

Back to Black review – woozy Amy Winehouse biopic buoyed by extraordinary lead performance | Back to Black

Description

Renowned for her cinematic exploration of music **legends** and battles with addiction, Sam Taylor-Johnson **captivated** audiences with her 2019 film, "A Million Little Pieces," an **adaptation** of James Frey's debated memoir. Her directorial prowess was first noted in "Nowhere Boy," a poignant narrative on John Lennon's early life.

In her latest venture, Taylor-Johnson delves into the tumultuous life of Amy Winehouse, the iconic soul singer whose voice charmed the world from the streets of London. Winehouse's tragic demise in 2011 due to alcohol poisoning is **heartrendingly chronicled** in this cinematic homage.

Marisa Abela embodies Winehouse, delivering a performance that, while occasionally lacking in the raw **tumult** of Camden's street fights, primarily captures the essence of Winehouse's tormented genius. Jack O'Connell portrays Blake Fielder-Civil, Winehouse's husband, with a **nuance** that lends an unexpected likability to a controversial figure.

The film stands in contrast to the 2015 documentary, "Amy," by Asif Kapadia, which some laud for its unvarnished portrayal of Winehouse. Yet, Taylor-Johnson's narrative weaves its own **allure**, offering a dramatized vision that might **resonate** differently with Winehouse enthusiasts and music lovers alike, making it an **anticipated** addition to Taylor-Johnson's filmography.

Vocabulary Insights:

- **Legend** /?l?d??nd/ (noun): A person who is famously or notoriously well-known, often for their achievements in a particular field.
- **Captivated** /?kæpt?ve?t?d/ (verb): To attract and hold the interest and attention of someone.
- **Adaptation** /?ædæp?te???n/ (noun): A film, television drama, or stage play that has been adapted from a written work.
- **Heartrendingly** /?h??rt?rend??li/ (adv.): In a way that deeply affects or moves one's emotions.
- **Chronicled** /?kr?n?kld/ (verb): Recorded or detailed in a factual and descriptive manner.
- **Tumult** /?tju?m?lt/ (noun): A loud, confused noise, especially caused by a large mass of people.
- **Nuance** /?nju???ns/ (noun): A subtle difference in or shade of meaning, expression, or sound.
- **Allure** /??lj??r/ (noun): The quality of being powerfully and mysteriously attractive or fascinating.
- **Anticipate** /æn?t?s?pe?t/ (verb): To look forward to, especially with pleasure; expect.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Legend** // (noun): A person who is famously or notoriously well-known often for their achievements in a

particular field.

2. **Captivated** // (verb): To attract and hold the interest and attention of someone.
3. **Adaptation** // (noun): A film television drama or stage play that has been adapted from a written work.
4. **Heartrendingly** // (adverb): In a way that deeply affects or moves one's emotions.
5. **Chronicled** // (verb): Recorded or detailed in a factual and descriptive manner.
6. **Tumult** // (noun): A loud confused noise especially caused by a large mass of people.

Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. Which group of artists is known for their talent in playing instruments and creating music?

- Option: Carpenters
- Option: Painters
- Option: Musicians
- Option: Actors

2. What term refers to the way in which a person's hair is cut and styled?

- Option: Hairstyle
- Option: Clothing
- Option: Facial hair
- Option: Shoes

3. What word is used to describe a person or thing that is famous and admired usually because of their skill or qualities?

- Option: Legend
- Option: Rookie
- Option: Novice
- Option: Amateur

4. Which term refers to the area or region surrounding a particular place often associated with a community of people living there?

- Option: Village
- Option: Neighbourhood
- Option: City
- Option: Country

5. What are short advertisements or announcements used to promote a product or event?

- Option: Bloopers
- Option: Reviews
- Option: Promos

Option: Infomercials

6. Which term describes the feeling of having done something wrong or committing a crime?

Option: Innocent

Option: Guilty

Option: Naive

Option: Proud

7. What do we call the feeling of reassurance or satisfaction that something unpleasant or stressful has ended or been avoided?

Option: Anxiety

Option: Relief

Option: Fear

Option: Tension

8. What term describes the process of changing to better suit a new set of conditions or environment?

Option: Adaptation

Option: Resistance

Option: Stagnation

Option: Rejection

9. Which term best describes the state of being intensely interested attracted or enthralled by someone or something?

Option: Indifferent

Option: Nonchalant

Option: Captivated

Option: Detached

10. What are unofficial pieces of information or stories that may or may not be true often spread by word of mouth?

Option: Facts

Option: Myths

Option: Rumors

Option: Truths

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

11. The children played with an _____ pool toy on a hot summer day.

12. The charity event aimed to raise _____ about the importance of mental health.

13. The detective was called to investigate a _____ that had occurred in the small town.

14. After graduating from college she embarked on a successful _____ in marketing.

15. The speaker delivered an _____ plea for action on climate change.

16. The book _____ the history of the ancient civilization in great detail.

17. The new technology featured a _____ design and advanced features.

18. She dedicated many years to building a successful _____ as a lawyer.

19. The protest led to a _____ in the city streets as emotions ran high.

20. The actor's performance was praised for its subtle _____ and emotional depth.

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

21. The artist brought life to the canvas with vibrant hues in a display.

22. The chef added his touch to the dish with a sprinkle of unique spices.

23. The actor received a standing ovation for his award after years of dedication to his craft.

24. During the difficult times his friends and family provided unwavering .

25. She decided to pursue a in medicine to help those in need.

26. The concert was a heartfelt to the legendary singer who passed away.

27. The community various projects to improve the local park.

28. After the evidence was presented the suspect pleaded to the crime.

29. The artist's took off after winning a prestigious award for her work.

30. The film themes of loss and redemption in a poignant manner.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Musicians 2. Hairstyle 3. Legend 4. Neighbourhood 5. Promos 6. Guilty 7. Relief
8. Adaptation



9. Captivated 10. Rumors

Gap-Fill: 11. inflatable 12. awareness 13. murder 14. career 15. impassioned 16. chronicled 17. sophisticated 18. career 19. tumult 20. nuance

Matching sentence: 1. colourful 2. signature 3. well-deserved 4. support 5. career 6. tribute 7. involved 8. guilty 9. career 10. explored

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL2

POST TAG

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7. dramatic interpretation
8. emotional storytelling
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11. Marisa Abela
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