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# John Lennon Documentary Reviewed at Cannes Film Festival

## Description

Beatlemania has transformed into a legacy project rather than fading away. Since the Beatles disbanded over fifty years ago, new compilation albums, remastered tracks, and even a new song created with machine-learning technology have kept their influence alive. The band's cultural impact has sparked a tribute film industry, with their music inspiring various cinematic musicals. Documentaries about the Beatles have flourished, beginning with mid-century British TV specials that celebrated their popularity.

In the 1990s, the three-part series "The Beatles Anthology" set the standard for Beatles documentaries. However, Ron Howard's "The Beatles: Eight Days a Week," released in 2016, sparked a new wave of films, using advanced restoration technology to bring past materials to life. Peter Jackson's "Get Back" stands out by featuring a wealth of unseen footage of the band during the making of "Let It Be." Other films, such as Martin Scorsese's "Beatles '64," aim to appeal to both old and new generations of fans.

Steven Soderbergh's "John Lennon: The Last Interview" is a recent addition but faces criticism for its approach. The film is based on an interview Lennon and Yoko Ono gave shortly before his assassination. The documentary heavily relies on visual annotations of this interview, using various media formats to illustrate their conversation. However, Soderbergh's use of AI-generated imagery to enhance the film has received negative feedback for being both unimaginative and intrusive.

"The Last Interview" premiered at the 2026 Cannes Film Festival and is currently seeking U.S. distribution.

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **transformed** //træns'fɔ:md// (verb): changed into something very different or new
2. **legacy** //'lɛgəsi// (noun): something important left from the past
3. **compilation** //,kɑmpə'leɪʃən// (noun): collection of songs or pieces put together
4. **restoration** //,rɛstə'reɪʃən// (noun): making something old look or work like new
5. **footage** //'fʊtɪdʒ// (noun): movie or video material used in a film
6. **criticism** //'krɪtɪ,sɪzəm// (noun): saying that something is bad or wrong

## Comprehension Questions



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## Multiple Choice

1. What is described as having transformed into a legacy project?  
Option: Beatlemania  
Option: The Beatles: Eight Days a Week  
Option: The Beatles Anthology  
Option: Get Back
  
2. Which film is noted for featuring unseen footage of the band?  
Option: The Beatles Anthology  
Option: Get Back  
Option: Beatles '64  
Option: John Lennon: The Last Interview
  
3. What was a major impact of the Beatles' cultural influence?  
Option: The creation of video games  
Option: A tribute film industry  
Option: New fashion trends  
Option: Pop art movement
  
4. Who directed 'The Beatles: Eight Days a Week'?  
Option: Peter Jackson  
Option: Martin Scorsese  
Option: Ron Howard  
Option: Steven Soderbergh
  
5. How long has it been since the Beatles disbanded?  
Option: Twenty years  
Option: Over fifty years  
Option: Forty years  
Option: Thirty years
  
6. What technology was used in the film 'The Beatles: Eight Days a Week'?  
Option: Animation  
Option: Advanced restoration technology  
Option: Machine-learning technology  
Option: Virtual reality



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### True-False

7. The Beatles Anthology is a two-part series.
8. Ron Howard's film was released in 2016.
9. The documentary 'The Last Interview' received praise for its imaginative approach.
10. Peter Jackson directed 'Beatles '64'.
11. Beatlemania's influence has only recently diminished.
12. Soderbergh's film heavily features visual annotations of an interview.

### Gap-Fill

13. The Beatles disbanded over fifty years ago, and since then, \_\_\_\_\_ compilation albums have been released.
14. Ron Howard's 'The Beatles: Eight Days a Week' sparked a \_\_\_\_\_ wave of films.
15. The documentary 'Get Back' features unseen \_\_\_\_\_ of the band.
16. 'The Last Interview' premiered at the 2026 \_\_\_\_\_ Film Festival.
17. Critics described Soderbergh's use of AI-generated imagery as \_\_\_\_\_ and intrusive.
18. Documentaries about the Beatles began with mid-century British TV \_\_\_\_\_ that celebrated their popularity.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Beatlemania 2. Get Back 3. A tribute film industry 4. Ron Howard 5. Over fifty years 6. Advanced restoration technology

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

**Gap-Fill:** 13. new 15. footage 16. Cannes 17. unimaginative 18. specials

### CATEGORY

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1. Entertainment - LEVEL4

## **POST TAG**

1. ESL learning
2. esl news
3. john lennon
4. last interview
5. Level 4
6. steven soderbergh

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