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## Billy Joel Criticises 'Misguided' Unauthorised Biopic

### Description

A biopic focusing on the early life of renowned musician Billy Joel is in development, but Joel himself is distancing from the project, describing it as “both legally and professionally misguided.” The film, titled *Billy & Me*, is directed by John Ottman, who recently edited *Michael*, with a screenplay by Adam Ripp. They have obtained life rights from Billy Joel's former manager, Irwin Mazur, and his friend Jon Small, yet Joel has stated that they do not have his rights for this film.

Joel's representative confirmed that since 2021, the filmmakers have been warned they lack the necessary rights, including music rights. The representative stressed that Joel has not supported the project in any way, and advancing without his consent would be problematic.

It's uncertain if Ottman's intention was always to create an unauthorized biopic or if he initially sought Joel's approval. Ottman has contributed to notable biopics, including the award-winning *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

In response to inquiries, Ripp clarified that *Billy & Me* is not a conventional biopic spanning Joel's entire life, nor does it rely on his music. The story focuses on Joel's formative years before his fame, highlighting his experience performing cover songs with The Hassles and his search for identity as a young musician.

Ripp added that they do not claim rights to Joel's original music and have shaped the project as an intimate origin story. The film will be told mainly through the perspective of Irwin Mazur, who discovered Joel. Jon Small, Joel's lifelong friend and drummer, is also involved as a consultant and co-executive producer, lending his endorsement to the film.

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### Vocabulary List:

1. **biopic** //ˈbaɪ.ɒpɪk// (noun): a movie about a real person's life
2. **misguided** //ˌmɪsˈgaɪdɪd// (adjective): not wise or likely to cause problems
3. **screenplay** //ˈskriːnˌpleɪ// (noun): the written text of a movie
4. **obtained** //əbˈteɪnd// (verb): got or received something through effort
5. **consent** //kənˈsent// (noun): permission given to allow something to happen
6. **formative** //ˈfɔːmətɪv// (adjective): important in the development of something early

### Comprehension Questions



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## Multiple Choice

1. What is the title of the biopic focusing on Billy Joel's early life?  
Option: Billy & Me  
Option: The Hassles  
Option: Bohemian Rhapsody  
Option: Michael
  
2. Who is the director of the biopic?  
Option: Adam Ripp  
Option: John Ottman  
Option: Irwin Mazur  
Option: Jon Small
  
3. Who confirmed that the filmmakers lack the necessary rights since 2021?  
Option: Billy Joel  
Option: Irwin Mazur  
Option: Billy Joel's representative  
Option: Jon Small
  
4. What element does the film 'Billy & Me' NOT rely on?  
Option: Joel's original music  
Option: His formative years  
Option: Cover songs  
Option: Interviews
  
5. What role does Jon Small have in the production of the film?  
Option: Director  
Option: Screenwriter  
Option: Consultant and co-executive producer  
Option: Main actor
  
6. Has Billy Joel supported the project 'Billy & Me'?  
Option: Yes  
Option: No  
Option: Only at the start  
Option: It's unclear



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### True-False

7. Billy Joel is fully supporting the biopic 'Billy & Me'.
8. The biopic 'Billy & Me' will cover Billy Joel's entire life.
9. The filmmakers have obtained the necessary rights to use Billy Joel's music.
10. Irwin Mazur is involved in the film as a character and perspective.
11. John Ottman has previously worked on other notable biopics.
12. The story will primarily be told from Billy Joel's perspective.

### Gap-Fill

13. The film 'Billy & Me' is directed by \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Billy Joel described the biopic project as both legally and \_\_\_\_\_ misguided.
15. The story focuses on Joel's formative years before his \_\_\_\_\_.
16. The filmmakers have warned since 2021 that they lack the necessary \_\_\_\_\_ rights.
17. Jon Small is Joel's lifelong friend and \_\_\_\_\_ involved in the film.
18. The project is shaped as an intimate \_\_\_\_\_ story.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Billy & Me 2. John Ottman 3. Billy Joel's representative 4. Joel's original music 5. Consultant and co-executive producer 6. No

**True-False:** 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. True 12. False

**Gap-Fill:** 13. John Ottman 14. professionally 15. fame 16. music 17. consultant 18. origin

### CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL5

### POST TAG



1. billy joel
2. ESL learning
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4. Level 5
5. misguided
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