



Back to Black Review – An Emotional Biopic on Amy Winehouse Elevated by Exceptional Lead Performance | Back to Black

Description

Sam Taylor-Johnson's latest film "Back to Black" is a heartfelt dramatisation of the life of soul singer Amy Winehouse. Marisa Abela delivers an endearing performance as Winehouse, with the only questionable moment being an attempted fight scene. Jack O'Connell impresses as her controversial husband Blake Fielder-Civil, managing to portray him sympathetically rather than the negative image usually associated with him.

The film's dramatic high point comes during Amy and Blake's first meeting in The Good Mixer pub in Camden Town – a scene tinged with sadness as viewers realise this is the only time the couple will genuinely be happy together.

Despite its merits, "Back to Black" may struggle to live up to the standard set by Asif Kapadia's acclaimed 2015 documentary "Amy", which presented a compelling depiction of Winehouse's demanding musicianship and professionalism, contrasting with the tabloid coverage of her substance abuse.

Taylor-Johnson's film, however, offers a more sympathetic portrayal of Winehouse's father Mitch, played to convincing effect by Eddie Marsan. His performance addresses Mitch's complexity, embodying both his charm and his complicated relationship with his daughter.

While "Back to Black" might have chosen a gentle, forgiving narrative angle, Abela successfully captures Winehouse's humanity, showcasing her youth and tenderness, strikingly contrasting with her public image and voice. This fresher, nuanced perspective is a significant part of what makes Taylor-Johnson's film worthwhile viewing.

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Vocabulary List:

1. **Dramatisation** // (noun): The adaptation of a story or event into a dramatic form.
2. **Endearing** // (adjective): Inspiring affection or warm sympathy.
3. **Controversial** // (adjective): Causing disagreement or discussion due to differing opinions.
4. **Sympathetically** // (adverb): In a way that shows understanding and compassion towards someone.
5. **Compelling** // (adjective): Evoking interest or admiration in a powerful manner.
6. **Nuanced** // (adjective): Containing subtle differences or distinctions that contribute to a more complete understanding.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which term best describes the action of taking charge and leading a new project or idea?
Option: Solace
Option: Initiative
Option: Affliction
Option: Nuanced
2. What word means having or showing keen mental discernment and good judgment?
Option: Glittering
Option: Sagacious
Option: Perturbed
Option: Immortalized
3. Which term describes a person showing courage in the face of adversity?
Option: Exhilarating
Option: Fortitudinous
Option: Compelling



Option: Indiscriminately

4. What term describes something having a harmful effect especially in a gradual or subtle way?

Option: Recuperation

Option: Sagacious

Option: Pernicious

Option: Vicissitudes

5. Which term best describes something causing feelings of great happiness and excitement?

Option: Tribulation

Option: Endearing

Option: Exhilarating

Option: Solace

6. What term relates to the formation or production of new cells or tissues?

Option: Controversial

Option: Neoplastic

Option: Sympathetically

Option: Inductees

7. Which term is used to describe something evoking interest attention or admiration in a powerfully irresistible way?

Option: Immortalized

Option: Compelling

Option: Conjecture

Option: Elucidating

8. What term describes a sentimental longing or wistful affection for the past?

Option: Pernicious

Option: Nostalgia

Option: Initiative

Option: Indiscriminately

9. What is the term used for the adaptation of a story or event into a dramatic form?

Option: Posthumously

Option: Dramatisation

Option: Proclivity

Option: Endearing

10. Which term means something that causes pain or suffering?

Option: Sagacious

Option: Immersion

Option: Affliction



Option: Clarion

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. In times of sorrow people seek _____ for comfort and relief.
12. Total _____ in an activity can lead to great discoveries and insights.
13. The character faced many _____ in the novel but emerged stronger in the end.
14. The distribution of resources was done _____ without any regard for fairness.
15. His _____ for art became evident at a very young age.
16. Life is full of _____ from joy to sorrow and back again.
17. The president's speech sounded a _____ call for unity and peace.
18. The debate required a _____ approach to understand the complexities involved.
19. The ballroom was adorned with _____ decorations for the grand event.
20. The puppy's playful antics were always _____ to watch.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. After the surgery the patient needed time for recuperation before returning to work.
22. The professor did an excellent job of elucidating the complex theories to the students.
23. She found solace in the peaceful surroundings of the countryside after a stressful week.
24. The author's final manuscript was published posthumously as she passed away before its completion.
25. The counselor listened sympathetically to her client's problems and offered support.
26. The new policy sparked a controversial debate among the members of the committee.
27. The artist's masterpiece immortalized the beauty of the landscape for generations to come.
28. Her proclivity for adventure led her to explore remote and exotic destinations.



29. The disease was a severe affliction that required long-term treatment.

30. She was perturbed by the unexpected news of her friend's resignation.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Initiative 2. Sagacious 3. Fortitudinous 4. Pernicious 5. Exhilarating 6. Neoplastic
7. Compelling 8. Nostalgia 9. Dramatisation 10. Affliction

Gap-Fill: 11. Solace 12. Immersion 13. Tribulation 14. Indiscriminately 15. Proclivity 16. Vicissitudes 17.
Clarion 18. Nuanced 19. Glittering 20. Endearing

Matching sentence: 1. Recuperation 2. Elucidating 3. Solace 4. Posthumously 5. Sympathetically 6.
Controversial 7. Immortalized 8. Proclivity 9. Affliction 10. Perturbed

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL6

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