



A Star Is Born (Ha nascut una estrella)

Nivells: 3r i 4t ESO, batxillerat, cicles formatius, centres formació adults. **Àrees:** llengua anglesa / educació per a la ciutadania i els drets humans / educació ètica cívica / món contemporani / música i història de la música / arts escèniques, música i dansa / cultura audiovisual, cinema, tv, fotografia. **Temes:** dones / món laboral, relacions laborals / relacions humanes, psicologia / alcoholisme, drogoaddiccions / família, relacions familiars



TRÀILER

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Bradley Cooper and P. Scott Sakamoto in *A Star Is Born* (2018)

Fitxa tècnica i artística

Direcció: Bradley Cooper. **Interpretació:** Lady Gaga, Bradley Cooper, Sam Elliott. **Guió:** Eric Roth. **Gènere:** drama, musical, romàntic. **Any:** 2018. **País:** EUA.
Durada: 136 minuts.

Sinopsi

Jackson Maine és un músic veterà, però la seva carrera és a les acaballes per la seva dependència de l'alcohol. Maine descobreix una cantant prometedora anomenada Ally, una jove aspirant a estrella que somia amb triomfar en el món de l'espectacle. Decideix ajudar-la i llançar-la a la fama i es converteix en el seu mentor. Entre els dos naixerà una relació amorosa apassionada que es veurà enterbolida pel caràcter autodestructiu del cantant.

BEFORE THE FILM

ACTIVITY ONE. THE TRAILER

1. A Star is Born is a story about love, music, and fame. Watch the trailer and put the sentences in the correct order.

- Jackson and Ally sing together for a huge audience while we see how they start a relationship.
- Jackson Maine is playing "Maybe It's Time"
- "It's the first time I've worried about you" is what a friend says to him while they're having a conversation.
- "One night, a woman is singing on a small bar while Jackson Maine is listening to her and drinking.
- After finishing the concert, he gets into the car and drinks some whiskey.
- "Jack, Jack, please it's not funny," says Ally. But Jackson believes in her talent, so he wants her to trust him.
- Jackson starts to feel attracted to Ally, and he wants to sing with her on a stage.
- "I don't sing my songs" is what Ally says to Jackson Maine the first time they meet.



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2. Complete the dialogue between Jackson and Ally with these words:

- single / beautiful / personal / songs / comfortable / write
- Jack: Can I ask you _____ question?
 - Ally: Okay
 - Jack: Do you _____ songs anything?
 - Ally: I don't sing my own _____
 - Jack: _____
 - Ally: _____
 - Jack: _____
 - Ally: _____
 - Jack: _____
 - Ally: _____
 - Jack: _____

ACTIVITY TWO. VOCABULARY AT A CONCERT

In many music festivals, there are people from many countries. Try to learn these words and expressions so the next time you go to a festival you can talk to an English speaking native.

1. Match each word with its definition below.
- stage / sold out / catchy tune / wristband / gig / opening act / terrace / loudspeaker / soloist

- A piece of equipment used in public places so that large numbers of people can hear someone speaking or music playing.
- Wide steps on which people stand to watch a football match, a concert, a musician who performs a solo.
- A stage performance by a musician or group of musicians, especially playing modern or pop music.
- A tune designed to be easy to remember.
- The area in a theatre that is often raised above ground level and on which actors or entertainers perform.
- A piece of material that goes around the neck, for example, to hold a watch.
- When a film, concert, etc. is sold out, all of the tickets for it have been sold.
- The ceremony at the beginning of an event or activity.



2. Fill the gaps in these sentences.

- How do you hear Ally's last song? It's a _____ every day it's on my mind!
- Without this _____ we can't go to the _____.
- Come on! Hurry up! Know Ally is playing at 22h, but the _____ is at 19h, and I miss it! The band that is playing is Tame Impala.
- We wanted tickets for last Jackson Maine's tour, but his concert in California is already _____.
- I missed it because of _____! The _____ of the band left the stage and we _____!



