With little patience for conventional music lessons, Benny is known to pick up just about any instrument and play it with ease. After he left high school, he was invited to become a part of the popular Swedish beat group The Hepstars, with whom he played for several successful years until the band disbanded in the late 1960s. While

touring with the band, he met another young songwriter named Björn Ulvaeus, and the two released their own LP after the breakup of The Hepstars. They were soon joined by their girlfriends, Anni-Frid Lyngstad and Agnetha Fältskog, in a touring act "Festfolket", which was not much of a success. This foursome would, however, find international stardom and astounding success under the moniker ABBA. During his years with ABBA, Benny co-wrote and co-produced the band's entire output as well as touring the world. After the band split he, along with Björn, wrote the music for Tim Rice's "Chess", which was a huge success. In recent years, Benny has divided his time between producing (for such successful Swedish performers as Josefin Nilsson) and his love for birds. More success followed with the premiere of he and Björn's latest musical, "Kristina från Duvemåla." Several concerts celebrating the contribution he and Björn have made to the music industry in Sweden have been staged in 1998.

**BJORN ULVAEUS** (Music & Lyrics) Before gaining international recognition with ABBA, Ulvaeus was a member of the Swedish folkschlager band Hootenanny Singers, early known as the "West Bay Singers," who had an enormous following in Scandinavia. While on the road in southern Sweden in 1966, they encountered the Hep Stars, and Ulvaeus quickly became friends with the group's keyboard player, Benny Andersson. The two musicians shared a passion for songwriting, and each found a composing partner in the other. On meeting again that summer, they composed their first song together: "Isn't It Easy To Say," a song soon to be recorded by Andersson's group. The two continued teaming up for music, helping out each other's bands in the recording studio, and adding guitar or keyboards respectively to the recordings. In 1968, they composed two songs together: "A Flower In My Garden", recorded by Hep Stars, and their first "real" hit "Ljuva Sextiotal," for which Stig Anderson wrote lyrics. The latter, a cabarét-style ironic song about the 1960s, was submitted for the 1969 Swedish heats for the Eurovision Song Contest, but was rejected; it was later recorded by diva Brita Borg. Another hit came in 1969 with "Speleman", also recorded by Hep Stars.



While filming a nostalgic schlager special for television in March 1969, Björn met an eighteen-year-old singer-songwriter Agnetha Fältskog. Benny had himself met his future spouse, a 23-year-old jazz and schlager vocalist Anni-Frid Lyngstad, only weeks before.

Björn Ulvaeus continued recording and touring with Hootenanny Singers to great acclaim while working as in-house producer at Polar Record Company (headed by future manager Stig Anderson), with Benny as his new partner. The twosome produced records by other artists and continued writing songs together. Polar artist Arne Lamberts Swedish version of "A Flower in My Garden" ("*Fröken Blåklint*") was one of Björn & Benny's first in-house productions. In December 1969, they recorded the new song "She's My Kind of Girl," which became their first single as a duo. It was released in March 1970, giving them a minor hit in Sweden (and by chance a top-ten hit in Japan two years later).

The Hootenanny Singers entered Svensktoppen, the Swedish radio charts, in 1970 with "Omkring Tiggarn Från Luossa," a cover of an old folk-schlager song. It remained on the charts for 52 consecutive weeks, a record which endured until 1990; the song was produced by Björn and Benny, and had Ulvaeus's solo vocal and Benny's piano.

After ABBA, Ulvaeus and Andersson created the musicals *Chess*, a collaboration with lyricist Tim Rice,<sup>[3]</sup> *Kristina från Duvemåla* (based on *The Emigrants* novels by Swedish writer Vilhelm Moberg), and *Mamma Mia!* (based on ABBA songs).

Together with Andersson, Ulvaeus was nominated for the Drama Desk Award in the category "Outstanding Music" (for the musical *Chess*), and for a Tony Award in a category "Best Orchestrations" (for the musical *Mamma Mia!*). Original cast recordings of both musicals were nominated for a Grammy Award.



Patron: Catherine Johnson  
Playwright/Screenwriter and creator of *Mamma Mia!*

**CATHERINE JOHNSON** (Book) is a British playwright, producing works for stage and television. She is best known for her book for the ABBA-inspired musical *Mamma Mia!* and screenplay for the film of the same name. The film became the highest-grossing British picture of all time in the UK, and the biggest selling UK DVD of all time in January 2009. She also co-wrote the 2018 sequel, *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again*.

