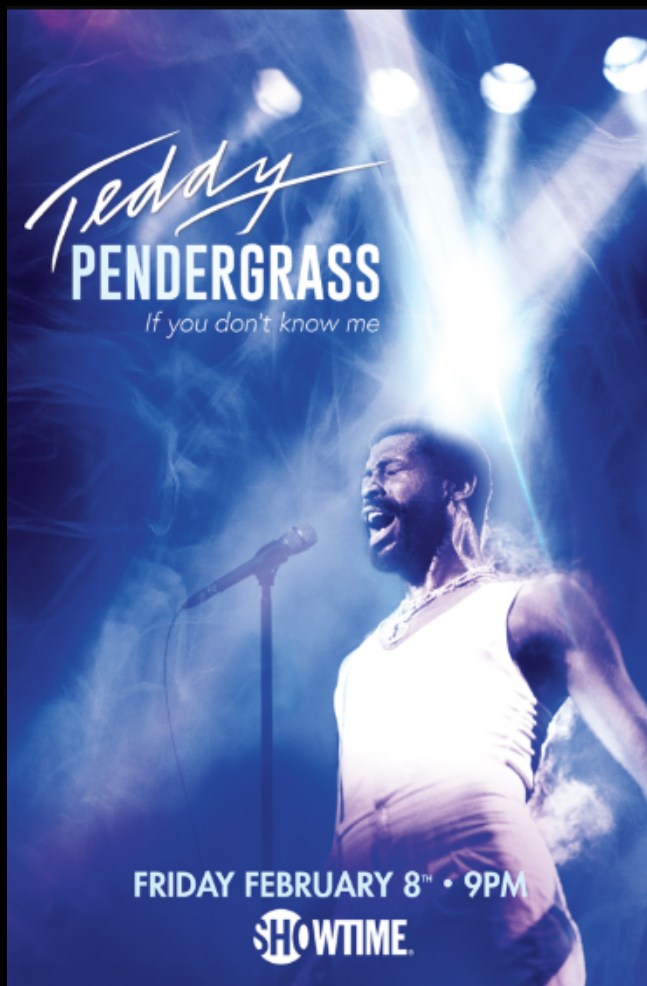


# ***TEDDY PENDERGRASS: IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME***

## **PRESS CLIPS PACKET**

[COURTESY OF THE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT]

\*Compiled from the top 30 markets





# 'Teddy Pendergrass – If You Don't Know Me' Lands at BBC, Showtime, Sky (EXCLUSIVE)

By STEWART CLARKE



"Teddy Pendergrass – If You Don't Know Me," the upcoming feature documentary that tells the tumultuous life story of the R&B and soul legend, will go out on Showtime in the U.S. and Sky Arts and the BBC in the U.K., where Moviehouse will also handle a theatrical release.

The film will premiere at the Philadelphia Film Festival on Friday as part of a festival run that includes DOC NYC and Sound Unseen in Minneapolis. An exclusive first-look can be seen below.

Producer and director Olivia Lichtenstein made the film through U.K.-based factual TV and film banner Storyvault Films. It came about after she watched watching "Supermensch," Mike Myers' movie about Hollywood power player Shep Gordon, who was also Pendergrass' manager. "I called Shep and said, 'People don't remember Teddy the way they ought to, and I have to make this film,' and Shep said, 'Let's do it,'" Lichtenstein recalled.

Gordon duly came on board as an exec producer, alongside two of Pendergrass' other managers, Daniel Markus and Allan Strahl. BBC Films has also boarded as a production partner, alongside Tempo Entertainment and Wasted Talent. Kew Media, which just launched another major music feature documentary, "Chuck Berry," is handling sales and will have shop "Teddy Pendergrass – If You Don't Know Me" at the AFM.

Lichtenstein, a BAFTA-winner, said she decided that the voices in the film had to be of people personally acquainted with Pendergrass, who died in 2010, “to make it feel as visceral and alive as possible.”

Pendergrass found success as the lead singer of Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes, with hits including “Don’t Leave Me This Way” and “If You Don’t Know Me by Now.” He went on to record several hit solo albums in the U.S. On the verge of even greater stardom, Pendergrass was paralyzed after a car accident. He went on to sing again and record five more albums.

