

Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé

Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé is a 2023 American documentary concert film written, directed, and produced by Beyoncé. Similar to *Homecoming: A Film by Beyoncé* (2019), the film chronicles the development and execution of the singer-songwriter's 2023 Renaissance World Tour, conducted to support her seventh studio album *Renaissance* (2022).

Beyoncé signed a distribution agreement with AMC Theatres and announced the concert film after concluding the tour in Kansas City, Missouri. The film depicts the creation of *Renaissance* and the production of the tour. Her husband Jay-Z; parents Mathew and Tina Knowles; cousin Angela Beyoncé; and three children Blue Ivy, Rumi, and Sir Carter are featured in the film. Additionally, musicians Diana Ross; Megan Thee Stallion; Cardi B; Kendrick Lamar; and former Destiny's Child members Kelly Rowland, Michelle Williams, LaTavia Roberson, and LeToya Luckett all make appearances throughout the film. The end credits feature "My House", a 2023 single by Beyoncé in support of the film.^[4]

The film premiered at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater in Los Angeles on November 25, 2023, before the theatrical release in the United States on December 1.^[5] The film received positive reviews from critics, who praised the concert footage, production, behind-the-scenes elements and Beyoncé's stage presence, and has grossed over \$44 million at the global box office.

Background

American singer Beyoncé released her seventh studio album, *Renaissance*, on July 29, 2022.^[6] Inspired by her desire for escapism during the COVID-19 pandemic, the album was universally acclaimed by music critics for its joyous and eclectic celebration of post-1970s black dance music and ball culture.^[7] It broke several commercial records,^[8] was named the best album of 2022 by multiple publications,^[9] and helped Beyoncé become the most awarded person in Grammy Awards history.^[10]

Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	<u>Beyoncé</u>
Written by	<u>Beyoncé</u>
Based on	<u>Renaissance World Tour</u>
Produced by	<u>Beyoncé</u> <u>Melina Matsoukas</u> <u>Justina Omokhua</u> <u>Mark Ritchie</u> <u>Erinn Williams</u> <u>John Winter</u>
Starring	<u>Beyoncé</u> <u>Blue Ivy Carter</u> <u>Megan Thee Stallion</u> <u>Kendrick Lamar</u> <u>Diana Ross</u> <u>Jay-Z</u> <u>Kelly Rowland</u> <u>Michelle Williams</u> <u>LaTavia Roberson</u> <u>LeToya Luckett</u>



Beyoncé performing at the Renaissance World Tour, at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London.

Critics and fans quickly realized that Beyoncé did not release a visual companion with *Renaissance*, as she did with her previous works *B'Day* (2006), *Beyoncé* (2013), *Lemonade* (2016) and *The Lion King: The Gift* (2019). These are frequently described as a visual album or a musical film.^[11] Beyoncé released a teaser video for the opening track of *Renaissance*, "I'm That Girl", on August 9, 2022, which included a rapid montage of over twenty outfits;

news outlets interpreted this as a preview of the various music videos for each track on the album.^[12] In support of *Renaissance*, she announced her sixth solo headlining concert tour, the Renaissance World Tour, on February 1, 2023, via her Instagram account.^[13] The all-stadium concert run began on May 10, in Stockholm, Sweden, and concluded on October 1, in Kansas City, Missouri.^[14] The tour received critical acclaim, with particular praise for the production value and Beyoncé's vocal performance, becoming the seventh highest-grossing concert tour of all time, the highest-grossing tour ever by a female artist, the highest-grossing tour by a black artist, achieved the two highest monthly tour-grosses in history according to *Billboard* Boxscore.^{[15][16]}

On September 30, 2023, *Variety* reported that Beyoncé would be releasing a concert film through AMC Theatres. The film was reported to have been auctioned to the major film studios and streaming platforms, with Beyoncé choosing "an unconventional deal template forged by AMC and Taylor Swift" (*Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour*), wherein Beyoncé would receive over 50 percent of the box office gross. According to *Variety*'s sources, the film would have an "ambitious scope", incorporating highlights from the full run of the tour, the visual album of *Renaissance*, and documentary footage of the development of both the album and the tour,^[17] though only the tour was featured in the final cut.

