

MUS 15: David Bowie

Section Meeting 2

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Meeting Outline

1. Opening Song: *The Man Who Sold the World*
2. Announcements
3. Conversation about Module 2
4. Discussion
5. Questions

Opening Song:

The Man Who Sold The World

Announcements

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- Discussion 2 is DUE by next Tuesday, [Jan 26](#) at 11:59 pm.
- Paper 1 is DUE by Thursday, [Feb 4](#) at 6:30 pm.
- All other Unit 1 assignments are DUE by Thursday, [Feb 11](#) at 6:30 pm.
These include the weekly in-module assignments and the end-of-unit test.
- Each end-of-unit test will have a 60-minute time limit.
- I strongly urge you to start on Module 2 and Discussion 2 right away.

Conversation about Module 2

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- **Module 2 covered the following key topics:**
 - Music business terms (these come up a lot in class!)
 - More of David Bowie's early artistic influences: Brian Wilson, Anthony Newley, Andy Warhol & the Velvet Underground, and Iggy Pop
 - Bowie's work as a mime and an actor
 - Bowie's first four albums: *David Bowie*, *David Bowie* (revived), *The Man Who Sold the World*, and *Hunky Dory*

Discussion

Discussion: General guidelines (reminder)

- **To earn full credit, you must adhere to the weekly topic, satisfy the word-length requirement, and respond to another student's post.**
 - I encourage you to use proper grammar and punctuation, original and insightful commentary, well-researched historical facts, and persuasive arguments.
- Since you all come from a variety of educational backgrounds, I want to free you up to write about topics that you feel competent about and/or that you find most interesting. Therefore, if you feel really compelled to write about a different topic related to each module, please email me your idea and I'll see if I can accommodate your request.

Discussion: Week 2

- **Please address the following topic for Discussion 2:**
 - How much of creativity is (1) reorganizing things that already exist, and how much of it is (2) making something completely original? In other words, is creativity the product of some imperfect replication process, or is creativity the product of some internal personal mechanism? Or, is creativity a combination of both external and internal factors? Aside from music we've discussed in class, can you point out a music example where a person directly imitated someone else's music (and claimed it as their own)? Can you think of an example where a person came up with their music entirely (or mostly) independently? (For this last question, feel free to speculate, use a personal example, or explain why the question might be impossible to answer).

Discussion: Week 2

- To earn full credit for this assignment, your post must be at least 250 words long, and you must provide a 2-3 sentence response to at least one other student's post.
- *In your response to the other student, please be supportive by providing constructive feedback.*

Discussion: Some ideas to get you thinking

- **What is creativity?** “Valuable originality”, i.e. bringing something of value into existence that doesn’t exactly resemble something that has already existed.
- **Margaret Boden’s three kinds of creativity:**
 - Combinatorial creativity: blending familiar ideas into something new
 - Exploratory creativity: discovery of unfamiliar ideas in a given “search space”. A search space may consist of a system of rules or organizing principles (e.g. traditional Western music).
 - Transformational creativity: an alteration of the “search space” to allow for new ideas

Discussion: Some ideas to get you thinking

- Compare Anthony Newley's *Who Can I Turn to?* (1965) with David Bowie's *Life on Mars?* (1973). Does Bowie demonstrate creativity in his song? If so, what kind of creativity does he demonstrate? Do you think he copied Newley?
- For your first paper, we ask you to compare and contrast two songs. If you choose to discuss the two songs listed on this slide for your Discussion 2, you can also use that writeup (i.e. copy/paste or modify it) for your first paper.
- Here are links to the two songs:
 - [Who Can I Turn to?](#) by Anthony Newley
 - [Life on Mars?](#) by David Bowie

Questions