Johnson grew up in Wickwar near Wotton-under-Edge and attended Katharine Lady Berkeley's School in Wotton. She was expelled from school at 16, married at 18 and divorced by the age of 24. She moved to Bristol and finding herself unemployed and with one child to support and another on the way she spotted a notice in the local paper for the

Bristol Old Vic/HTV West playwriting competition. She wrote *Rag Doll*, using the pseudonym *Maxwell Smart*, a play about incest and child abuse, which won the competition and was staged by the Bristol Old Vic. Further plays for the Bush Theatre in London, Bristol Old Vic and Show of Strength followed along with work on television series including *Casualty*, *Love Hurts* and *Byker Grove*. Johnson lives in Bristol and also owns a house in Pimlico, London.

In 2007 Johnson instituted **The Catherine Johnson Award for Best Play** written by the five Pearson Playwrights' Scheme bursary winners from the previous year. Catherine won a bursary from the scheme in 1991. Catherine is a patron of the Wotton Electric Picture House in Wotton-under-Edge, Bristol's Myrtle Theatre Company and *Arts and Community* in Thornbury.



## STORY SYNOPSIS

### Act I

Before the curtain rises, the orchestra starts playing the overture, which is a montage of instrumental versions of some of ABBA's hit songs.

On the fictional Greek island of Kalokairi (based on the real Greek island of Skopelos), 20-year-old Sophie Sheridan is preparing to marry her fiancé, Sky. She wants her father to walk her down the aisle ("Prologue"), but doesn't know who he is. Sophie discovers her mother's old diary and finds entries which describe intimate dates with three men (Sam Carmichael, Bill Austin [Anderson in the film version], and Harry Bright) ("Honey, Honey"). Sophie believes one of these men is her father and, three months before her nuptials, sends each an invitation to her wedding, writing in her mother's name, Donna, without letting her unsuspecting mother know.

The day before the wedding, Donna begins receiving guests at her taverna. The first to arrive are her long-time best friends: Tanya, (a rich woman, who has been married and divorced three times) and Rosie (an unmarried, carefree woman). The trio used to comprise a girl group called "Donna and the Dynamos." The three women catch up and talk about their lives ("Money, Money, Money").

Later that day, Sophie's three possible fathers arrive: Sam (an American architect), Harry (a British banker), and Bill (originally an Australian writer and adventurer, Swedish in the film, and currently American in New York and on tour). Sophie convinces them not to tell Donna that she invited them ("Thank You for the Music"). Donna is surprised to see her ex-lovers ("Mamma

Mia") and leaves in tears. Donna, crying, explains to Tanya and Rosie the situation, and they cheer her up ("Chiquitita"). Tanya and Rosie try to convince Donna that she can still be the girl she once was ("Dancing Queen").

Sophie had hoped she would know her father the moment she saw him but is now only confused. She tries to tell her fiancé, Sky, how she feels without confessing what she has done. Sky tells her he will be the only man she ever needs ("Lay All Your Love on Me"), before his buddies abduct him for his bachelor party. At Sophie's hen party, Donna and the Dynamos don their old costumes and perform a song, ("Super Trouper"). Sam, Bill, and Harry accidentally walk in on the party, and the guests persuade them to stay ("Gimme! Gimme! Gimme! (A Man After Midnight)"). Sophie first pulls Sam out of the room to talk to him. After he asks why he is there, she is overcome with guilt and goes to talk to Harry, instead. But Harry asks if Sophie's father is at the party, and she tells him that she does not know who her father is. Lastly, she draws Bill aside to talk with him. She learns that Bill has an aunt Sophia who left all her money to Donna's family. Bill learns that Donna built the taverna with money she inherited from a friend she lived with when Sophie was a baby; that friend was Bill's aunt. They both think this means he is her father.

Sophie asks Bill to walk her down the aisle, but Bill wants to discuss it first with Donna. This has been her secret, after all. But no one knows yet that even Donna doesn't know who the father is, because she slept with the three men in such swift succession. Sophie insists they mustn't tell Donna anything ("The Name of the Game") and finally, Bill agrees.

