

MUS 15: David Bowie

Section Meeting 6

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Meeting Outline

1. Opening Song: *Fashion*
2. Announcements
3. Conversation about Module 6
4. Discussion
5. Questions

Opening Song:

Fashion

Announcements

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- Discussion 6 is DUE by next Tuesday, [Feb 23](#) at 11:59 pm.
- Paper 2 is DUE by Thursday, [Mar 11](#) at 11:59 pm.
- All other Unit 2 assignments are DUE by Thursday, [Mar 18](#) at 6:30 pm. These include the weekly in-module quizzes and the Unit 2 test.

Conversation about Module 6

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- **Module 6 covered the following key topics:**
 - Bowie's influence on New Wave and MTV
 - His acting roles in *Elephant Man*, *The Hunger*, and *Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence*
 - His involvement in mainstream music
 - His albums *Scary Monsters (and Super Creeps)* and *Let's Dance*
- Can you pick out similarities between [*Fashion*](#) by David Bowie (1980) and [*Burning Down the House*](#) by Talking Heads (1983)?

Discussion

Discussion: Week 6

- **Please address the following topic for Discussion 6:**
 - What does it mean to "sell out"? Have you ever felt like an artist you admired "sold out" by going after the quick buck and betraying the very reason you were their fan in the first place? Or, do you think the whole concept of "selling out" is meaningless?

Discussion: Week 6

- 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 questions to get you thinking

- Does “selling out” require that an artist actually be financially successful, or is it just a matter of adopting mainstream customs in violation of one’s core principles?
- Does “selling out” imply that an artist can predict whether their music will make a lot of money? If so, do you think it’s possible for an artist to predict the financial success of their music? You might argue that by adopting mainstream songwriting techniques or commercial sponsors, an artist can at least feel more confident that their music will sell well. Does that constitute “selling out”?
- Do you think Bowie “sold out” by making the album *Let’s Dance*, or do you think the unpredictability of Bowie’s involvement in mainstream music was a form of authentic art?

Questions