

MECS2032 Gender and Music

Student choice of videos for discussion about gender and music/musicians.

The undercover Hippy Boyfriend <https://youtu.be/OGDmPIVU9cc> (3.57 mins) and Women like me..Little Mix <https://youtu.be/fSOpiZo1BAA> (3.48 mins)

Hopefully we will have a discussion regarding gender representations in these videos - so whilst watching do note down any comments, question or points for discussion.

David Bowie Documentary clip

<https://learningonscreen.ac.uk/ondemand/index.php/clip/134565> (4.38 mins)

Questions:

1. Does clothing still challenge gender stereotypes?
2. Are musicians allowed to be different because they are performers?
3. This article suggests that Bowie normalised Weird
<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2016/jan/13/he-normalised-weird-david-bowies-enduring-impact-on-australian-artists> How might we analyse Bowie in relation to gender fluidity and ideas from Butler?

Mykki Blanco clip 1: <https://learningonscreen.ac.uk/ondemand/index.php/clip/134568> (10.47 mins)

Questions:

1. Are there gender stereotypes in relation to music genres? What might be the implications of these?
2. What are the dominant discourses of mainstream music/musicians?
3. What is intersectionality – how might this concept be useful in relation to studying gender and popular culture?

Mykki Blanco clip 2: <https://learningonscreen.ac.uk/ondemand/index.php/clip/134570> (11.10 mins)

Questions:

1. The documentary suggests they are bringing up their child as gender non-conforming. Is this possible?
2. Are certain music genres associated with challenging societal norms and or highlighting issues in society? What might be the implications of this?
3. Look up the 10 most popular artists – who are they (according to your search engine) in relation to gender? Do they challenge or reinforce gender norms?

Questions relating to the article [Paglia, C. \(2010\) 'Gaga and the Death of Sex' The Sunday Times Magazine, London: The Times Newspapers Ltd.](#)

1. Paglia (2010: 19) writes that Gaga 'for all her writhing and posturing is asexual'. What do you think she means by this? Do you agree/disagree?
2. Paglia also compares Gaga with Madonna in this article. Madonna has been written about in relation to being the embodiment of Butler's notion of fluid gender identity. Why do you think Madonna has been regarded in this way? Do you think the same can be said of Gaga? Are there other performers that you would also apply this to?
3. Does the mix of sex and death remind you of the slasher films? Are they different? What about vampire films? Is Gaga portraying herself as the 'final girl' or the killer? (Please look up these terms if you are unfamiliar with them).
4. Paglia (2010:21) also refers to David Bowie as gender bending and a 'warrior for sexual liberation and for a redefining of the psychic fluidity of sexual orientation'. Do you agree/disagree with her analysis of Bowie? Why/why not?
5. Paglia (2010:21) also writes critically about the blurring of borderlines between the sexes and that gender is fabricated – does Gaga reinforce or challenge this notion?
6. Do you agree/disagree that gender is fabricated? Does other media/popular culture challenge or reinforce these notions?