Afterward, everybody crashes the hen party (including the guys from the stag party). During the party, Sam pulls Sophie aside and tells her he has figured out why she invited him. He knows he is her father and promises to walk her down the aisle the next day. Then, Harry approaches Sophie, apologizing for being so slow on the uptake; he is also convinced that she is his daughter and promises to walk her down the aisle. Sophie leaves the party, hopelessly confused; she doesn't want to turn any of them down ("Voulez-Vous").

## Act II

(Entr'acte) Sophie's having a nightmare, involving her three possible fathers all fighting for the right to walk her down the aisle and wakes up despairing ("Under Attack").

Sophie's upset, and Donna assumes that Sophie wants to cancel the wedding and offers to handle all the details. Sophie's offended and vows that her children won't grow up not knowing who their father is. As Sophie storms out of the room, Sam enters and tries to tell Donna that Sophie may not be all she seems, but Donna won't listen ("One of Us"). She hates Sam; at the end of their affair, she said she never wanted to see him again. But it seems that Sam was the man Donna cared about the most, and both of them wish they could go back to the start ("SOS").

At the beach, Harry asks Tanya what the father of the bride ought to be doing for Sophie's wedding. Tanya explains that for her part, her father gave her his advice and then paid. Pepper, one of the guys who works at Donna's taverna, makes advances to Tanya, but she rebuffs him ("Does Your Mother Know").

Sky finds out what Sophie has done in inviting Sam, Harry and Bill to the wedding. He accuses her of wanting a big white wedding only so that she can find out who her father is. He's very hurt that she kept this plan a secret from him. He storms off just as Sam walks in. Sam tries to

give Sophie some fatherly advice by describing his failed marriage ("Knowing Me, Knowing You"), but Sophie isn't consoled.

Harry offers to Donna to pay for the wedding, and they reminisce about their fling ("Our Last Summer"). Sophie arrives and Donna helps her get dressed. She can't believe her daughter is going to be a bride ("Slipping Through My Fingers"). Donna admits that her own mother disowned her when she learned that she was pregnant. They reconcile and Sophie asks her mother if she will walk her down the aisle. Sam arrives and tries to speak to Donna again, but she doesn't want to see him, and asks him to leave. He refuses, and a bitter confrontation ensues. Donna tells Sam that he broke her heart, presumably when she found out he was engaged ("The Winner Takes It All"). It emerges that the two still love each other dearly, albeit against Donna's better judgment.

Rosie is making final preparations in the taverna when Bill arrives. He's upset because he has received a note that Donna will be walking Sophie down the aisle. Bill reaffirms his commitment to the single life, but Rosie has become attracted to him, and urges him to reconsider ("Take a Chance on Me"). They are about to have sex in the taverna, but the guests arrive, leaving Rosie quite stunned.

The wedding begins, with Donna walking Sophie down the aisle. Before the priest has a chance to begin the ceremonies, Donna acknowledges to everyone that Sophie's father is present. Sophie tells her mother that she knows about her father. Donna realizes that Sophie invited them to the wedding for that very reason. The issue of Sophie's parentage is left unsettled, as none of them have any idea whether they are actually her father. Everyone involved agrees that it doesn't matter which one of them her biological parent is, as Sophie loves all three and they are all happy to be "one-third of a father" and a part of her life at last. Finally, Harry, who has made frequent references to his "other half" throughout the show, is revealed to be in a committed gay relationship.

Suddenly, Sophie calls a halt to the proceedings. She isn't ready to get married, and Sky agrees with her about not getting married. Sam seizes his chance and proposes to Donna in order to prevent the wedding preparations from going to waste. He explains that he has always loved her, even when he left years ago to get married. It is revealed that he called off the wedding and came back to the island, only to be told that Donna was going out with another man (Bill). He went back to his fiancée, they married and had children, but later divorced. Surprisingly, Donna accepts Sam's proposal ("I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do"). In the end, Sam and Donna are married; at the end of the night, Sophie and Sky depart on a round-the-world tour ("I Have a Dream").

## **Finale and encore**

After their final bows to the audience, the ensemble performs a reprise of "Mamma Mia." A reprise of "Dancing Queen" follows, during which Donna, Tanya, Rosie are revealed wearing brightly colored ABBA inspired costumes. The cast ends the finale with "Waterloo," during which Sam, Bill, and Harry join the rest of the cast onstage in brightly colored costumes that match the leading ladies. The Dynamos and the dads often invite the audience to clap, dance, and sing along during the finale.