3. Read this text and comment on it in class.
- Do young adult musicians have a higher death rate than the more likely to suffer from depression?
- Creative artists are fifth in the top 10 professions with the highest depression rates. But depression attracts them. Drugs and alcohol are often used to cope with the stress of fame that they experience.
- British soul and jazz singer, **Hayden** was named **Rolling Stone** most famous song, ironically, was named **Rolling Stone**. **Hayden** died of alcohol poisoning.
- Hayden** was one of the most famous rock stars of the 1970s. **Hayden** died of a drug overdose.
- Lead singer of the band, **Hayden** developed an active addiction to alcohol in the 60s. There's no official cause of the death, the only thing we know is that **Hayden** had heart failure.
- Hayden** is considered one of the greatest exponents of the garage genre. **Hayden** always suffered from depression, that is why **Hayden** developed a drug addiction and committed suicide.

ACTIVITY THREE. SONG "SHALLOW"

Shallow is the central theme of the film. It has been composed by Lady Gaga, Mark Ronson, A. R. Mosconi and A. Wyatt. Among other awards, the song won the Oscar for Best Original Song in 2018. It tells how Ally and Jackson feel regarding their relationship.

- Listen to the song, and choose the correct option.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bqspjrtmVA>

[Verse 1: Bradley Cooper]
Are you happy / nappy in this modern world?
Or do you feel / need more?
Is there something else you're searching' / searching' for?

[Chorus: Lady Gaga]
I'm off the deep end, watch as I fly / dive in
I'll never meet the ground / I drown
Flash / Crash through the surface when you're
hurt us
We're far / hurt us

[Refrain: Bradley Cooper]
I'm fallin'
In all the good times / good times
I find myself longing for
And in the bad times



ACTIVITY FOUR. THE 27 CLUB

In *A Star is Born*, the protagonist Jackson Maine suffers from the addiction to alcohol and drugs, and his lifestyle doesn't help him to recover. Jackson Maine could be considered the prototypical member of *The 27 Club*. Have you ever heard of this group of people?

In popular culture, *The 27 Club* is a group of musicians, artists, actors and athletes who have died at age 27, often as a result of drug and alcohol abuse, or violent means such as homicide, suicide, or transportation-related accidents. The deaths of several 27-year-old famous musicians between 1969 and 1971 led to the belief that deaths are more common at this age.

However, statistical studies have failed to find any unusual pattern of musician deaths in this age, comparing it to equally small increases at ages 25 and 32. In 2013 *Rolling Stone* (British Musician Journal) study instead noted that young adult musicians have a higher death rate than the rest of the young adult population, concluding that "fame may increase the risk of death among musicians, but this risk is not limited to age 27".

1. These four musicians belong to *The 27 Club*. Can you name them?



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- **Hayden** is considered one of the greatest exponents of the garage genre. **Hayden** always suffered from depression, that is why **Hayden** developed a drug addiction and committed suicide.

Creative artists are fifth in the top 10 professions with the highest depression rates. But depression attracts them. Drugs and alcohol are often used to cope with the stress of fame that they experience.

Si us interessa aquest dossier y el solucionari de las preguntas en PDF, poseu-vos en contacte amb nosaltres a: info@cinemaperaestudiants.cat

Si os interesa este dossier and the answers sheet (both documents in PDF), you can get in touch with us via our email address: info@cinemaperaestudiants.cat

Preu dels dos documents: 5 €

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1976: Barbra Streisand and Kris Kristofferson

If the 1954 version of *A Star is Born* carefully echoes the plot of its predecessor, the 1976 remake completely turns it on its head. In this remake, Esther Hoffman (Streisand) meets falling rock star Norman Howard (Kristofferson) at a bar, where she recognizes him from a drunken fight with his abusive husband (Carpenter). She gets him off, and they quickly become romantically involved. Although this adaptation can take credit for transforming *A Star is Born* from a story about old Hollywood fame into one about the rock "rockstar lifestyle", it was far from a hit with critics: the 1976 film stars least favorite of the four, noting that it lacks true romance and features so little stellar music. **Box Office**



2018: Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper

The film was directed by Cooper himself and nominated for eight Oscars this year. The newest version both borrows a bit from each of its predecessors, and pays its attention to the tragic love story. The 2018 film does deeper into each of the characters' traits and motivations, and it features an iconic soundtrack. **Box Office**

VOCABULARY

To hit off with somebody (congratular amb algú) / bona feina (amb algú); a pitiful difficult bumper (català) (colloquial) / to give into something (concedir-se a alguna cosa)

EXTRA ACTIVITIES: WIN AN OSCAR!

As it has been previously mentioned, the song *Shallow* won the Oscar for Best Original Song in 2019 apart from a Grammy, a BAFTA, a Golden Globe and many more.

