

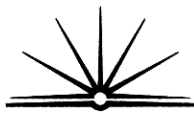
QUESTION ONE, elective three: Image

The ~~use~~ images in a film assist in portraying the story to the viewer. The way a scene is lit, ^{or} set up can influence the viewer's perception of an area in a film, much the same way how an actor is dressed and speaks can influence the viewer's perception of them.

In the film 'Strictly Ballroom' by Baz Luhrmann, image plays a critically important part. Set in the ballroom dancing world in the early '90's, it is a story of love, deception and betrayal. It is the story of Scott Hastings and his desire to dance his own way.

~~In 'Strictly Ballroom' the characters are images are first shown through~~

In 'Strictly Ballroom', the characters we are first ~~intro~~ introduced to are Doug and Shirley Hastings, Scott's parents, in an interview type situation. They are sitting on a sofa speaking into the camera. Shirley has big, bleached blonde hair and wears excessive make-up. She does all the talking as Doug sits



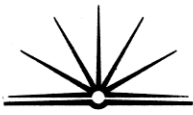
quietly back on the sofa, his hair slicked down with Byrdcreme. Immediately from this shot the viewer comes to the conclusion that Shirley is on over the top domineering wife, while Doug is the patient, obedient husband who sits back and takes his wife's orders.

~~Another~~ The character of Scott is portrayed through images as being a clean cut, hard-working and good looking young man. The images portray this through the many scenes of him practising his dancing and of him in tight shirts and pants - showing ~~what~~ ~~a~~ ~~good~~ ~~to~~ how well toned his body is. ~~in the~~

In the film "Moulin Rouge" also directed by Baz Luhrmann, image yet again plays a vital part especially in portraying the character of Satine, played by Nicole Kidman.

Satine is the star attraction at the 'Moulin Rouge' - which is what they called brothels in the 1800's.

Satine wears outfits that are much more expensive



and extravagant than those of the other 'working girls' at the Moulin Rouge and she is always the star of their musical numbers.

Although many of the other women wear excessive make-up, Satine has a natural beauty and it is her outfits that are excessive only in how bejewelled they are. Satine is portrayed as being innocent and fragile ~~despite~~ despite her choice of employment and this helps to convey her appeal through these images.

Image plays an important role in film. It assists in conveying messages and influences the viewer's perception of a character.