

Amy

Cert 15 UK/USA 2015 127 mins

Crew

Director	Asif Kapadia
Cinematography	Matt Curtis
Film Editing	Chris King
Original music	Amy Winehouse Antonio Pinto

Cast (as themselves)

Amy Winehouse	archive footage
Yasiin Bey	friend
Mitch & Janis Winehouse	parents
Blake Fielder	ex-husband
Tony Bennett	friend
Pete Doherty	friend

Synopsis

A once-in-a-generation talent and a jazz artist in the purest sense, Amy Winehouse wrote and sung from the heart. Using her musical gifts to analyse her own problems, she created some of the most original songs of the modern era. But, under pressure from relentless media attention, troubled relationships, and a precarious lifestyle, her life tragically unravelled.

Featuring extensive unseen archive footage and previously unheard tracks, this strikingly modern, moving and vital film captures the essence of this unique talent, and shines a light on the world we live in.



Booking Information

Distributor: Altitude Film Distribution

DVD bookings:

CINEMA for ALL Booking Scheme

see page 8 for more information

0114 221 0314 info@cinemaforall.org.uk

www.cinemaforall.org.uk

Available: Now



Reviews

Asif Kapadia's documentary study of the great British soul queen Amy Winehouse, who died of alcohol poisoning at the age of 27, is stunningly moving and powerful: intimate, passionate, often shocking, and almost mesmerically absorbing.

Like Kapadia's previous study of doomed motor-racing star Ayrton Senna, this does not use talking heads, but is instead visually based on extant footage of chat-shows and awards-events and also an extraordinary trove of private video shot by friends and lovers who were clearly transfixed by Winehouse's extraordinary personality, and perhaps, who knows, aware that what they were recording might be of grim future interest.

....It is an overwhelming story, and despite everyone knowing the ending, it is as gripping as a thriller: Kapadia has fashioned and shaped it with masterly flair.

Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian, May 2015

Just as the controversies surrounding Amy Winehouse's life shouldn't blind us to her talent, so mounting issues around Asif Kapadia's docu-portrait shouldn't muffle its strengths.

Winehouse's dad has castigated the filmmakers for misrepresenting him. That argument simmers on but, as a portrait of Mitch's daughter, Amy is rigorous: with old-school detail, depth and research, Kapadia teases out the human from the headlines until her tragedy guts you.

As with 2010's *Senna*, Kapadia dodges the talking heads of standard retro-docs and taps archive footage - a huge wedge of it - for immersive, intimate and illuminating ends.

The rise/fall arc is familiar, but Kapadia's exhaustive detailing of the decisive factors distinguishes it.... [but with a] question left painfully unresolved: could she have been saved? If opinions will splinter on that, one certainty emerges. As Amy's tight friends sob through their accounts of her last days, all those eulogies for her lost talent suddenly fall short. Kapadia's rigorous, empathetic film laments something more: the loss of the person.

Kevin Harley, Total Film, June 2015

FILM FACTS...

- ☆ Following its premiere at the Edinburgh Film Festival in June, the film has already become the highest grossing British documentary film of all time.
- ☆ After initially supporting the project, Amy's family distanced themselves from it. Amy's father Mitch said the film was "preposterous" on its release - he said it lacked balance, and didn't show him and Amy in a good light.