“It works on lots of levels,” Lichtenstein said. “It’s interesting because of the music. It’s interesting because of the time. There was this issue of being a crossover artist, this ridiculous distinction between black and white music.”

The filmmaker and former BBC exec adds that the accident prevented Pendergrass from becoming an even bigger mainstream star. “I think that’s why people don’t know him in the same way as a Marvin Gaye or a Luther Vandross,” she said. “What I hope is he’ll get to crossover now, with the film.”

The producers hope that the feature will attract existing fans and bring Pendergrass’ story and music to a new generation. “The way he sings is so authentic it can’t fail to touch you, whatever your age and whatever generation you are from,” Lichtenstein said. “Danny Markus, when he saw a cut of the film, said, ‘You let him sing again,’ which is something we wanted to achieve, so it was nice to feel that has worked.”



## Teddy Pendergrass Doc to Premiere on Showtime This Month

'If You Don't Know Me' boasts rare archival footage of late singer

By **JON BLISTEIN**



A new documentary about seminal soul singer Teddy Pendergrass, *If You Don't Know Me*, will premiere February 8th at 9 p.m. ET/PT on Showtime.

Olivia Lichtenstein directed the film, which will feature rare archival footage of Pendergrass, as well as interviews with the singer's friends, family and music industry colleagues like Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff. Pendergrass' famed **former manager, Shep Gordon**, served as one of the film's executive producers.

*If You Don't Know Me* will chronicle Pendergrass' entire career, from his childhood in Philadelphia during the Sixties to his rise to fame as the lead singer of Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes, and then as a solo artist. It will also look at Pendergrass' remarkable comeback after a 1982 car crash nearly killed him. While the accident paralyzed Pendergrass from the chest down, he went on to deliver an emotional performance at **Live Aid in 1985** and release five more albums. **Pendergrass died** in 2010.

In an October interview with **Variety**, Lichtenstein noted that the car crash likely prevented Pendergrass from becoming a huge mainstream star like Marvin Gaye or Luther Vandross. She added that she hoped *If You Don't Know Me* would introduce the singer to a new audience.

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Jon Blistein

Rolling Stone February 5, 2019



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## What's on TV



NEAL PRESTON/SHOWTIME

### Teddy Pendergrass

**TEDDY PENDERGRASS: IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME**  
*9 p.m. on [Showtime](#).* This music documentary about the soul singer charts his rise as the first male African-American artist to record five consecutive platinum albums, and follows him after he was severely paralyzed in an auto accident in 1982. Family members, friends and music industry colleagues like Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff speak about Pendergrass, who died in 2010, and tell the story of his triumphant comeback following his debilitating injury.  
LAUREN MESSMAN



## TV HIGHLIGHTS

### SERIES

**Blindspot** Roman's (Luke Mitchell) clues lead to a billionaire hypochondriac who has stem cells that could save the life of Jane (Jaimie Alexander). 8 p.m. NBC

**Dynasty** Cristal and Blake (Nathalie Kelley, Grant Show) have a surprise visitor who could unravel their relationship in this new episode of the re-booted primetime soap. 8 p.m. KTLA

**Hell's Kitchen** In the two-hour season finale, the two finalists receive some unexpected help as they prepare their final menus. 8 p.m. Fox

**The Blacklist** When Red (James Spader) is sent to a federal institution for a psychiatric evaluation, Liz (Megan Boone) searches for a Blacklister who may have valuable information about Red's past. Diego Klattenhoff also stars in this new episode. 9 p.m. NBC

**Crazy Ex-Girlfriend** Rebecca (Rachel Bloom) supports Paula (Donna Lynne Champlin) in her time of need while Greg, Josh and Nathaniel (Santino Fontana, Vincent Rodriguez III and Scott Michael Foster) have an unfortunate encounter in this new episode of the musical comedy. 9 p.m. KTLA

