

Chapter 4: The Sonic Collage Assignment: Aesthetics, Affect, and Critique in Audio Sampling

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1. “Trump Trap Mix” by Abby

Abby’s “Trump Trap Mix” is a critique of Donald Trump and his then current Republican primary campaign. As a traditional conservative who also values diversity and inclusivity, Abby was baffled and upset by how Trump’s hateful rhetoric was bringing him success in the polls. This anger and confusion are most clearly present in Abby’s use of the Blind Witness sample that screams, “What the fuck is going on?” Overall, Abby’s critique is much more nuanced and subtle than this lyric. The track begins with *The Twilight Zone* theme song and ends with applause and game show music that express the ways in which the campaign capitalized on entertainment. The use of screaming fans, Kanye West lyrics, and Lil Wayne hooks are juxtaposed to quotes demonstrating Trump’s ignorance and vitriol in order to elucidate how Trump uses American society’s infatuation with celebrity culture and excess in order to compensate for his deficiencies as a politician. What emerges from this remix is a portrait of Trump as a showman who uses fanfare, excitement, and humor to deflect from his ignorance and bigotry.

Transcript

[audio from *The Twilight Zone* introduction]

Rod Sterling: There is a fifth dimension. This is the dimension of imagination. It is an area, which we call *The Twilight Zone*.

Donald Trump: Are you running, are you not running?

I am officially running [*distorted*] for president of The United States

[Lil Wayne’s “A Milli” begins playing]

Donald Trump: [*distorted*] I’m really rich. [*not distorted, but layered on top of each other*] I’m really rich. I’m really, I’m really, I’m really, I’m really, I’m really, I’m really rich.

Jimmy Fallon (as Donald Trump): Wow. I look fantastic. [*at a higher pitch*] Fantastic. [*distorted and at a lower pitch*] Fantastic.

[music transitions to Kendrick Lamar’s “Swimming Pools (Drank)”: (Drank Drank) head shot. (Drank Drank) Sit down. (Drank Drank) Stand up. (Drank Drank) Pass out. (Drank Drank) Wake up. (Drank Drank) Faded (Drank Drank) Faded (Drank Drank)]

[applause at a rally and fans screaming]

Myriam Witcher: I love Mr. Trump!

Donald Trump: Where are you from?

Myriam Witcher: I am from Columbia.

Donald Trump: Columbia!

Myriam Witcher: I am Hispanic!

Donald Trump: And is this a setup? Did I ever meet you before?

Myriam Witcher: I am Hispanic, and I vote for Mr. Trump! We vote for Mr. Trump! Yes, Mr. Trump! [*Lamar’s “Swimming Pools (Drank)” begins again*] We love you! We love you all the way to the White House!

[Lamar’s “Swimming Pools (Drank)” continues]

Myriam Witcher: Mr. Trump! [*shouting, repeated multiple times*]

[*transitions to excerpt from Blind Witness's hardcore song "All Alone"*]

Blind Witness: What the fuck is going on? What the fuck is going on? What the fuck is going on?

Donald Trump: Vice president is a very serious job, so I'm probably going to go with somebody else. I am going to say maybe Kanye West.

[*Kanye West's "All Day" plays*]

Jimmy Fallon (as Donald Trump): How am I going to get Mexico to build a wall?

Donald Trump: I'm just gonna do it.

[*Kanye West's "All Day" continues*]

Megyn Kelly: You've called women you don't like fat pigs, dogs, slobs, and disgusting animals.

Donald Trump: Only Rosie O'Donnell.

[*Kanye West's "All Day" continues*]

[*transitions into gameshow music with audience applause*]

Donald Trump: Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much.

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