- Now, change the lyrics of the song and feel free to create your version like in the example below.

Original lyrics

I'm off the deep end, watch as I dive in
I'll never meet the ground
Crash through the surface, where they can't hurt us
We're far from the shallow now

Example of possible lyrics

Are you happy / nappy in this modern world?
Or do you feel / need more?
Is there something else you're searching' / searching' for?

Other possible lyrics

Down the yellow, yellow
Down the yellow, yellow
Down the yellow, yellow
Down the yellow, yellow
We're down the yellow then



2. Listen to Lady Gaga's acceptance speech at the Oscars. Then, read the text on the right and prepare your speech giving thanks for an award.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bqspjrtmVA>

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Ally is a young girl who works as a waitress in a restaurant with her best friend, Ramon. Her dream is to become a star since she is a singer and a songwriter, but she has just given up as she has been trying her best, but hasn't obtained any results. Ramon tries to cheer her up and takes her to the ding bar where she used to work, to sing for a small audience.

Jackson Maine is a very talented and established country artist who is on tour, playing a concert in California. He notices the negative aspects of being on top as he is struggling against drugs and alcohol addictions with the help of his brother and manager, Bradley. By chance, when he finishes California's gig, he ends the ding bar where Ally is performing *La Vie En Rose* by Edith Piaf. During the performance, Jackson starts feeling surprised and astonished because of the high quality of the performer and wants to meet her. They spend all night talking, and Ally tells him how difficult it has been for her to achieve her dream and her refusal to continue fighting for it. So, Jackson decides to invite her to his next show as an invitation, at first, she refuses.

Jackson invites a lot and Ally, accompanied by Ramon, decides to quit her job and attend the concert. There, with Jackson's encouragement, sing a song on stage with him. Jackson starts mentoring Ally and, at the same time, they fall in love and start a relationship. Their romantic relationship marks the second half of this story since we see how Jackson's career phenomena while Ally's career starts.

Jackson's problems with alcohol and drugs get worse. His fans and all the people are witnesses of his decline at the Grammys, where he is playing a tribute to Ray Charles, and Ally moves an award. He enrolls a rehab program, supported by Ally, who wants him to perform in her European tour. However, Ally's manager, Bert, thinks that it's not a good idea because Jackson's image is affecting negatively to Ally's professional career. While he is trying to convince her, she decides to cancel the tour to stay by him and take care of him. Ally feels Jackson so much and wants him to perform with her in the last concert of her American tour, but, at last, he breaks his promise and doesn't go to the show.

How to Give a Thank You Speech

If you've received an award, and you have to give a thank you speech, it's the chance to express how sincerely grateful you are to the people who helped you. To write a thank you speech, you can follow these steps:

- Start with an expression of gratitude.
- Start by saying thank you to the people for the award you're receiving. Say something like "I'm honoured to be tonight, and grateful for to be the recipient of this award."
- Talk about your esteem for the people who are giving you the award.
- Take a moment to express your sincere regard for them. Talk about how honoured you are to be recognized by such a great organization.
- Talk a funny or poignant story.
- In a thank you speech, it's charming to tell an anecdote or two about something that happened leading up to the honor you're receiving. Saying something to keep the mood light and bring smiles to people's faces will be appreciated. You could talk a funny story that happened during a project you worked on, or an obstacle you had to overcome to accomplish your goal. Try to bring other people into the story, too, instead of just talking about yourself. Talk about something that involves your co-workers, your boss, your kids, or other people in the audience.
- Mention the names of people who helped you.

It's nice to give credit to the people who helped you. Create a short list of colleagues, friends, and family members without whom help you wouldn't be receiving this award. You can introduce the list by saying, "I'm especially grateful to the following people without whom I wouldn't be here to accept this award." Then recite the list of people who helped you. Take the audience into consideration to:

- End on a high note.
- When you finish listing people you want to thank, the speech is just about over. End by saying thanks once more, and repeating how sincerely grateful you are. If you want your speech to be especially memorable, you could consider including an additional flourish. For example, you dedicate your award to a person. Use something like, "And lastly, I want to dedicate this award to my mother. It's because of her faith in me that I'm up here today accepting this award." (from your notes)

Adapted from: <https://www.willowtree.com/a-Thank-You-Speech>



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Activitats i adaptació de textos
Sofia Royo Vizcaino i José Pica

info@cinemaperestudiants.cat