**Live From Lincoln Center** An inner-city teacher (Karen Pittman) tries to help her son (Namir Smallwood) after he gets in trouble at school in Dominique Morisseau's new play "Pipeline," fea-

tured in the season premiere of the performance series. 9 p.m. KOCE

**I Am Jazz** Days after being released from the hospital to recover in a hotel Jazz is rushed into emergency surgery due to a major complication in this new episode of the unscripted series. 9 p.m. TLC

**Blue Bloods** Danny (Donnie Wahlberg) violates a direct order during a hostage negotiation. Also, Frank (Tom Selleck) helps a distraught officer who accidentally shot a girl in this new episode of the police drama. 10 p.m. CBS

**2 Dope Queens** The comedy duo of Jessica Williams and Phoebe Robinson return for a second season of their comedy/variety series based on their popular podcast. Lupita Nyong'o ("Black Panther") is a guest in the premiere. 11 p.m. HBO

### MOVIES

**American Made** Tom Cruise stars as former TWA pilot Barry Seal — who flew covert missions for the CIA before becoming a drug smuggler for the Medellin Cartel based in Colombia — in Doug Liman's 2017 drama. 8 p.m. Cinemax

**Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me** Filmmaker Olivia Lichtenstein's 2018 feature documentary chronicles the turbulent career and life story of the R&B and soul legend who died in 2010. 9 p.m. Showtime

**Mr. Deeds Goes to Town** (1936) 1 p.m. TCM

**Darkest Hour** (2017) 1:20 p.m. HBO

**American Made** (2017) 8 p.m. Cinemax

### TALK SHOWS

**CBS This Morning** The Grammy Awards: Kevin Frazier. (N) 7 a.m. KCBS

**Today** Hasan Minhaj; Lorena Bobbitt ("Lorena"). (N) 7 a.m. KNBC

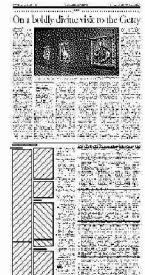
**Good Morning America** Rebel Wilson and Liam Hemsworth; Jessica Mulroney. (N) 7 a.m. KABC

**Good Day L.A.** Financial advisor Winnie Sun; marriage and family therapist Kiaundra Jackson. (N) 7 a.m. KTTV



JEREMY DANIEL PBS

**KAREN PITTMAN** in the play "Pipeline" featured on "From Lincoln Center" on PBS.



ESSENCE

# Rejoice! A Teddy Pendergrass Documentary Is On The Way

SYDNEY SCOTT Oct, 25, 2018



Teddy Pendergrass fans are in for a treat as there's a documentary about the singer's life headed to TV.

*Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me* is set to premiere at the Philadelphia Film Festival on Friday before airing on Showtime in the U.S. [Play Video](#)

*Variety* reports that the documentary will explore the tumultuous life of the soul legend, who passed away in 2010 at the age of 59.

Pendergrass, who was nominated for four Grammys, was known for hits like "I Can't Live Without Your Love," "Close the Door," and "How Can You Mend a Broken Heart."

Producer and director Olivia Lichtenstein said she felt she had to make this movie because "people don't remember Teddy the way they ought to."

We agree!



# Worth Watching: 'One Day at a Time' Leads Streaming Parade, Reagans at War on 'Blue Bloods,' Showtime Remembers Teddy Pendergrass

*Matt Roush* February 08, 2019 7:00 am



A selective critical checklist of notable Friday TV:

***One Day at a Time*** (streaming on Netflix): The robust, emotionally rewarding reinvention of Norman Lear's 1970s-'80s sitcom classic is back for a third season, following the travails of a Cuban-American family in Los Angeles. Issues include teen sexuality, substance abuse and anxiety, but tough love wins out in this warmly appealing series, led by Justina Machado as Penelope, a single-mom military vet, and scene-stealing marvel Rita Moreno as her irrepressible mother, Lydia. Gloria Estefan (who signs the salsa-inflected title tune) appears in the season opener as Lydia's combative sister, and later in the run, series co-creator Gloria Calderón Kellett appears in a pivotal role — and you can see where the inspiration for Penelope comes from.

