

Val (film)

Val is a 2021 American documentary film directed and produced by Leo Scott and Ting Poo.^[2] It follows the life and career of actor Val Kilmer. The film had its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival on July 7, 2021, and was released in a limited release on July 23, 2021, prior to digital streaming on Prime Video on August 6, by Amazon Studios.

Synopsis

The film follows the life and career of actor Val Kilmer, including footage of Kilmer shot by himself throughout his career, footage of his childhood, and home movies.^[3] The film showcases his battle with throat cancer and gives a behind the scenes view of his personal life, including the childhood death of his brother Wesley, his eight-year marriage to actress Joanne Whalley, and their children Mercedes and Jack.

Production

Leo Scott initially began working as an editor with Harmony Korine on his short film *The Lotus Community Workshop*, where he came across Val Kilmer's archive, digging through 800 hours of footage, with Ting Poo boarding the project later on.^{[4][5]} The footage, which Kilmer had shot for years, featured him growing up, attending school, auditioning, his career, and family.^[6] Previously, the footage had sat in boxes for years, and once Kilmer was diagnosed with cancer and began losing his voice, it made him want to tell his story.^[7] The film is narrated by Kilmer's own words, through his son Jack Kilmer.^[8]

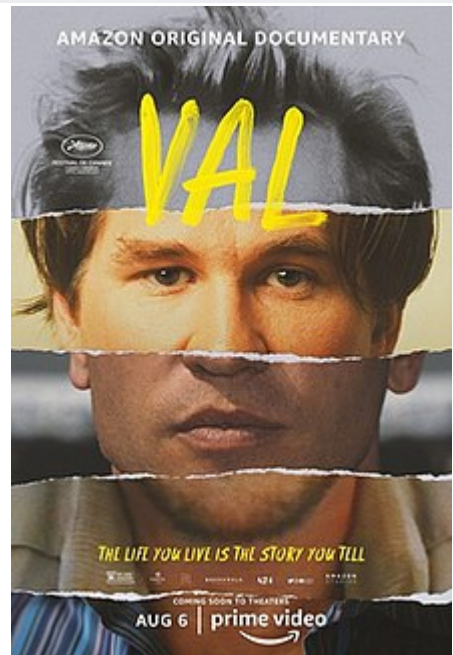
In May 2021, it was announced that Amazon Studios had acquired the US and Latin American rights for *Val*.^[1]

Release

The film had its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival on July 7, 2021.^[9] It had a limited release in theaters on July 23, 2021, prior to digital streaming on Prime Video on August 6, 2021.^[10]

Reception

Val



Promotional poster

Directed by	Leo Scott <div></div> Ting Poo
Written by	Val Kilmer
Produced by	Val Kilmer <div></div> Leo Scott <div></div> Ting Poo <div></div> Andrew Fried <div></div> Dane Lillegard <div></div> Jordan Wynn <div></div> Ali Alborzi <div></div> Brad Koepenick <div></div> Tom Stratton
Starring	Val Kilmer
Narrated by	Jack Kilmer
Cinematography	Val Kilmer <div></div> Tom Stratton <div></div> Leila El Hayani
Edited by	Leo Scott <div></div> Ting Poo

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 94% based on 124 reviews, with an average rating of 7.8/10. The website's critics consensus reads, "An absorbingly reflective documentary that benefits from its subject's self-chronicling, *Val* offers an intimate look at a unique life and career."^[11] On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 73 out of 100, based on 29 critics, indicating "generally favorable reviews".^[12]

See also

- *Listen to Me Marlon* - 2015 doc about Academy Award-winning actor and Val's one-time co-star Marlon Brando similar in content
- *Lost Soul: The Doomed Journey of Richard Stanley's Island of Dr. Moreau*

References

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- D'Alessandro, Anthony (May 27, 2021). "Amazon Studios Takes U.S. & Latin America On 'Val', A24 Documentary About Actor Val Kilmer" (<https://deadline.com/2021/05/val-kilmer-documentary-amazon-a24-1234765283/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Retrieved May 27, 2021.
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- Olsen, Mark (July 23, 2021). "How Val Kilmer's children helped tell his story in the intimate documentary 'Val'" (<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/movies/story/2021-07-23/val-kilmer-children-documentary-amazon-jack-mercedes>). *The Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved July 24, 2021.

Music by	Garth Stevenson
Production companies	<div> <div><div>A24</div></div> <div>IAC Films</div> <div>Boardwalk Pictures</div> <div>Cartel Films</div> </div>
Distributed by	<div> <div>Amazon Studios (United States and Latin America)</div> <div>A24 (International)^[1]</div> </div>
Release dates	<div> <div>July 7, 2021 (Cannes)</div> <div>July 23, 2021 (United States)</div> <div>August 6, 2021 (Prime Video)</div> </div>
Running time	108 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English

7. Coyle, Jake (July 14, 2021). "Val Kilmer on a life in illusion and the new doc 'Val'" (https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/val-kilmer-on-a-life-in-illusion-and-the-new-doc-val/2021/07/14/750db45a-e49c-11eb-88c5-4fd6382c47cb_story.html). *The Washington Post*. Retrieved July 24, 2021.
8. Utichi, Joe (July 8, 2021). "Val Kilmer's Life Captured In 'Val' By Family And Friends: "He's A Filmmaker" – Cannes Studio" (<https://deadline.com/video/val-kilmer-val-interview-cannes-film-festival/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Retrieved July 24, 2021.
9. "The films of the Official Selection 2021" (<https://m.festival-cannes.com/en/infos-communiquees/communique/articles/the-films-of-the-official-selection-2021>). *Cannes Film Festival*. June 3, 2021. Retrieved June 8, 2021.
10. Sharf, Zack (July 6, 2021). "'Val' Trailer: Val Kilmer Tells His Life Story Through Four Decades of Home Videos" (<https://www.indiewire.com/2021/07/val-trailer-val-kilmer-home-videos-1234648935/>). *IndieWire*. Retrieved July 6, 2021.
11. "Val" (<https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/val>). *Rotten Tomatoes*. Fandango Media. Retrieved July 18, 2022.
12. "Val Reviews" (<https://www.metacritic.com/movie/val>). *Metacritic*. Fandom, Inc. Retrieved August 6, 2021.

External links

- [Val](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt14731254/) (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt14731254/>) at IMDb
 - [Official trailer](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqNnhgEyQCU) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqNnhgEyQCU>)
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