

Strictly ballroom
analysis
argumentative



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Representation through image and shape meaning. Through the exploration of image in the film “ Strictly ballroom” directed by “ Baz Lurhmann” and “ Stupid Girls” a music video by “ Pink” are the themes of individuality versus conformity, the importance of appearance, and the resistance to change effectively portrayed. “ Baz Lurhmann” and “ Pink” use image to portray the ideas of individuality versus conformity.

In “ Strictly ballroom”, “ Baz Lurhmann uses Juxtaposition of Scott’s appearance/costume of his gold sequined pants and Jacket when partnered with Liz Holt who is wearing a dress just as extravagant with elaborate hair and makeup dancing the federation steps. This is juxtaposed with Scott dancing his own steps with Fran he wears a simple singlet with black pants. Pink uses Juxtaposition in her music video when the angel and the devil are trying to persuade the young girl to either conform (devil) or be an individual (angel).

Baz shows the struggles between individuality and conformity through the use of lighting, when Scott is dancing on his own around the spotlight which represents individuality and how Scott was afraid to dance completely in it but rather around it, moving through it quickly. This shows the internal struggle between what Scott wants, to win or to do what he is passionate about. Pink portrays conformity negatively through the use of camera angles such as high angle shot of Shirley Hastings and Les Kendall’s dance class showing to conform is to be inferior.

Pink also supports the idea that individuality is better than that of conformity through the use of a low angle shot of a “ female president” showing her

power and portrays a strong image. The importance of appearance is shown in *Stupid Girls* through the use of low angle camera shot to show power when they portray a woman president showing her power and independence the composer “Pink” trying to convey to her audience is what they should to aspire to be.

The importance of appearance is shown in *Strictly Ballroom* in the opening scene through the use of close ups as the competitors are preparing for the competition. This shows ballroom dancing is a very competitive sport and appearance and costume play an important role in this. Pink uses stereotypes to emphasize the superficiality of society demonstrated by the girl in the *Owling Alley* who had to fight for her boyfriends’ attention by inflating her breasts for him to pay attention to her.

Juxtaposition is used between Tina Sparkle dancing in the state championships and Fran dancing with Scott in *The Wings* showing Scott and Fran’s natural chemistry unlike the theatrical performance reinforcing the importance of images. Change is unavoidable and present on a daily basis. When an individual or society as a whole is confronted with change they may be confronted with resistance. Resistance to change may be the cause of many things such as tradition,