***White Dragon*** (streaming on Amazon Prime Video): Exotic Hong Kong locations enliven this eight-part thriller, starring British TV fave John Simm (*Life on Mars*) as a professor who travels from London to claim the body of his wife, who died in a car accident. Upon arriving, he learns shocking truths that have him questioning who his wife was and what caused her death. Anthony Wong co-stars as a local ex-cop who has a very personal stake in the mystery.

***Pen15*** (streaming on Hulu): Don't even try to tell star/co-creators Maya Erskine and Anna Konkle to grow up. In a bawdy new comedy series of adolescent trials and humiliating tribulations, they play 13-year-old versions of themselves, inseparable BFFs in 2000 entering the treacherous social quagmire of 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Their classmates are played by actual kids, which somehow makes their comic anxieties and obsessions seem even more real.

***Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*** (9/8c, The CW): This inspired musical comedy has tackled just about every tuneful genre and archetype, and this week it's *La La Land*'s turn, as Rebecca (Rachel Bloom) salutes the Oscar-winning movie by joining a chorus line of suburban street tappers to reinforce that "Anti-Depressants Are So Not a Big Deal." Then it's off with her other gal pals to support Paula (Donna Lynne Champlin) at the hospital, where the men in Rebecca's life — Greg (Skylar Astin), Josh (Vincent Rodriguez III) and Nathaniel (Scott Michael Foster) — learn just how contagious and acrimonious their affections can be.

***Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me*** (9/8c, Showtime): A new BBC Films documentary celebrates the life and career of the charismatic soul singer (1950-2010), whose string of hits was interrupted by a near-fatal car crash in 1982. Not unlike Freddy Mercury in the big-screen hit *Bohemian Rhapsody*, Pendergrass made a triumphant return to the world stage at 1985's Live Aid concert before retiring in 2007.

***Blue Bloods*** (10/9c, CBS): It's a war between Reagan brothers when Danny (Donnie Wahlberg) disobeys an order from Jamie (Will Estes) during a hostage negotiation. But shared blue blood might come in handy when Nicky (Sami Gayle) asks ADA mom Erin (Bridget Moynahan) to step in to help a friend who may lose a scholarship over a crime he didn't commit.

**Inside Friday TV:** Disney Channel's ***Andi Mack*** (8/7c) attends a shiva to mourn Cyrus's (Joshua Rush) grandmother, at which time Cyrus decides to finally come out to his friend Jonah (Asher Angel)... PBS's *Live From Lincoln Center* presents the acclaimed 2017 staging of Dominique Morriseau's provocative drama ***Pipeline*** (9/8c, check local listings at pbs.org), starring Karen Pittman as a public-school teacher whose son (Namir Smallwood) attends a private school and may be expelled after a violent incident... Director Steven Soderbergh's Netflix film ***High Flying Bird***, written by *Moonlight*'s Tarell Alvin McCraney, stars André Holland (*Castle Rock*) as a sports agent making high-stakes negotiations during a pro-basketball lockout... HBO's ***2 Dope Queens*** (11/10c), aka Jessica Williams and Phoebe Robinson, are back with a second season of four specials, opening with Oscar-winning guest Lupita Nyong'o, whom they challenge to a braiding competition.

# Worth watching tonight: 'One Day at a Time' Leads Streaming Parade, Reagans at War on 'Blue Bloods,' Showtime Remembers Teddy Pendergrass

Matt Roush, TV Insider | Feb 8, 2019



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[Rita Moreno Opens up About 'One Day at a Time,' 'West Side Story' & Being an EGOT Winner](#)

The third season of the Netflix series premieres Friday.

***White Dragon*** (streaming on Amazon Prime Video): Exotic Hong Kong locations enliven this eight-part thriller, starring British TV fave John Simm (*Life on Mars*) as a professor who travels from London to claim the body of his wife, who died in a car accident. Upon arriving, he learns shocking truths that have him questioning who his wife was and what caused her death. Anthony Wong co-stars as a local ex-cop who has a very personal stake in the mystery.



### Amazon Prime's 'White Dragon' Is a Dangerous Thriller Filled with Family Secrets

A husband realizes he knew nothing about his wife.

