

File 1 p. 19 • Steven Spielberg on “his” Lincoln

Diane Sawyer: Fascinated by Lincoln since he was a child, director Steven Spielberg always wanted to do this movie. America at its finest with Lincoln as the prism for understanding the delicate balance between dedication and doubt.

Steven Spielberg: I have this recollection from my childhood when my uncle took me to the Lincoln Memorial. And you're led into this dark kind of rotunda and there is a giant sitting in a chair.

Diane Sawyer: What did you see in his face, do you remember?

Steven Spielberg: I thought he was looking directly at me. And that was it.

Diane Sawyer: The boy who grew up to be a director carrying a dream, and knowing there was only one actor for this role.

Diane Sawyer: For nearly eight years, Daniel Day Lewis, who grew up in England and Ireland, said no. It would be impossible to embody America's most dearly loved president.

Diane Sawyer: And then, there it was on the screen: Lincoln, daunting, monumental, fully human.

Interviewer: What goes into becoming Freddie? like, you mentioned that you what you got given was a documentary, was that... was that... did you just watch that on repeat or was it like Youtube videos, or interviews...?

Rami Malek: Oh man, I watched every piece of archival footage that exists on the Internet, every documentary, I read every book and then, you know, they asked me about, in true Hollywood fashion, it was: "Well, can you put yourself on tape?" People need to see it. Cause they wanted to shop it around all the Hollywood studios, this wasn't financed. And I did.

Rami Malek: I didn't even wait to hear what was gonna happen, I just flew out to London, I took singing lessons, dancing lessons and it turned out to be movement because it wasn't choreographed, it was all spontaneous with Freddie so it was like going back to the theater school: every day I had a regimen.

Interviewer: It's funny now talking to you because I saw as Freddie Mercury. By the time the movie was finished, I was like believing that you were him.

File 1 p. 21 • Eddie Redmayne's talk

Eddy Redmayne: Really on this film I felt like I had to just educate myself on everything so I went wherever I could. And I try for my own sake when I'm working to make it three-dimensional. To try and just to keep myself alive, and I've a quite short attention span. But otherwise the most complicated side of it was working out, all the documentaries start coming out in the 80s when Stephen became more famous, but by that point he's in the wheelchair, so what was complicated was finding out how he physically progressed into the wheelchair and although there's stuff written about that I had to go and look at photographs. And I would take those photographs to a specialist called Dr Katy Seidel and she, by looking at what the hands were doing, Stephen's hands were doing, or his feet or... would help work out what his specific physical decline may have been. Because with motor neuron disease you have what I call upper neurons and lower neurons and if your lower neurons stop working there's a kind of softness and a wilting, and if your upper neurons stop working there's this rigid quality and MND is a combination of those two things but which part of your body has which is completely unique to each patient. So by analysing the photos we could try and work out what his specific decline would have been.

Female journalist: What are your true thoughts about the casting for Nina Simone role? You know people have particular thoughts about that I feel like you do as well. What are your thoughts on that?

Sheryl Lee Ralph: There are so many other actresses that were absolutely right on for that role. Viola Davis. Musically, India Arie. And that's just two off the top of my head. The makeup alone frightened me because I was like I didn't know what I was looking at. Do I love the actress who's playing her? I love that actress. Is this necessarily the role that I would have chosen? No. But somebody did. Somebody liked her, loved her enough to give them, give her their money to make that movie with her in it. We'll see where it falls.

Amirah Vann: You know I think I'd rather focus on Nina Simone and I think that I think she is a legend and if her story is told I hope with all art that it just makes people go out on their own and find out more. Her story is so brilliant. She was a revolutionary. She was about the rights of African Americans. She even sacrificed some, you know, her career and some of her successes because of her own passion about saying I'm going to be a part of the movement. So I think it's about honoring her and that's the goal and that's what's important.

Jada Pinkett Smith made it clear on Friday morning she is not a fan of *All Eyez on Me*, a new film about her late friend Tupac Shakur. The biopic stars newcomer Demetrius Shipp Jr. as the iconic 1990s rapper. Directed by Benny Boom, the film chronicles his rise to superstardom as a hip-hop artist, actor, poet and activist, as well as his imprisonment and controversial time at Death Row Records.

The Vampire Diaries actress Kat Graham plays his closest friend, and future movie star, Jada Pinkett Smith.

