# Dance and the Hollywood Musical

Transcription of podcast 5

**The folk community and the community backstage**

The final device that the Hollywood musical employs in order to create an illusion of 'folk art' is through giving the audience a feeling of participation or sense of community. It can do this through a number of devices.

For instance, it might include a ‘sing-along’ in which all of the characters participate or have a song that passes along various characters which is similar to the oral tradition of folk music. Another device is through the genre of the ‘backstage musical’ - the group effort of 'putting on a show' also extends to the audience through the feeling of a global community. A further strategy is to draw upon folk themes, such as the ‘small-town girl’ coming to the big city to make her break, or perhaps the city is made to represent small town life.

In a moment, you will need to stop to watch our final example from *On the Town.*

While you are watching, think about how this clip offers the audience the feeling of a tightly knit community or sense of participation. You will also see that I have left you with some questions that you need to think about in preparation for the next time that we meet.

Thank you for listening to this podcast and I look forward to hearing your views.