## ABBA: THE STORY OF THE GROUP BEHIND THE MUSIC

**Early years:** The reason behind ABBA's phenomenal popularity lay in their roots as a Swedish supergroup of sorts. In the late Sixties, Bjorn Ulvaeus was a member of the popular folk act The Hootenanny Singers, while Benny Andersson was already well-known as part of the Hep Stars, the country's biggest pop covers act. The pair met in 1966 at a party and collaborated on and off for five years, but it was during the late Sixties that they met their respective spouses: Agnetha Fältskog and Anni-Frid "Frida" Lyngstad, both already established solo artists, fell in love with Bjorn and Benny (respectively) within months of each other. All four would finally meet together, all at the same time, in 1972, while Agnetha was playing Mary in the original Swedish production of "Jesus Christ Superstar."

**Success:** Oddly enough, the four didn't work together as a full-time unit until 1972, when "People Need Love," clumsily credited to "Björn & Benny, Agnetha & Anni-Frid," became a hit in their native country, signaling they should combine their talents permanently. Manager Stig Anderson had referred to them as "ABBA" in business dealings, and a nationwide poll also indicated fan preference for the acronym, so it stuck. The group finally achieved fame across Europe with two appearances at the Eurovision Song Contest -- "Ring Ring," which placed third in 1973, and "Waterloo," which won the grand prize the following year.

**Later years:** "Waterloo" also introduced them to the US, and although they remained much more popular in Europe, the group achieved monumental worldwide success throughout the decade. As might be expected, however, the success took a toll on the group's two marriages, and by 1982, they decided to go their separate ways as performers. The two female leads went on to some solo success, while Bjorn and Benny created a popular musical (1984's "Chess") and continued to write and produce for other acts. Although they remain cordial, the four have declined any offers of a reunion, despite resurging popularity in the last ten years. In 2018, it was announced ABBA had written two new songs, for potential inclusion in the Mamma Mia film sequel. At this writing, the two songs, along with a third, are still being worked on.

## ABBA FACTS AND TRIVIA

- Shared their name with a national fish-canning company, who graciously allowed them to use it
- Only the Volvo car company made more money for Sweden during the group's existence
- The group's 1981 hit "The Visitors" was later revealed to be written in response to grassroots movements to overthrow Soviet domination in European countries
- The hugely popular Broadway musical *Mamma Mia!* is based around their songs
- In 2000, business interests offered the group one billion dollars for one hundred reunion shows

# MAMMA MIA: HISTORY OF THE SHOW

## Inspiration



*Mamma Mia!*, with a book by Catherine Johnson and music and lyrics from Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvæus, is a musical based around the music from the band, ABBA, of which, Andersson and Ulvæus were both members. Active between 1972 and 1982, the Swedish pop/dance group is one of the most popular international groups of all time, with hits that spanned the charts of Europe, North America and Australia.

The musical came to fruition under the idea of theatre producer, Judy

Craymer. After seeing the 1983 musical, *Chess*, for which, Andersson and Ulvæus also wrote the music, she asked to sit down with them and talk about future plans. When she heard their song "The Winner Takes It All," she realized the theatrical potential of the group's pop songs. Although the composers were initially not enthusiastic about the idea, they commissioned her to go forward with their work. Craymer then recruited playwright, Catherine Johnson, to write the book and took on Phyllida Lloyd as the director of the original London production.

*Mamma Mia!* premiered in the West End at the Prince Edward Theatre on April 6, 1999. It has been extremely successful and underwent two different location transfers (to the Prince of Wales Theatre in June 2004 and to the Novello Theatre in September 2012); it continues to play to full houses to this day. Toronto was the first city to produce the show after premiering in London, with a production that ran from May 22, 2000, to May 22, 2005.



The musical made its debut in the United States at the Orpheum Theatre in San Francisco, California, on November 17, 2000. On February 26, 2001, the production moved to the Shubert Theatre in Los Angeles and then to the Cadillac Palace Theatre in Chicago on May 13 of the same year. *Mamma Mia!* moved further east to open on

Broadway at the Winter Garden Theatre on October 18, 2001, and then transferred to the Broadhurst Theatre on November 2, 2013. It remained one of the most popular shows on the Great White Way throughout its almost fifteen-year run.