***Pen15*** (streaming on Hulu): Don't even try to tell star/co-creators Maya Erskine and Anna Konkle to grow up. In a bawdy new comedy series of adolescent trials and humiliating tribulations, they play 13-year-old versions of themselves, inseparable BFFs in 2000 entering the treacherous social quagmire of 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Their classmates are played by actual kids, which somehow makes their comic anxieties and obsessions seem even more real.



### 'The Act': Patricia Arquette & Joey King 'Get at All the Emotions' in Hulu's True-Crime Anthology

The true-crime anthology tells the story of an unhinged mother and daughter.

***Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*** (9/8c, The CW): This inspired musical comedy has tackled just about every tuneful genre and archetype, and this week it's *La La Land*'s turn, as Rebecca (Rachel Bloom) salutes the Oscar-winning movie by joining a chorus line of suburban street tappers to reinforce that "Anti-Depressants Are So Not a Big Deal." Then it's off with her other gal pals to support Paula (Donna Lynne Champlin) at the hospital, where the men in Rebecca's life — Greg (Skylar Astin), Josh (Vincent Rodriguez III) and Nathaniel (Scott Michael Foster) — learn just how contagious and acrimonious their affections can be.



### Sing! 'Crazy Ex-Girlfriend' Concert Special Coming Post-Series Finale

The special, titled 'Yes, It's Really Us Singing,' will feature the cast bringing live versions of songs from the series to life.

**Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me (9/8c, Showtime):** A new BBC Films documentary celebrates the life and career of the charismatic soul singer (1950-2010), whose string of hits was interrupted by a near-fatal car crash in 1982. Not unlike Freddy Mercury in the big-screen hit *Bohemian Rhapsody*, Pendergrass made a triumphant return to the world stage at 1985's Live Aid concert before retiring in 2007.



Jim Parsons Lines Up Post-'Big Bang Theory' Project at Netflix

The comedy series is set to debut this spring on the streaming service.

**Blue Bloods** (10/9c, CBS): It's a war between Reagan brothers when Danny (Donnie Wahlberg) disobeys an order from Jamie (Will Estes) during a hostage negotiation. But shared blue blood might come in handy when Nicky (Sami Gayle) asks ADA mom Erin (Bridget Moynahan) to step in to help a friend who may lose a scholarship over a crime he didn't commit.



Tom Selleck Teases the 'Blue Bloods' Nuptials & Frank's Romantic Future

The actor also teased an upcoming major family argument that 'results in a very tension-filled family dinner.'

**Inside Friday TV:** Disney Channel's *Andi Mack* (8/7c) attends a shiva to mourn Cyrus's (Joshua Rush) grandmother, at which time Cyrus decides to finally come out to his friend Jonah (Asher Angel)... PBS's *Live From Lincoln Center* presents the acclaimed 2017 staging of Dominique Morriseau's provocative drama *Pipeline* (9/8c, check local listings at [pbs.org](http://pbs.org)), starring Karen Pittman as a public-school teacher whose son (Namir Smallwood) attends a private school and may be expelled after a violent incident... Director Steven Soderbergh's Netflix film *High Flying Bird*, written by *Moonlight*'s Tarell Alvin McCraney, stars André Holland (*Castle Rock*) as a sports agent making high-stakes negotiations during a pro-basketball lockout... HBO's *2 Dope Queens* (11/10c), aka Jessica Williams and Phoebe Robinson, are back with a second season of four specials, opening with Oscar-winning guest Lupita Nyong'o, whom they challenge to a braiding competition.

# EBONY

## Showtime Shares Official Trailer for Teddy Pendergrass Documentary

The network will release a documentary about the soul singer during Black History Month.

By Christina Santi

February 6, 2019



Showtime has released the first-look trailer for *Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me*, a documentary that explores the legendary soul singer's stardom.

Pendergrass was the African-American artist to record five consecutive platinum albums, which include *Life Is a Song Worth Singing* (1978) and *Teddy* (1979).

The documentary will highlight the singer's life in the 1960s and detail his inspiring return to music after he was left paralyzed from the chest down after a car crash in March 1982. It will include never-before-seen performance footage and interviews with music greats Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff.

