

# ENGLISH STANDARD

## Study of Australian Film

---

“Australian Society” is a place constructed through aspects of its unique landscape and multiculturalisation where men are stereotyped as tough and being strongly supporting mateship, and teenage girls are stereotyped with blonde hair and being disgraceful to some races. “Red Dog” and “Looking for Alibrandi” are two Australian films that represent aspects of Australian society very effectively. Through the composer’s use of shots, music, dialogue and names in “Red Dog” in the confrontation and opening scenes, it depicts stereotypes in Australian men, landscape in the outback and multiculturalisation. Similar technique are used in “Looking for Alibrandi”, both in the opening and argumentation scenes, but to represent the stereotypes in Australian teenage girls, urban areas in Australia and multiculturalisation in relation to the Italian immigrants which are the three main aspects of “Australian society”.

Stereotypical features in Australian men have been explored in the film “Red Dog”. In the confrontation scene, all miners and Nancy stood solidly outside Mr Cribbage’s caravan, backing up Red Dog. Though the high-angle shot from Mr Cribbage’s perspective is supposed to make him the powerful character, by incorporating the long shot, it captures the huge group of supporters for Red Dog, it creates a reverse effect. This enhances the miners and Red Dog to look excessively powerful and hence depicts the nature of mateship in Australia. Similarly, stereotypes in teenage girls are made evident in “Looking for Alibrandi” in the argumentation scene. Due to Josie’s peers constantly calling her a ‘wog’, she retaliates and whacks Ivy with a textbook which damaged her nose. “You don’t even have a father, bastard!” The terms ‘wog’ and ‘bastard’ are two very Australian terms used to degrade the Italian migrants. This reveals Ivy’s disrespectful attitudes towards Josie which discloses the stereotypical aspect of teenage girls in the Australian society.

A vast space with red sand earth are the two dominant features that contributes to Australian outback. In the opening scene of “Red Dog”, the truck driver and his wife travelled in the outback and found ‘Red Dog’. By using an establishing shot it depicts the two dominant features of Australian outback, which helps to draw in the context of the film. Likewise, establishing shot has been used in “Looking for Alibrandi”. Josie and her friends drive off to Bondi beach in the opening scene. The establishing shot captures the whole area of the beach as well as parts of the surrounding urbanised environment to make the landmark more recognisable in order to represent the aspect of Australian society.

Migrants from a wide range of countries to Australia establish the feature of multiculturalism in the Australian society. In the opening scene of “Red Dog”, the miners names as well as their cultural

backgrounds were introduced. Vanna is one of the miners who's name is purposely chosen by the composer to show that he is very stereotypical as an Italian. His black beard and the lack of patriotism towards his country reinforces the feelings of migrants that travelled to Australia. As for the Italian community in "Looking for Alibrandi", the "Tomato day" in the opening scene depicts the fact that cultures confuse that the scene is set in Italy due to the use of music, but as Josie switched the music to Australian rock music, it strengthens the idea of multiculturalism in Australia.

Unique landscape, multiculturalism are typical stereotypes of men and teenage girls, are the aspects that contribute to the formation of "Australian society". The power of mateship and racism towards Italians, the vast and red sand earth of the Australian outback and the well-known Bondi beach, as well as the practice of multiculturalism. The composers have utilised a variety of techniques to effectively represent the aspects of Australian society in the films "Red Dog" and "Looking for Alibrandi".