The first North American tour started in Providence, Rhode Island, in February 2002, and then premiered in Las Vegas at the Mandalay Bay in February 2003.



*Mamma Mia!* has been performed in more than 40 countries and across five continents, including: Belgium, Greece, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates. The first non-English production started in Hamburg, Germany, on November 3, 2002. Many international tours have run over the past several years, but the current one started off in Dublin on September 9, 2004.

### Cultural Influence

- *Mamma Mia!* has grossed \$2 billion worldwide since premiering in 1999.
- Over 54 million people have seen the musical in 40 different countries.
- It is said that, on any given day, there are at least seven performances of the musical being performed around the world.
- *Mamma Mia!* has brought a renaissance to ABBA's music. Following the London premiere in 1999, the album, *ABBA Gold*, topped charts in the United Kingdom for the second time in fifteen years.
- The London production of the musical was one of the first times that three women (producer, Judy Craymer; book writer, Catherine Johnson; and director, Phyllida Lloyd) collaborated as a creative team. Its immense commercial success has been significant to the image of female creators in musical theatre.
- In June 2005, the Las Vegas production played its 1000th performance, becoming the longest-running West End or Broadway musical to ever play in Vegas.
- *Mamma Mia!* has premiered in more cities faster than any musical in history.
- *Mamma Mia!* has been translated into fourteen languages, including: German, Japanese, Spanish, Danish, French, and Chinese.
- The show is the first major musical to play concurrently in three German cities, with productions in Hamburg, Stuttgart and Essen all running in 2007.
- The Chinese premiere at the Shanghai Grand Theatre on July 11, 2011, was the first time a contemporary Western musical was presented in Chinese in Shanghai.
- A film adaptation of *Mamma Mia!* was released in July 2008. Featuring much of the creative team from the original London production, it starred Meryl Streep, Amanda Seyfried and Pierce Brosnan.

## THE 1970'S: THOSE CRAZY YEARS.....

History books can only tell us so much: the facts, the figures and the hard data of a time period.

*MAMMA MIA!* Really takes place during TWO time periods: the present day and the era of the 1970s, when Donna met Sam, Harry, and Bill and sang with “Donna and the Dominos.” The 1970s was a time of extraordinary change, a pivotal era in American and world history. Events of the decade changed how we saw our leaders, our place in the world, and our selves. The war in Vietnam led to large scale protests and distrust in government and authority, which was

affecting the economy, while an energy crisis caused longlines at the gas stations. Many turned away from the government and looked to themselves for change.

Environmentalists such as Rachel Carson had warned against the dangers of pollution; the 1970s saw the beginning of the environmental movement: a concentrated, public-driven desire to conserve and protect our world. With the fiftieth anniversary of Female Suffrage (the right to vote) in the United States, the 1970s also saw the growth of the feminist movement to gain equal rights for women in all parts of life. The proportion of women in state legislatures tripled during the 1970s, and by 1979, women surpassed men in college enrollment. Along with social strides, the 1970s saw advances in science. The development of semiconductor silicon chips revolutionized the electronics industry; handheld calculators, digital watches, and video games like Pong and PacMan became common place.

The nuclear family (a family unit consisting of one father, one mother, and children), which had been so strong during the 1940s and 1950s, began to lose its importance during the 1970s. Divorce rates were on the rise and women began to believe that they could raise children on their own.

Since World War II, the United States had been in the forefront of political, economic, and social history. We started losing ground, and there was a sense – a nameless fear. In the 1970s, we saw our limits.

But through it all, satirical television shows like “All in the Family” and “Saturday Night Live” made fun of these changes, never letting us take ourselves too seriously!

## THE 1970'S: TIMELINE

### 1970

Richard M. Nixon is the President of the United States, having won in 1968 against Democratic nominee Hubert Humphrey. His Vice President is Spiro T. Agnew.

The population of the U.S. is 205 million.

Peace talks continue in Paris as public pressure builds around the world to end the Vietnam War.

April 22: The first Earth Day.

May 4: After the ROTC building was burned down by students at Kent State University, Ohio governor James Rhodes calls in the National Guard. The Guard opens fire on student demonstrators – 4 are killed and 11 wounded.