Pendergrass maintained a remarkable career until his retirement in 2007. He died in January 2010 of respiratory failure at age 59.

*Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me* will premiere on Showtime on Feb. 8 at 9 p.m. ET/PT.



## ALL ALONG THE WATCHTOWER

by David Hinckley

## 'TEDDY PENDERGRASS: IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME BY NOW' PREMIERES ON SHOWTIME

February 8, 2019 | By [David Hinckley](#)

The tragic turn in the life of the late Teddy Pendergrass has, for some reason, rarely had the resonance of tragedies that befell other popular singers.

*Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me By Now*, a two-hour BBC documentary that **premieres Friday at 9 p.m. ET on Showtime**, aims to remind us what was lost when he was paralyzed in a 1982 automobile accident.

Directed by Olivia Lichtenstein, the documentary makes its case poignantly and convincingly. While he sang again after the accident, it was not exactly the same, and *If You Don't Know Me By Now* reminds us how deeply his raw voice once immersed his fans in songs of love and pain.

Not to mention the whole smoldering sex appeal thing.

What the documentary does less well is give us a sense that we do know Teddy Pendergrass. We know his story, his music and his persona. There's still a lingering sense that something else was going on. Or maybe several something elses.



*If You Don't Know Me By Now*, titled after a terrific song Pendergrass recorded with Harold Melvin's Blue Notes, tracks Pendergrass's life from a hard childhood in the Philadelphia ghetto to success beyond any kid's fantasies.

With the Blue Notes, and even more when he broke off into a solo career, he recorded platinum albums and sold out concerts. He lived in a mansion, drove a Rolls Royce and had developed a smooth, polished, endearing persona that had him poised for the kind of crossover stardom enjoyed by a handful of artists like Marvin Gaye.

Then on March 18, 1982, his green Rolls Royce crashed into a couple of trees, throwing him into the back seat and breaking his neck. From that moment until he died in 2010 – from respiratory failure brought on in part by treatments for colon cancer – he was paralyzed from the neck down except for a bit of residual movement in his arms.

After a spell of depression during which he declared his intention to commit suicide, he recovered enough to record another seven albums, five of which went gold.

That was a remarkable, inspiring achievement. It was just a different Teddy Pendergrass. The voice was less raw and aching, and of course the presentation was different.

*If You Don't Know Me By Now* spends considerable time on his life after the accident, almost all focused on his decision to forge ahead and make the most of his new life. It ends, for all practical purposes, with his much-praised appearance on stage at the 1985 Live Aid concert. We see little about his last 25 years, during which he recorded, married twice and had family and children around him.

We get no sense of how he felt about all that. In terms of getting to know him, it leaves a big gap.

The documentary also drops regular periodic hints from people who knew Pendergrass that darker forces were at work in his life and career even before the accident. There are allusions to “things” that happen “in the music business,” and shadowy people who pull strings and control careers through intimidation and backroom power.

Friends wonder aloud if his car was sabotaged. They talk about his acrimonious split from Melvin's group, with accompanying threats. We get a long back-and-forth on the unsolved murder of Pendergrass's early business manager Taaz Lang, who was in the middle of a contentious financial situation with Pendergrass at the time of her death.

A considerable amount of innuendo permeates the documentary, all against the backdrop of a city and a music business full of extra-legal intrigue.

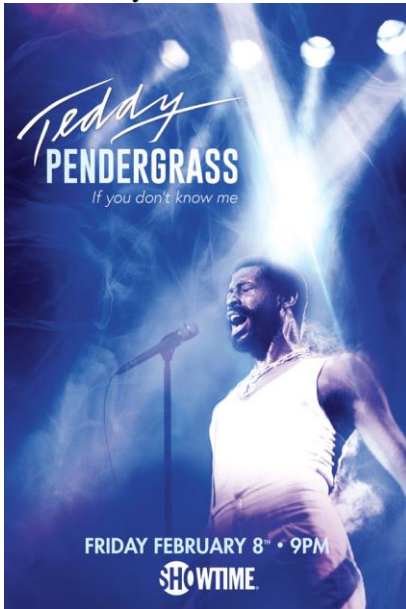
That said, Lichtenstein has put together a solid chronology of Pendergrass's musical rise, which began when he saw the late Jackie Wilson in concert and decided that was what he wanted to do for the rest of his life.

