

## Tekst 9

## 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*

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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.