448 universities and colleges throughout the U.S. are closed or on strike due to anti-war protests.

May 9: Over 100,000 students march on Washington, D.C. to protest Kent State and our involvement in Vietnam.

Apollo 13 cancels its moon landing in mid-flight as an oxygen line breaks. The three astronauts return to Earth safely using the life support system on the Lunar Module. Even in the wake of this dangerous situation, the 1970s see more space exploration than ever before.

In New York City, the North Tower of the World Trade Center is completed.

The Beatles, the world's most popular rock group, disbands.

The first woman general, Anna Mae Hays—is commissioned in the U.S. Army.

Inventions this year: the floppy disk, barcodes.

**1971**

The Pentagon Papers – a series of reports describing how different Presidents had been complicit in falsehoods involving the Vietnam War – are released to newspapers.

Cigarette ads are banned from television.

Attica State Prison in Buffalo, New York is the scene of a horrific riot. 1200 inmates take 30 guards and other employees hostage with the hope of gaining reforms. 29 inmates and 9 guards are killed in the ensuing bloodbath.

The 26<sup>th</sup> amendment, lowering the voting age to 18, is ratified.

The Supreme Court rules that hiring practices must be equal between men and women.

**1972**

Attempts at a peace deal in Vietnam fail.

Israeli athletes are taken hostage at the Munich Olympics by Palestinian guerrillas. Two coaches and nine athletes are killed. The terrorists are killed as they try to leave the country.

President Richard Nixon visits China in February, and later in the year visits the Soviet Union (Russia).

June 17: Five burglars are arrested while breaking into the Democratic Headquarters at the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C. One of the burglars, James McCord, is a security employee for Nixon's Committee to Re-Elect the President (CREEP). Democrats accuse President Nixon's campaign of orchestrating the burglary. Two reporters from the Washington Post, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein publish stories on the case, uncovering secret funds and "dirty tricks" by campaign workers.

Richard Nixon is re-elected President.

**1973**

Oil producing countries announce that they will no longer ship oil to nations who support Israel in its conflict with Syria and Egypt. The price of oil increases greatly over the next year. The scarcity of gas causes long lines at gas stations and gas rationing throughout the United States.

The Watergate scandal heats up. Senate committee holds televised hearings. Former White House counsel John W. Dean III admits to playing a major role in the cover up. He testifies that Nixon knew of all events. Seven Watergate defendants are sentenced to prison.

Roe V. Wade is decided by the Supreme Court, legalizing first and second trimester abortions.

Vice President Spiro Agnew resigns, pleading no contest to tax evasion charges. Gerald Ford becomes Vice President.

President Nixon takes the last troops out of Vietnam.

Recordings this year: Billy Joel ("Piano Man"), Bruce Springsteen("Greetings From Asbury Park"), Elton John ("Yellow Brick Road").

**1974**

Dogged by tapes which tie him to the Watergate coverup, President Nixon becomes the first President to resign. Soon after, he is pardoned by President Gerald Ford.

Speed limits are reduced to 55 mph on highways.

Inventions: The Heimlich maneuver.

President Ford grants limited amnesty to those who dodged the Vietnam draft.

Pocket calculators become widespread.

## 1975

Bill Gates founds Microsoft.

Apollo-Soyuz: In July, a U.S. Apollo spacecraft docks with a Russian Soyuz spaceship in orbit. This is the first time spacecraft from different nations dock while in space. Many hope this is a beginning to greater cooperation between the two superpowers.

27-year-old Steven Spielberg directs the movie Jaws.

## 1976

Apple Computer is launched.

VCRs are released.

The United States celebrates its 200<sup>th</sup> year, or its bicentennial.

The Viking Probe sets down on Mars and begins to send back photos.

Jimmy Carter, former Governor of Georgia, is elected President.

The movie Rocky, starring Sylvester Stallone, is released.

The Disco Revolution is in full swing: The Bee Gees release "You Should Be Dancing." ABBA releases "Dancing Queen" and KC & The Sunshine Band show us how to "Shake, Shake, Shake."

## 1977

President Anwar El Sadat of Egypt becomes the first Arab leader to visit and acknowledge Israel's right to exist.

Elvis Presley, the classic rock and roller who originates such hit songs as "Love Me Tender" and "Jailhouse Rock" dies.

