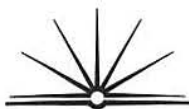


A sense of belonging contributes to a sense of identity. One can receive a sense of belonging through the processes of acceptance and understanding. A sense of belonging derives from relationships; including interactions with individuals, groups, the broader cultural community & with places. ~~A strong sense of self can emerge when one~~ The opportunity to develop a strong sense of self can emerge when one belongs. However, the nature of the group can also cause heartfelt disappointment because of the restrictive need to follow others' values. In the film Strictly Ballroom directed by Baz Luhrmann, the concept of belonging is explored through the relationship of Scott & Fran. The impact of a relationship allows ~~for~~ Scott the strength to challenge the Dance Federation and join an enriched dancing community. However, due to Scott's rebelliousness he ~~also~~ creates a barrier that prevents



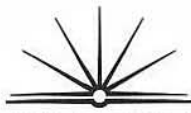
belonging, and leads him to re-create his identity. The concept of belonging to not belonging is also evident in other related material.

The ballroom dancing world is a metaphor for the greater world. Shirley Hastings coach Les and President Barry Fife ~~depict mimicking as the ultimate~~ depict the understanding of mimicking as the ultimate proof of belonging to their world. In order for Scott to belong, he must follow the "strict" regulations of how to dance, as specified by the Dance Federation, knowing that mimicking depleats the opportunity for creative expression. The ~~image~~ double image of Scott dancing in front of the mirror, conveys his confusion of understanding, where we weighs the opportunity of winning the Pan Pacific champions, or face disappointment with himself if he is too

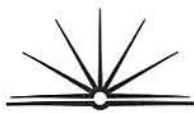


afraid to challenge the Dance Federation. This positions the audience to comprehend and understand that Scott has the choice between conformity and creativity, and therefore, at this point, belonging and not belonging. The artificial light helps to ~~the~~ portray Scott's confusion, placing one half of his face in the light, and the other half in darkness.

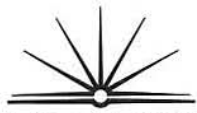
The structure of the film enhances its fairytale elements. The fairytale begins as the artificial red curtain starts the film. This structure helps to define the social ~~structures~~ fabrics of the film and emphasise the codes of conduct, so stifling they cause a lack of understanding to creative people like Scott. The transformation of Fran ~~as she metamorphs from~~ contributes to the fairytale elements as she metamorphs from ugly duckling to beautiful swan, as seen through her changing costuming



throughout the film. ~~the~~ Romance, a form of belonging, becomes a ~~sub~~ subplot throughout the film, conveyed through the use of stereotypical flourishes such as twilight dance sequences, soft pastel lighting and vibrant energy. The impact of a relationship gives Scott understanding that allows him the strength to challenge the Dance Federation. Scott's understanding develops as Xaya beats the rhythm on Scott's chest. ~~Scott's lack of~~ Here, Scott's lack of genuine passion is replaced by ~~his~~ understanding and awareness of the ~~impact~~ opportunity to belong in the cultural community with Fran and her family. The fire in the background symbolises the cultural influence of Fran's family and this natural lighting contrasts with the artificial flashy gleam of the ballroom dancing community.



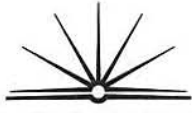
The Pan Pacific champions allows Scott an opportunity to express his understanding and creativity by dancing his own steps. This ironically leads him to a sense of belonging in an enriched ballroom dancing community. The medium long shot of Barry Fife falling over with the trophy stand symbolises the breakdown of of the Dance Federation and they're restrictive and conformist views. Doug Hastings explains ~~the~~ to Scott "We lived our lives in fear", which echoes throughout the stadium, emphasizing his disappointment with himself for being rejected by his dancing community for ~~so~~ so ~~long~~ many years. This is the ultimate turning point for Scott where he understands his opportunity to challenge the Dance Federation or face disappointment with himself if he is too afraid. Scott is triumphant and creativity is celebrated in this carnival scene. This is expressed



through the stadium audience who step over the physical barrier onto the dance floor, metaphorically describing the overcoming of barriers that prevent belonging.

The use of humour throughout this film, in the filmic device of caricature, allows the viewer to experience and respond to Scott and Fran's understanding of belonging.

A Michael Leunig cartoon (sep 06) depicts a cage of bird-like creatures who all act and dress the same. However, Michael Leunig explores the darker side of belonging by placing the group in a cage, hence, by belonging, this group are not free to be individuals. One creature is depicted as a winged individual flying ~~off into the~~ away from the group. The remaining creatures talk of their understanding in the written text, "another loser - has been ~~knocked off~~ ~~knocked~~



~~disappears~~ <sup>not</sup> fades into obscurity", however, the viewer sees this as ironic because the 'loser-hay-been' is depicted ~~as~~ taking flight towards the light, which represents knowledge, understanding and creativity, and leaves the group in the confines of the cage in the darkness, emphasising their ignorance, lack of understanding and absence of individualism.

The concept of Belonging can be expressed in many aspects. Strictly Ballroom allowed Baz Luhrmann to express to the viewer that understanding contributes to ~~to~~ and nourishes belonging through a range of filmic devices, including the creation of satire that captivates the audience. Michael Leung explores the darker side of belonging by explaining to the reader, one must find their own sense of identity and understanding ~~before they~~ ~~can develop a sense of belonging~~ in order to develop a sense of belonging