



Significant Music videos

Like A Prayer by Madonna (1989)

Director: Mary Lambert

To quote Wikipedia, “the music video for *Like a Prayer* was a lightning rod for religious controversy, using Catholic iconography such as stigmata and burning crosses, and a dream about making love to a [black] saint, leading the Vatican to condemn the video and causing Pepsi to cancel Madonna's sponsorship contract.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79fzeNUqQbQ>

Jesus Walks by Kanye West (2004)

Director: Chris Milk

To illustrate the song, the video is full of Christian imagery on the theme of man's inner battle with sin, and it uses different images to symbolize racism. E.g. a Ku Klux Klansman sets himself on fire and carries a flaming cross up a mountain.

https://youtu.be/MYF7H_fpc-g

the following 2 websites are great if you're looking for music videos to use in lessons:

The Internet Music Video Database. Searchable by director, song, artist.

<https://imvdb.com/>

PromoNews.tv. New music videos, updated daily.

<http://promonews.tv/>

Michel Gondry (b.1963)

Gondry is a major name in modern music videos. He has also directed features, e.g. *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. He likes to create a playful, surreal, hand-made look for his videos, and he's an innovator in the use of visual effects and camerawork.

Come Into My World by Kylie Minogue (2002)

Multiple Kylie Minogues, walking in and around shops and traffic in Paris, in what looks like one unbroken shot! Superb choreography.

Mark Romanek (b. 1959)

Romanek has directed feature films (*One Hour Photo* and *Never Let Me Go*) but he's best known for his music videos. He shot **Shake It Off** for Taylor Swift. He's won 20 MTV music video awards.

Cinematography

The Scientist by Coldplay (2002)

Directed by Jamie Thraves

The whole story is told backwards. You see a car crashing in reverse, and Chris Martin was filmed singing in reverse so his mouth would move the right way when played back.

Reflektor by Arcade Fire (2013)

Directed by Anton Corbijn.

Stunning black-and-white photography and beautiful compositions. A longer video (7:42)

Figure it Out by Royal Blood (2014)

Directed by Ninian Doff.

Very clever use of **colour filters** to tell a story...

Animation and CGI

Sledgehammer by Peter Gabriel (1986)

By Steven R Johnson, Aardman Animation and The Brothers Quay.



[Only](#) by Nine Inch Nails (2005)

Directed by **David Fincher**

Probably the only time you'll see a Pin Art desk toy used as the basis for a video. Very clever!

Intertextuality

[Express Yourself](#) by Madonna (1989)

Directed by **David Fincher**

An eroticised homage to Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*. It's still the 3rd most expensive video of all time according to Wikipedia.

[Fancy](#) by Iggy Azalea feat. Charli XCX (2014)

The whole video is meant to look like the film **Clueless**. Pop trivia: Charli XCX is from Stevenage.

[Diane Young](#) by Vampire Weekend (2013)

A parody of Da Vinci's painting *The Last Supper*. Look out for the candlelight shot...

Production design and costume

[Going To a Town](#) by Rufus Wainwright (2007)

Directed by Sophie Muller (one of the most prolific British music video directors) and full of oblique symbolism.

Representation, e.g. of gender roles:

[We Exist](#) by Arcade Fire (2014)

Actor Andrew Garfield plays a transgender person who visits a hostile redneck bar in America and gets involved in a beautifully-shot dance number.

Visual storytelling

[Just](#) by Radiohead (1995)

Directed by Jamie Thraves

Speaks (silently) for itself!

Performance

[Loveless](#) by Children Collide (2011)

A powerful solo acting performance. All in one take. By David Michôd (director of the brilliant Australian crime film *Animal Kingdom*).