Star Wars is released.

## 1978

July 25: Birth of Louise Joy Brown, the first "test tube baby," conceived in a glass dish and implanted in her mother's womb.

Representatives of Egypt, Israel and the United States meet at Camp David to create a Middle East Peace Agreement.

Ultrasound is first used to map out the interior of the human body.

## 1979

The Shah, the leader of Iran, flees the country. In his place, the Ayatollah Khomeini introduces strict Islamic law.

Iranian students storm the US Embassy and hold 52 hostages for 444 days.

Margaret Thatcher becomes the first female Prime Minister of England.

The Soviet Union invades Afghanistan.

## THE FILM

With the original stage production opening in London in 1999, and smash hits everywhere since then, including Broadway in 2001, it was only natural a movie would get made at some point. It was directed by Phyllida Lloyd and produced by Judy Craymer, who also had those respective roles in the stage production. The screenplay was written by Catherine Johnson, who also wrote the book of the stage show, which itself is based on the songs of pop group ABBA, including the title song, with additional music composed by ABBA member Benny Andersson. The film features an ensemble cast, including Meryl Streep, Christine Baranski, Pierce Brosnan, Dominic Cooper, Colin Firth, Amanda Seyfried, Stellan Skarsgård, and Julie Walters. The plot follows a young bride-to-be who invites three men to her upcoming wedding, each one with the possibility of being her father. The film was an international co-production between Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and was co-produced by Relativity Media, Playtone and Littlestar Productions.

Principal photography primarily took place on the island of Skopelos, Greece from August to September 2007. The film was distributed by Universal Pictures. *Mamma Mia!* held its world premiere on June 30, 2008 at Leicester Square in London and premiered on July 4, 2008 in Stockholm, Sweden, with Andersson, Björn Ulvaeus, Anni-Frid Lyngstad and Agnetha Fältskog in attendance. The film was released theatrically on July 10 in the United Kingdom, on July 17 in Germany and on July 18 in the United States. It received mixed reviews from critics, who praised the musical numbers and production values, but criticized the plot and casting of inexperienced singers, in particular Brosnan and Skarsgård. Nonetheless, the film was popular with audiences grossed \$615 million worldwide on a \$52 million budget, becoming the fifth highest-grossing film of 2008. A sequel, titled *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again*, was released on July 20, 2018 with most of the main cast returning. Cher also joined the cast of the sequel, playing Donna's mother. She was asked to play Tanya in the first film, but turned it down.

Most of the songs remained intact with the exceptions of "Under Attack," "One of Us," "Knowing Me, Knowing You," and "Thank You for the Music." "Knowing Me, Knowing You" was used as the wedding music and "Thank You for the Music" is sung during the second half of the end credits. The first half is occupied with a "Dancing Queen" reprise and "Waterloo," with a "Mamma Mia" reprise and "I Have a Dream" sung before the credits (though the latter is sung as Sophie mails the invitations at the start of the film). "When All Is Said and Done," a song not used in the musical, was added for the film sung by Sam, Donna, and the company. "Our Last Summer" was used earlier in the movie, with Sophie, Bill, Sam, and Harry singing it. "The Name of the Game," while filmed, was subsequently edited out of the film for the final cut. The song is included in full on the motion picture soundtrack – an abbreviated version of the song and scene appear on the DVD/Blu-ray as a supplement. In addition, "Thank You for the Music" is used as a hidden track, and is performed by Amanda Seyfried.



## TRUE/ FALSE

1. ABBA was so named because they were described in the Swedish press as having “God-like [ABBA-like] mastery of music: T / F
2. Glenn Close was nominated for an Academy Award for playing Donna in the film version of *Mamma Mia*: T / F
3. ABBA received an Academy Award nomination collectively for writing a new song for the film version of *Mamma Mia!*: T / F
4. Cher was asked to play Tanya for the first *Mamma Mia!* film: T / F
5. Kalokairi is the name of the fictional island upon which the bulk of *Mamma Mia* is located: T / F
6. Donna and her two oldest friends, Tanya and Rosie, used to form a vocal group called: Donna & The Dynamos: T / F
7. Bill is revealed to have a partner back home named Nigel: T / F
8. The character of Bill was originally portrayed in all productions as being Australian: T / F
9. “Dancing Queen,” was released in 1976?: T / F
10. The four individuals who formed ABBA first met each other at the same time while Agentha was playing Eva Peron in the musical *Evita*: T / F