Release

Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé released on December 1, 2023. The release date is noted for falling on World AIDS Day, as the corresponding album is dedicated to Beyoncé's "Uncle" John Edward Rittenhouse Jr.,^[18] who introduced her to Black dance music and ball culture and died during the AIDS epidemic.^[19] The end credits song, titled "My House", was surprise released alongside the movie.^[20] The film had its world premiere at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater in Los Angeles on November 25, 2023.^[21] An additional premiere was held on November 30, at London's Leicester Square.^[22] The film opened in the United States, Canada and Mexico, with additional global availability announced on October 26. *Uproxx* reported that fans were added to virtual queues while attempting to purchase tickets.^[23] *Deadline Hollywood* reported that the first-day ticket presales of the film is estimated to be around US\$6–7 million.^[24] Tickets for territories outside the US went on sale November 9 from the film's website.^[25] The film was available in IMAX and Dolby Cinema, as well as other branded premium large-format screens.^[26]

	<u>Tina Knowles</u>
Cinematography	Dax Blinn Irie Calkins
Edited by	Tom Watson
Production company	<u>Parkwood</u> <u>Entertainment</u>
Distributed by	<u>AMC Theatres</u>
Release dates	November 25, 2023 (<u>Samuel Goldwyn Theater</u>) December 1, 2023 (United States)
Running time	168 minutes ^[1]
Country	United States
Language	English
Box office	\$44.4 million ^{[2][3]}

The film received a wider international release on December 21, 2023, with Beyoncé making a surprise appearance at the film's premiere event in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. This marked the singer's first visit to the country since The Mrs. Carter Show World Tour in 2013.^{[27][28]}

Reception

Box office

Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé grossed \$33.9 million in the United States and Canada, and \$10.5 million in other territories, for a worldwide total of \$44.4 million.^[2]

In the United States and Canada, the film was released alongside *Silent Night*, *Godzilla Minus One*, and *The Shift*, and was originally projected to gross \$17–20 million from 2,539 theatres in its opening weekend.^[29] After making \$11.6 million on its first day (including previews), it went on to debut to \$22 million, marking the second-best opening weekend for the first week of December, behind *The Last Samurai* (\$24 million in 2003).^[30] In its second weekend, the movie bringing in \$5 million and securing the sixth spot.^{[31][32]}

In its first week in a few country, the film made a \$5.5 million gross from 94 countries outside the US and Canada, opening at number four in the UK box office and number six in Australia.^[33]

Critical response

Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé received positive reviews from critics, with emphasis on the concert footage and the intimate behind-the-scenes elements.^{[34][35]} On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 98% of 40 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 8.6/10. The website's consensus reads: "Part documentary, part concert film, *RENAISSANCE: A FILM BY BEYONCÉ* shows two sides of the artist—and they're both equally brilliant."^[36] On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 86 out of 100, based on 26 critic reviews, indicating "universal acclaim".^[37] Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film a rare average grade of "A+", while those polled at PostTrak gave it a 97% overall positive score, with 90% saying they would definitely recommend the film.^[38]

In a five-star review for *The Independent*, Roisin O'Connor wrote that the film "shows a level of perfectionism beyond any other artist" through "a rare and remarkable" inside-look into the tour's production, comparing Beyoncé to filmmaker Steven Spielberg. O'Connor also lauds the "staggering" and "extraordinary" live performance segments of the film, concluding: "The tempo and sheer spectacle of it all leaves you breathless. No one compares."^[39] *The Guardian*'s Steve Rose praised the "affecting" and "intriguing" documentary segments of the film, which successfully "strip back the façade of perfection Beyoncé perpetually exudes" and provide insights into the "staggeringly accomplished" tour.^[40]

Sughnen Yongo of *Forbes* wrote that the core of the film is "Beyoncé's unparalleled artistic mastery", which "seamlessly blends music, dance, and cinematography" into a "cinematic experience that is both vivid and authentic".^[41] Ross Bonaime of *Collider* described the film as a "stupendous" and a "



Odeon Luxe Leicester Square in London hosted one of the two premieres of the film on November 30, 2023.

tremendous look at one of the biggest concert experiences in recent memory, as well as what makes one of the most iconic singers of our time tick", where Beyoncé "shows her underrated skills as a director" on "a whole other level".^[42]

