



# REPRESENTING THE ARTIST

## CONSTRUCTION OF CELEBRITY

### Celebrity as narrative arc

The rise and fall of celebrities is a common pattern that we see in the media and in art. In fact, it has become a genre and can follow a formula. Here is one formula suggested by Robert Waznak<sup>1</sup>.



Does this account of Paul Kelly's life follow this pattern? Complete the table below and then try to map his life based on the information we are given in the documentary. Use dates and specific detail.

Stages	Evidence from the documentary
A star is born with unconventional talent	
News of the star's success	
Questioning the star's ability to stay	
The star has "feet of clay"	
The star has a comeback	

Are the stages that Waznak has given sufficient?

Explain how this representation of Paul Kelly's life differs from the model?

### Creating:

Write an essay in which you discuss:

*To what extent does the departure from narrative structure affect dramatic tension in the documentary? What is gained and what is lost by approaching Stories of Me through the exploration of influences on Paul Kelly's work?*

<sup>1</sup> Waznak, Robert, "The media as saint maker and devil's advocate" in *America*, October 1997, Retrieved on November 11, 2012 at: <http://business.highbeam.com/410107/article-1G1-19898091/media-saintmaker-and-devil-advocate>