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Quincy: A Documentary Review

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Quincy: A Documentary Review

By Analy Cruz

The Netflix documentary, *Quincy*, directed by Alan Hicks and Rashida Jones, tells the story of how Quincy Jones got into jazz and producing, and portrays his current life. Jones, being the main subject, mentions important supporting subjects like Ray Charles, Frank Sinatra, and Michael Jackson. Rashida Jones, his daughter, is also a main subject of the documentary and encourages dialogue as one of the directors of the film. Jones first introduces how he got into playing the trumpet and working his way up to composing and arranging. He explains how this led to film scoring and producing music for himself and other artists. Throughout this narration, the documentary focuses on Jones' modern life in 2015 as he produces the African American Museum Smithsonian opening T.V. special. Throughout the film, the subject bounces back and forth between the background story and his modern life.

One experience in the documentary that was highlighted was Jones' time with Frank Sinatra as a composer for Sinatra's big band. Jones arranged and conducted for Sinatra's album *It Might As Well Be Swing*. This album was a part of history for Sinatra as well as Jones. The film also focuses on his time as a producer for Michael Jackson. Jones was introduced to Jackson as a film scorer for *The Wiz*. Jones worked with Jackson for three of Jackson's first non-Motown albums. These are a few memorable points in Jones' career. The film covers in detail the main points in Jones' career smoothly and transitions to supporting parts of his career effortlessly. The main subject and storyline flow within each other as the film bounces back and forth between his current life and his past experiences.

Within the backstory of Jones' life, internal conflicts arise with him focusing on work instead of family and health. This conflict constantly arises and gets resolved throughout his life, which is a defining factor of his life in the music industry. When the documentary shows his current life, again the main conflict is his health deteriorating as he gets older. The conflicts addressed in the documentary lead to his varying career decisions. This plays a key point in explaining how he became so well known in the music industry.

Because one of the directors for this documentary is Jones' daughter, the goal was to show a personal side of Quincy that only his family gets to see. This is a good way to produce and direct because it gets more personal information out of the main subject. Jones emphasizes that he has been through six decades of the music industry. The documentary really captures this well by showing where he started and what technology was used then to what he uses now. Including artists he has worked with in the film also supports the personal aspect of the documentary.

This documentary has a different set up from most documentaries, which is why I enjoy this film. The insight into his personal life balances out the documentary aspect. This adds humor to the film, which makes the audience feel like you are physically with Jones. I recommend this documentary to anyone who wants a look into six decades of music, or if you want to look at how Michael Jackson produced three of his most famous albums. Overall, I enjoyed this documentary for the story, the music, and experiences from Quincy Jones.

Works Cited

Quincy. Dir. Alan Hicks and Rashida Jones. Netflix, 2018. Film.