Name

Instructors’ Name

Course Title and Code

Date

**Essay 2**

*“Never give up”* is a powerful song from an artist Sia which was released in 2016. The video is a basically soundtrack from a biological drama film Lion which was released in American theatres on November 25( “Never Give Up (Sia Song)”). With her influential voice Sia gives a message to never give up in the video (*Sia Urges You to “Never Give Up” on “Lion” Soundtrack Song: Listen - Fuse*). The song video which was inspired by the Bollywood is directed and produced by Greg Kurstin who has won many Grammy awards. Sia has worked with the same producer in several Records such as *1000 Forms of Fear* and *This is acting* in 2014 and 2016 respectively. The video seems intense along with the line of the casting members. The video is featuring Dev Patel who is an Indian born actor, Nicole Kidman who is recognized as one of the top actresses in the world and Rooney Mara who is an American actress. Along with the lead cast, the supporting cast i.e. David Wenham, Abhishek Bharti, Diwian Ladwa, Priyanka Bose, Deepti Naval, Tinnistha Chattarjee, Nawazzudin Saddiqui, and Sunny pawar has been played a significant role in conveying the message of hope via Sia’s powerful voice.

The music video of the song *Never Give Up* is based on the nonfiction book “A Long Way Home’ which was written by Saroo Brierly and depicts his life story (*Sia Urges You to “Never Give Up” on “Lion” Soundtrack Song: Listen - Fuse*). The music video demonstrates the story of an Indian who spends twenty five years of his life looking for his initial family. In childhood, he gets separated by his family and later gets adopted by a married couple in Tasmania. The music video walks an audience through his effort of searching for his family that he got separated from in his childhood. The essay analyses the various aspects of video based on the life story of the Saroo Brierly.

The Video begins with the Saroo (Dev Patel) communicating with his friends on a formal meal in Australia (*Sia - Never Give Up (Official Video)*). When someone asks him where he is, he answers in a very overwhelming tone which catches the attention of his friends. Doing management studies in an Australian subcontinent, he develops an emotional relationship with a woman called “Lucy” which is portrayed by Rooney Mara. His friends get stunned by the response in which he says that he is not from anywhere exactly because he is adopted. The start of the video gives an accurate introduction to the audience which serves as a means of understanding the story of Saroo with an emotional perspective (“Never Give Up (Sia Song)”). The video further proceeds with the same notion. Telling barely his origin to his friends flashes his whole life before his eyes. He realizes that he has spent his whole life in ease and luxury forgetting that he has a real family. His girlfriend finds him disturbing while he tells her about his life story. The following events are depicted to emerge from the narrator's eyes. A five-year-old boy named “Saroo” living in the populated area of the Indian subcontinent Khandwa is shown to live with his mother, younger sister and an elder brother named Guddu (“Deep Focus”). The video features several scenes of his childhood playing and laughing with his family. The video represents the family as a soul of relationships along with the core message of hope. Saroo along with his brother used to earn money by selling coal that they mainly obtained from the freight trains. One day, he follows his brother to the workplace where his brother Guddu tells him to stay put while he comes back. Desperately waiting for his brother, Saroo thinks that his brother got on the train. He on boards the train and realizes that his brother is nowhere to be seen. He unintentionally falls asleep in a train. When he wakes up, he realizes that the train is running. The train drops off the boy at the main station of Calcutta where he is not able to speak to anyone because of the Bengali origin. He winds up into an orphanage after escaping kidnappers twice. First, he runs off from the kidnappers at the railway station. Later after, getting acquainted with the woman who promises him that she will help him, his hopes get high. She introduces him to a man who somehow seems suspicious to the Saroo so instead of getting help, he runs off again. It was then when he was found by authorities who tried to track down his family but failed to do so. Much of his life was spent in the orphanage missing and wondering where his family might be (“Deep Focus”). Years later, an Australian couple shows interest in adopting him. The video features Nicole Kidman and David Wenham as his adoptive parents. Finally, he gets adopted by this couple who moves to Tasmania. The couple later adopts another child with mental disabilities.