# INTERNET QUIZ

Use the Internet to answer these questions about differences between international productions:

- 1) During the preview period in London, the song \_\_\_\_\_ appeared just after prologue
- 2) In the Mexican production, when Donna sees her three ex-lovers, she hums a few lines of the original Spanish version of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) In the German production, Sky sings a few lines of \_\_\_\_\_ before starting 'Lay All Your Love on Me.' HINT: It is also used in the Swedish production.
- 4) In the Russian production, Sky sings a few lines of \_\_\_\_\_ before starting 'Lay All Your Love on Me.' HINT: It is NOT the same song as the German/ Swedish productions.
- 5) In the first international tour, Sky sang a few lines of \_\_\_\_\_ before starting 'Lay All Your Love on Me.'
- 6) In the 2015 international tour, Sky sang a few lines of a different song in the same location. What was it? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) During the finale trio of songs, why is an extended version of 'Mamma Mia' provided for usage in certain theatres? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) In which production does the song "Happy New Year," appear as part of the Finale during special New Year performances? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Originally, the London production was meant to include an ABBA song from 1982. It was dropped so close to opening night, the song title still appeared in programs near the beginning of the run. What was that song: \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) The first Las Vegas production was a huge hit when it opened at the Mandalay Bay. It ran over 1000 performances and became the longest running West End/Broadway musical to play Vegas, from 2003-2009. It later returned to Vegas, but didn't last three months. Where did this production play?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 11) The first city after London to launch a production of the show was not New York. In fact, it wasn't even in the United States, though it IS in North America. What city is this? \_\_\_\_\_



# ACTIVITIES

## *THOSE CRAZY YEARS*

Using the Internet and library resources, research your community during the 1970s. Interview your parents, grandparents or teachers. Where were they during the 1970s? How old were they? What music did they enjoy? What did they think about the important events of that time?

How does history affect culture? Look at the events of the 1970s, and you may see many grim and fearful events. Why do you think joyful music like the songs of ABBA emerged from the events of the 1970s?

## *MOTHERHOOD IN THE 1970's*

Donna was a young single mother in the late 1970s/early 1980s, a time when single-parenthood was not as socially acceptable as it is today. Her mother disowned her, and she chose to start a new life for herself and her child in Greece. In what ways do you think Donna was groundbreaking in her life choices?

## *Thank You for the Music....*

ABBA was one of many groups and musicians that redefined music during the 1970s.

Break your class or group into smaller groups and with your teammates choose one person or group who was important in the creation of popular music during the 1970s. Each group will research the lives, achievements and innovations of the person or group you have chosen, and present a brief report on their findings.

# CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

1. Students will choose one of the lyrics to an ABBA song.
2. Breaking up into groups, students will discuss the following question: What story and setting do the lyrics they have chosen suggest? Create character, setting, conflict, dialogue and action.
3. From your discussions, write a small scene using the lyrics as a foundation. Include dialogue prompts and stage directions. The scene can be written in committee or one playwright can be chosen.
4. Within each group, select actors, a director, a prop person, a costume designer and a stage manager who will be in charge of rehearsal. Rehearse the written scenes and present them for an audience of classmates.

# RESOURCES

## Books

*From ABBA to MAMMA MIA!: The Official Book* by Anders Hanswer and Carl Magnus Palm (Watson-Guptill Publications, 2000)

*Mamma Mia!* (Piano/Vocal/Chords) Music and Lyrics by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus. Warner Brothers.

## Websites

[www.abbsite.com](http://www.abbsite.com)

[http://broadwayeducators.com/studyguides/MammaMia\\_StudyGuide.pdf](http://broadwayeducators.com/studyguides/MammaMia_StudyGuide.pdf)

[www.carlmagnuspalm.com/abba/books/abba-the-backstage-stories](http://www.carlmagnuspalm.com/abba/books/abba-the-backstage-stories)

[www.mamma-mia.com](http://www.mamma-mia.com)

<https://mamma-mia.com/london.php>

<https://mamma-mia.com/london-education.php>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ABBA>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mamma\\_Mia!](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mamma_Mia!)