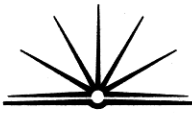


Image is a representation, which attempts by a construct, to create, recreate, parody or satirise a given reality. The study of the Truman Show by Peter Wein, as well as other related material, the documentary The Wall by Roger Waters and the photograph in the Sydney Morning Herald by Mike Powers have contributed to my understanding of image. As an outside audience, we have an omniscient view of the Truman Show, through written and visual language.

The image of perfection in Truman and Seahaven is portrayed throughout the opening scene, when Truman ^{emerges} ~~emerges~~ from his house - as a polite, clean cut, all American man. The mise-en-scene elements which create the utopian image of Seahaven with all its perfection, include the high key lighting over the set, accentuating the perfect neighbourhood: the manicured lawns and the "white picket fence" portrayal of the American Dream. Wein also uses soft pastel colours and the soundtrack of rustling birds throughout the film to illustrate the image of perfection and happiness. This ^{constructed} ~~constructed~~ image in Truman ^{prevents} ~~prevents~~ ~~prevents~~

him from leaving Seahaven. Christoph's TV audience is presented with the image of the utopian world. From the outset, Wein's film audience is given countless clues to the falseness of the media's utopian vision and encouraged not to live their lives vicariously through the media. ~~From~~ From this, I have learnt that images may be deceiving.

Several people throughout Trueman's life have tried to disillusion him about the ⁽²⁾ true nature of his world". The flashback ad dialogue in the scene of Trueman's help to portray the image of Trueman's confinement to Seahaven. For example, Trueman says, "I'd like to be an explorer" and his teacher replies "You're too late, there's really nothing left to explore" Here, Trueman's teacher hinders him from escaping Seahaven by deterring his thoughts and clearly disillusioning him. Furthermore, his 'wife', 'mother', 'father' and 'best friend' all play a role in dissuading him from his attempts to get away. For example,

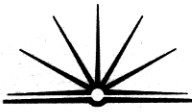


When Truman has an emotional conversation with Marlon, he comes to the conclusion that the one thing he was right about was that his father was still alive. This belief is accentuated when Truman's father appears from a mist, there is a low angle shot of Truman saying 'never stop believing' following a close up and the music intensifies. As Truman is reunited with his father, we're rapidly cut from the control room to the set to emphasize the falseness of the image. The dramatic irony is at its highest peak for the viewers of Weir's film. We are made aware that Christof is manipulating Truman and the viewers of the show to believe that everything is "genuine" but in reality is "false". Through the study of The Truman Show, I have learnt that images can be interpreted differently, amongst the audience ^{within the} program and ^{as an} outside ^{audience}. The issue of power over Truman is conveyed through the use of visual images. For example, the image of Truman almost squashed between his mother and wife whilst looking through a photograph album, display his imprisonment and the other

→ through written and visual language.

cast member's power. In addition, the use of diction and visual image, "conceiver... creator," emphasizes Christof's God-like power; his face fills the whole screen which becomes a dominant image, suggesting his significant position. Moreover, in the interview scene Truman is broadcasted in a tiny frame in the corner, giving a visual imbalance between Christof and Truman. Truman's facial expression also assists to portray his minute weakness, making him the victim of a power play. Peter Weir, the director presents to us, through visual image that Truman is limited to a world which is false and makes him as a victim of control. The director makes it clear that Truman is not living his own life, and is forced to fulfil Christof's dream for him. The media attempts to manipulate its audience for profit or power, Weir wants to educate his film viewers to respond critically to this manipulation.

Several different audiences observantly watching



the episode of Tootalk are presented, displaying the issue of the power of the media. For example, the image of a woman and a girl, sitting a kitchen table and showing no concern for the crying child because of their interest in the Truman Show. The use of black humor in this scene illustrates the extent of the addictive nature of the media. At various points throughout the film, we see the way different audiences are responding to events in Truman's life. We watch their engagement with the character of Truman, their attention focused on his life to the exclusion of their own. This film suggests that TV audiences can be indiscriminate preferring to live vicariously through the media rather than ~~when~~ address real issues of their own. Peter Weir suggests to us, the viewers of the media to be more critical of what we see on TV and not to be too drawn into it. From I have learnt that images ~~can~~ portray the addictive nature of the media for the viewers of television, and this detrimental impact on our lives.



The documentary The Wall by Roger Waters ~~for~~ creates images that portray monotony, death and destruction, and ~~conformity~~ ^{conformity} through the retelling of Pink Floyd, a rock and roll performer's life story.

The opening image shows a corridor of identical, hotel room doors and an emphasis on the repetitive carpet patterns, which create the image of the monotony of Pink Floyd's life.

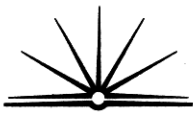
Pink Floyd accepts the reality of his world, he becomes "comfortably numb" to his lifestyle. He eventually knocks down the metaphorical brick wall he had built around himself and overcomes his fear of rejection.

Waters introduces animation to create the image of hammers knocking down the brick wall. ~~the~~ Towards

the end of the documentary the viewer notices and learns that the "New Pink left the old Pink" in the hotel room." This relates to the Truman show where

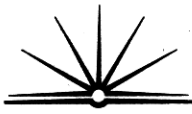
Truman escapes the conformity and his imprisonment

The limited dialogue throughout the documentary places a greater emphasis on the images created



It also portrays Pink's lack of voice and his minimal control over his own life. For example, ~~the~~ when Pink overdoses on drugs and alcohol before a performance, his producers and directors dress him and force him on stage. The flashbacks of cut shots display his frantic pace of life and create a nostalgic and melancholy tone. These images portrayed throughout the documentary ~~do~~ have taught me about issues a person can encounter during life, and that images ~~can~~ can ~~say~~ say all about someone's feelings and emotions.

The photograph in the Sydney Morning Herald in October 2000 by Mike Bowers of Mr. McGrath creates an image of heroism and courage. Mr. McGrath had leapt overboard before the Centaur sank and was rescued 36 hours later from an "ocean slicked with oil and menacing with sharks". The ageing image of Mr. McGrath is reflected in a glass picture frame and is superimposed over his portrait as a young sailor. This technique successfully contrasts his youth and senility, displaying him at an angle so the responder



is able to view him as a young man and an old man.

This visual image is reflective of his youth and shows the transitions that occurred overtime. For example, his gnarled aged hands resting on the table, represent the survival of his ordeal so many years ago, the lapel which displays his medals reveal his heroic past experience and the ^{wedding} photograph ~~is a~~ provides emotive feelings as the entire image becomes personal. These images help to portray the passing of time and the transience of life through experiences of strength, determination and courage. ~~This is evident in~~ that these images show a heroic and courageous ~~turn of events~~ where ~~Tommy's images~~ ~~are~~ ~~there is a~~ past experience, of Mr. McCracken's life experience ~~low with a little~~ ~~A full extent of his optimism~~

Overall, ~~and~~ through the images portrayed in The

Tommy Show and the related material, I have

learnt that images can have multiple meanings, and that

they can ~~also~~ enhance my understanding of the text studied.

~~It has~~ allowed The images have allowed me to experience

different worlds through written and visual language

within The Tommy Show and the related texts.