 After meeting the group of friends in Australia, Saroo's life takes a major turn. He starts remembering all of what he has been through and decides to search for his real family. His friends suggest to him that he should take help from Google Earth to search for his hometown. Saroo boards on the struggling expedition of finding his family which is depicted with the disturbing images and cinematography (*Sia - Never Give Up (Official Video)*). Throughout his journey, he realizes how his family must have coped with the pain of missing and losing him. How they would have spent their days without him while he was busy enjoying life. In an attempt to rejoin with his biological family, he loses contact with his foster family and girlfriend. The video keeps progressing with the hopes of giving the audience the better and fruitful ending based upon the Sia’s “Never give up” lyrics (“Sia’s ‘Never Give Up’ Lyrics Tap Into Where We Are As A Nation Right Now”).

 In the video, Saroo is shown many times conversing with his foster mother. His foster family seems genuinely happy and caring towards Saroo. At the time where his mother starts losing her health, Saroo learns that the reason his foster parents kept adopting children was that they wanted to help children who didn't have a family. They were doing this out of sheer kindness. This represents another aspect of the music video i.e. Humanity. When he tells his foster parents about his search for his biological family, they truly support him. In the video, Nicole Kidman is seen crying which leaves the audience with the emotion of extreme sadness as well as the realization of how a mother would feel being left behind by a son.

 Due to his consistent efforts of looking for his family, one-day Saroo discovers the place which he later recognizes as his mother's workplace. It was due to the Google Earth he was able to find this stone marking. Following his way through the place, he finally reaches his hometown where he meets his mother and his sister in an emotional setting. However, the scene of meeting with his biological family is not shown in a music video, it is still pretty much convincing for the audience to guess that he meets his family. The video ends at the scene where Saroo discovers those rock formations. It is represented in quite an intense setting which is the basic theme of Sia's every music video. The narrator recalls his previous encounters at the same place which gives a video an element of transition.

 The lyrics of Sia’s song “Never Give up” perfectly correlates with the meaning of the music video (“Sia’s ‘Never Give Up’ Lyrics Tap Into Where We Are As A Nation Right Now”). Throughout the video, Saroo tries to reconnect with his family. It shows Saroo's consistent efforts in finding his way back to his biological family. It was these consistent efforts that he didn’t give up on and ended up getting what he lived for. These Consistent efforts acted as a driving force for his goal achievement. Along with the message of hope and determination, the videos slightly represent some common aspects of human nature and society. How does a sudden urge of getting something bring a major change in someone's life? How do the sudden realizations provoke a person to do better in life and drive towards the better end? How is human nature not as cruel as actually, it seems to be? There is still kindness and consideration left in this world. While some refuse to acknowledge this, others contribute to making this world kind and bearable for others. Furthermore, apart from the usual impression, the events depicted in the video have an element of intensity which not only gives the audience an idea of the actual events but also makes it interesting for the audience (“Never Give Up (Sia Song)”). Various incidences of Saroo being lost on the unfamiliar station, getting shot at the location and further occurrences with the family and friends to provide dramatic visualization for the video. However, the video contributed best towards depicting the actual agenda with the artist’s signature appeal yet, it slightly lacked in the aspect of production. Including footage of Google Earth made it a product of advertisement which is not well absorbed by some audience (*Sia Urges You to “Never Give Up” on “Lion” Soundtrack Song: Listen - Fuse*). But no matter how manipulative the video might seem, it still conveyed the ultimate agenda of sympathy and hope in the most surprising way.

**Works Cited**

“Deep Focus: Lion.” *Film Comment*, 1 Dec. 2016, https://www.filmcomment.com/blog/deep-focus-lion/.

“Never Give Up (Sia Song).” *Wikipedia*, 3 Nov. 2019. *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Never\_Give\_Up\_(Sia\_song)&oldid=924424779.

*Sia - Never Give Up (Official Video)*. *YouTube*, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxjaUmaD2VQ. Accessed 14 Nov. 2019.

*Sia Urges You to “Never Give Up” on “Lion” Soundtrack Song: Listen - Fuse*. https://www.fuse.tv/2016/11/sia-never-give-up-song-lion-soundtrack. Accessed 14 Nov. 2019.

“Sia’s ‘Never Give Up’ Lyrics Tap Into Where We Are As A Nation Right Now.” *Bustle*, https://www.bustle.com/articles/195862-sias-never-give-up-lyrics-tap-into-where-we-are-as-a-nation-right-now. Accessed 14 Nov. 2019.