In a series of tweets, Smith called the biopic deeply hurtful. She wrote, “Forgive me... my relationship to Pac is too precious for the scenes in *All Eyez on Me* to stand as truth. Pac never read me that poem. I didn’t know that poem existed until it was printed in his book. Pac never said goodbye to me before leaving for LA. He had to leave abruptly and it wasn’t to pursue his career. I’ve never been to any of Pac’s shows at his request. We never had an argument backstage. The reimagining of my relationship to Pac has been deeply hurtful.”

Smith added, “To Kat Graham and D. Shipp Jr., this is no fault of yours. Thank you for bringing so much heart and spirit to your roles.”

She concluded with, “Happy birthday, Pac, you are cradled in my heart for eternity. I love you.”

According to the Hollywood Reporter’s film review by Steven Dalton, “Given the tragic and highly charged events it depicts, *All Eyez on Me* is oddly low on emotional bite, perhaps because it never feels real. As clean and polished and blandly overlit as a TV soap opera, Boom’s film looks and feels smaller than Tupac’s cinematic life story.”

Dalton added, “However mighty his talents, however deep his flaws, Tupac deserves a more comprehensive screen memorial than this.”

Joe Fryer: It's one of the most iconic moments in human history but this morning the first Moon landing is getting new attention here on planet Earth.

Ryan Gosling: This was widely regarded in the end as a human achievement.

Joe Fryer: Actor Ryan Gosling fuelling a political firestorm with those comments.

Joe Fryer: Gosling plays astronaut Neil Armstrong in *First Man*.

Gosling as Armstrong: We're planning on the flight being successful.

Joe Fryer: A new film about the U.S. mission that put the first man on the Moon. But the film, which premiered Thursday at the Venice Film Festival, does not include that famous moment when the American flag is planted on the Moon's surface. The backlash from conservative commentators has been fierce, many branding the movie anti-American. Politicians entering the fray, Senator Marco Rubio tweeting: "The American people paid for that mission, with American rockets built by Americans with American technology and carrying American astronauts. It wasn't a U.N. mission."

And Senator Ted Cruz writing: "Really sad. Hollywood erases flag from Moon landing."

Gosling explaining to reporters that the film's intent was to concentrate on Armstrong's personal introspective journey.

Gosling: I don't think that Neil viewed himself as an American hero. From my interviews and my experiences with his family and people that knew him, it was quite the opposite, and I think we really wanted the movie to reflect Neil.

Joe Fryer: According to the film's director Damien Chazelle, and confirmed by Universal Pictures, NBC's sister company, the American flag is shown standing on the lunar surface multiple times in the movie, just not the actual planting of the flag. Neil Armstrong's two sons defending the film saying in a statement: "The filmmakers chose to focus on Neil looking back at the Earth.

This story is human and it is universal. Of course it celebrates an American achievement. It also celebrates an achievement for all mankind.”

File 1 p. 28 • Natalie Portman's press conference

I'm Natalie Portman and I play Jackie Kennedy in the film *Jackie*.

People like to believe in fairy tales.

What we remember is that she was almost our queen. It's the elegance, the clothes. It's very much an image. All the accounts of people who knew her talk so much about how she had this really witty, sardonic intelligence and humor. You know, she's the person you wanted to be seated next to a dinner. She's the one who'd be saying the smart, funny, maybe a little bit nasty, but funny, things. I don't necessarily look at myself and go, "Oh I really look like her", but then, with the help of all of these great artists who put together the appearance of the character it did help me look like her, which gives you the courage to, you know, play the role of a very well-known icon.

File 1 p. 29 • Test your skills - Behind Tim Burton's *Big Eyes*

My name is Margaret Keane and I'm an artist. We're at The Keane eyes gallery today.

I don't know why I painted the big eyes, they were always big, I used to draw in my schoolbooks eyes, big eyes.

When Walter started taking credit for all the paintings it was around 1959 or 60. 1960 I guess. I finally gave in. Before that there are early pictures of me painting big-eyed paintings and him painting street scenes. But then he took over. Well I knew that it was easier just for him to sell a painting if people thought he was the artist.

But then when I got in, gave it up, and had delivered the lies, that was horrible, it was just tearing me apart, you know... hum, that's what the movie is about.

It was a very emotional experience, for my daughter too. We both were really in shock afterwards because the movie is so... it just brought everything back. It was just... it's so well done. Amy Adams just does a fantastic performance and Christoph Waltz looks and acts and talked exactly like Walter. It really made it just... it was overwhelming to me.