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Movie: Paris is Burning

What is the overall point/purpose/perspective/lesson of the film?

The overall point of the film is being able to see from the perspective of different genders at a specific time in history. The documentary shows how it was being gay in New York City during the 80s and living through this incredible artistic event that was Paris's Ball

What are all of the ways that it is relevant to the study of gender and society?

It's an important documentary as a study of gender, that explains what it means to be gay, the rejections suffered, the dreams and expectations, the arts developed as self-expression, the language, and slang created in between the community.

What are the three most important things that you learned while watching the film?

The first thing I learned is how a community can empower. It can give a sense of belonging when the families didn't want anything to do with them, they found a family sense in their friends and their community.

The second thing I learned by watching the movie is how so many slangs and artistic inspirations came from the Paris Ball. It was a very culturally rich environment. Voguing was born in the ball and later made it popular by Madonna. The slang that is still used today, to throw shade was also used by the members of the ball. And the whole series Pose was inspired by the ball itself.

The third thing I learned is that art is the most peaceful way to express pain, and that dancefloor battles are incredible culturally rich events. In the documentary, one of Paris's Ball members says that voguing is the safest way to throw shade at someone.

What kind of impact/influence do you think this film has on its viewers? (Include the impact it had on you).

Paris is Burning impact on me is big, and eye-opening, it showed me how in the end everyone just wants to be accepted by their community. I personally loved the end where after a few scenes where they displayed the big dreams most had in the community had and ended up involved in prostitution and being victims of murder; an older Drag Queen says that she would

like to leave her mark in the world but if a few people remembered your name then you left your mark. She says "You don't have to bend the world. I think it's better to just enjoy it. And if you shoot an arrow and it goes real high, hooray for you"

To what extent do you agree/disagree on the perspective/content/message? Explain your reasoning.

The movie conveys that the people who go to the ball are living of their fantasies on the runway and that fantasies were created by the society that they are outsiders of, fantasies that come from Hollywood movies, whitewashed propaganda ideas of happiness and success. I agree with the movie perspective that when you don't fit in these parameters you are left out and that and art, dance, and fashion are the medicine to this exclusion.