

Mary J. Blige's *My Life*

Mary J. Blige's My Life is a 2021 American documentary film about the musical career of American recording artist Mary J. Blige directed by Vanessa Roth. Commemorating the 25th anniversary of her 1994 studio album *My Life*, the film was released on June 25, 2021, on Amazon Prime Video.

Summary

My Life revisits the early life and career of Mary J. Blige, with a focus on her 1994 studio album of the same name. The film features appearances by Andre Harrell, Blige's sisters, the *My Life* songwriters, Sean Combs,^[2] Method Man, Alicia Keys, Tyler Perry, and Nas,^[3] as well as footage of Blige performing the album live for the first time during its 25th anniversary in 2019.^[4]

Production

In December 2019, Amazon Studios and Entertainment One announced a documentary film on Mary J. Blige.^{[5][6]} The film was produced by Amazon Studios in collaboration with Blige's production company Blue Butterfly.^[7] It was directed by Vanessa Roth, with Blige serving as executive producer.^[8] The film also features music composed by Mervyn Warren.^[9]

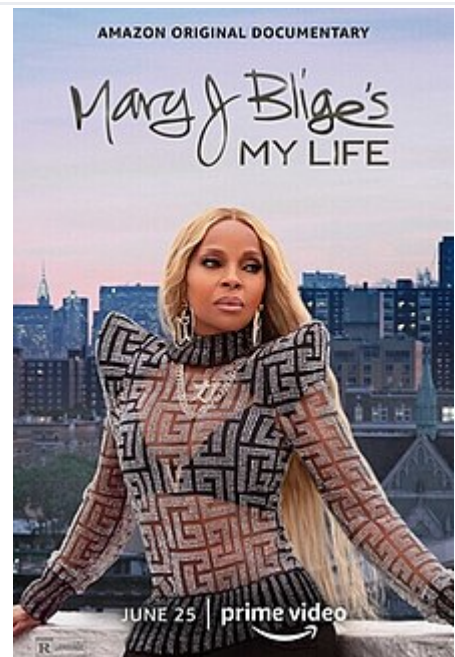
Release

On June 23, 2021, the film received its world premiere at the Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City.^[10] It was made available digitally on-demand through streaming platform Amazon Prime Video on June 25, 2021.^[11] A ballad by Mary J. Blige titled "Hourglass", co-written by Teddy Riley, Andy Murray, Benjamin Wright, and Romans, was released in conjunction with the film.^[12]

Reception

The film received mixed reviews from critics. On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 60% of 15 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 5.6/10.^[13] Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 56 out of 100, based on 4 critics, indicating "mixed or average" reviews.^[14]

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Promotional poster

Directed by	Vanessa Roth
Produced by	Ashaunna K. Ayars <div></div> Q. Nicole Jackson
Starring	Mary J. Blige <div></div> Sean Combs <div></div> Taraji P. Henson <div></div> Alicia Keys
Cinematography	Kalilah Robinson
Edited by	Yvette M. Amirian <div></div> Parris Patton
Music by	Mervyn Warren
Production companies	Amazon Studios <div></div> Entertainment One ^[1]

Johnny Loftus of *Decider* stated that it "celebrates the lasting influence of an incredible album" while also highlighting "the singer and songwriter's profound struggle for wellness".^[15] Writing for the *Los Angeles Times*, Michael Ordoná praised the film for "its fan testimonials of the album's impact and Blige's emotional recollections of the songs' roots."^[16] Robert Daniels of *RogerEbert.com* described the film as "fortuitously (providing) a love letter to Blige's fans that teems with the same truthful message as the singer's best music".^[17] In a review for *Variety*, Andrew Barker wrote that "as a fan-centric retrospective, (the film) hits plenty of the right notes; but as a chance to more thoroughly explore a complicated, still-influential landmark, it never digs quite deeply enough."^[18]

	Creature Films ^[1]
	Blue Butterfly
Distributed by	Amazon Studios ^[1]
Release dates	June 23, 2021 (New York City premiere) June 25, 2021
Running time	82 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English

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External links

- *Mary J. Blige's My Life* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11383348/>) at IMDb
 - *Mary J. Blige's My Life* (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/mary_j_bliges_my_life) at Rotten Tomatoes
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