Mark Olsen of the *Los Angeles Times* described the film as "startlingly candid", with the "notoriously guarded" Beyoncé revealing behind-the-scenes insights from the tour and intimate moments with her family.^[43] Writing for *The Hollywood Reporter*, Angie Han praised the innovative editing and maximalist set design, making the film "feel like a spiritual experience unto itself".^[44] Katie Campione of *Deadline* also likened the film to a religious experience, with its "immersive" visuals and "breathtaking" performance.^[45] *Today's* Arianna Davis agreed, writing that the film "stands apart in its breathtaking visuals" and noting that it was "*made* for the big screen".^[46] Philip Cosores of *Uproxx* described *Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé* as "masterful, brave and affecting" filmmaking."^[47]

The film was named the sixth best movie of 2023 by *Essence*^[48] and the 20th best by *Consequence*.^[49]

Accolades

Award	Date of ceremony	Category	Recipient(s)	Result	Ref.
Black Reel Awards	January 16, 2024	Outstanding Documentary Feature	Beyoncé	Nominated	<div>[50] [51]</div>
		Outstanding Original Song	"My House" by Beyoncé and The-Dream	Nominated	
		Outstanding Costume Design	Beyoncé and Shiona Turini	Nominated	
		Outstanding Production Design	Hannah Beachler	Nominated	
GLAAD Media Award	March 14, 2024	Special Recognition	<i>Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé</i>	Won	[52]
iHeartRadio Music Awards	April 1, 2024	Favorite On Screen	<i>Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé</i>	Nominated	[53]

Impact

Shares for AMC, *IMAX* and *Cinemark Theatres* rose following the announcement of the film.^[54] According to *CNBC's* Sarah Whitten, *Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé* will provide a "much-needed boom" for the film industry, which is still recovering from the *effects of the COVID-19 pandemic*. Shawn Robbins, chief analyst at *BoxOffice.com*, said that Beyoncé will fill the typically slow period between Thanksgiving and Christmas, which will in turn change how the industry approaches these "dead zones".^[55] The film has ushered in a revival of concert films, according to *The Sydney Morning Herald*.^[56] *The Times* suggested the film to be "the future of live music", aiding both the UK's live music industry and film industry.^[57]

Setlist

Source:^[58]

1. "[Dangerously in Love 2](#)"

2. "Flaws and All"
3. "I'm That Girl"
4. "Cozy"
5. "Alien Superstar"
6. "Lift Off"
7. "Cuff It"
8. "Energy"
9. "Break My Soul" (The Queens Remix)
10. "Formation"
11. "Diva"
12. "Run the World (Girls)"
13. "My Power" (with Blue Ivy Carter)
14. "Black Parade"
15. "Savage Remix" (with Megan Thee Stallion)
16. "Partition"
17. "Church Girl"
18. "Get Me Bodied"
19. "Before I Let Go"
20. "Crazy in Love"
21. "River Deep – Mountain High"
22. "Love Hangover" (with Diana Ross)
23. "Plastic off the Sofa"
24. "Virgo's Groove"
25. "Naughty Girl"
26. "Move"
27. "Heated"
28. "Memories Run Through My Wires" (intermission)
29. "Thique"
30. "All Up in Your Mind"
31. "Drunk in Love"
32. "America Has a Problem" (with Kendrick Lamar)
33. "Pure/Honey" (contains elements of "Blow")

Encore

- 1.
34. "Summer Renaissance"
35. "My House" (end credits)

Analysis

Multiple publications have described the film as a "celebration of liberation" and "black pride", with Beyoncé facing the challenges of "being heard and seen" as a racialized woman.^{[41][59]} *Billboard*'s Kyle Denis wrote that the film "is as much about the enigmatic artistic genius as it is about community", highlighting the groups of people who crafted the tour behind-the-scenes, attended the concerts and "inspired the throughlines of Black queer liberation that course through" the *Renaissance* era.^[60] *The Hollywood Reporter*'s Angie Han praised Beyoncé for spotlighting and crediting the queer black

community and pioneers of ball culture, which the album's sound is rooted in.^[44] Victoria Moss of the *Evening Standard* wrote that the highlight of the film was the "poignant moments" when Beyoncé pays tribute to her Uncle Jonny, her gay relative who died during the AIDS epidemic and who introduced her to the house music and ball culture that *Renaissance* celebrates.^[61]

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External links

- Official website (<https://beyoncefilm.com>) 
- *Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt29354040/>) at IMDb
- *Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé* (<https://www.allmovie.com/movie/vm13618542497>) at AllMovie
- *Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé* (<https://www.metacritic.com/movie/renaissance-a-film-by-beyonce/>) at Metacritic
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