The story is enhanced by video footage that shows viewers exactly what Pendergrass's fans saw in his act, and reminds us what a memorable and distinctive voice he developed.

Pendergrass also recorded dozens of cassette tapes talking about his life, and needless to say, that's a valuable biographical resource on which Lichtenstein draws heavily. Between those reflections and his music, Teddy Pendergrass left us plenty. He also left the nagging sense that he may have taken a few other things with him.

# "Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me" Explores the Life of the Legendary Soul Singer

06 February 2019



**"Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me"**  
**Premieres Friday, February 8 at 9 PM ET/PT on SHOWTIME**

In celebration of Black History Month, SHOWTIME will premiere *Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me*, exploring the rise of legendary soul singer Teddy Pendergrass, the first male African American artist to record five consecutive platinum albums. Set against the backdrop of 1960s America, and his comeback after a life-changing accident, this is Pendergrass' untold and ultimately inspiring story. Capturing Pendergrass' rise to fame the film includes rarely before seen archival footage and features revealing interviews with his family, friends and colleagues alongside industry legends, Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff.



The unforgettable voice of hits *Don't Leave Me This Way*, *If You Don't Know Me By Now*, *Love T.K.O* and *Close the Door*, Pendergrass' career was struck by tragedy in 1982 when a car accident left him paralyzed at the age of just 31. He later made a triumphant comeback in front of a global audience of 1.9 billion at Live Aid.



# SHADOW AND ACT

## 'Teddy Pendergrass - If You Don't Know Me' Documentary Will Air On Showtime After Festival Run

News | Television | Film



October 24th 2018

The documentary *Teddy Pendergrass - If You Don't Know Me*, [will make its premiere](#) at the Philadelphia Film Festival Friday, according to Variety. The film will later make its way to Showtime and, for U.K. viewers, BBC and Sky Arts. The film will also have a theatrical run in the U.K. via Moviehouse.

The film will follow the life and career of Pendergrass, who formerly sang for Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes before embarking on his solo career. Pendergrass later suffered from a car accident, which left him paralyzed. His injury didn't stop his musical talents; he released several more albums. But the injury prevented him from becoming an even more popular star. Pendergrass died in 2010.

"The way he sings is so authentic it can't fail to touch you, whatever your age and whatever generation you are from," said director and producer Olivia Lichtenstein to Variety, who also said she hoped to portray Pendergrass "as visceral and alive as possible" by highlighting interviews with people who personally knew the singer.

No word on when the film will premiere on television.



Watch a trailer below:

## New on Showtime: All the Movies and TV Coming in February

By [Scott Russell](#) | January 28, 2019 | 1:36pm

Image via Miramax/Showtime [MOVIES](#) [FEATURES](#) [SHOWTIME](#)



We're nearly into February now, which means the Showtime subscribers among us have a fresh set of film and television offerings to look forward to in the coming month. Does painstakingly outlining the pay-cable channel's slate of incoming additions make us heroes? Sure it does, but we're not in it for the glory.

We're in it for the love of the movies, for one thing, and Showtime is adding plenty of those in February. A pair of Quentin Tarantino crime dramas lead the way: the writer-director's most acclaimed film, 1994 Oscar winner *Pulp Fiction*, and perhaps his most underrated, 1997's Oscar-nominated *Jackie Brown*. Both those films hit Showtime on Feb. 1, as do many more, including Alejandro G. Iñárritu's Oscar-nominated *21 Grams*, cult [Kevin Smith](#) comedy *Clerks*, [Ridley Scott](#)'s Oscar-winning war thriller *Black Hawk Down*, Elle Fanning-starring biopic *Mary Shelley*, Oscar-winning Stephen Daldry drama *The Hours*, Heath Ledger-led medieval crowd-pleaser *A Knight's Tale*, Nancy Meyers' Oscar-nominated *Something's Gotta Give*, 2007 Khaled Hosseini adaptation *The Kite Runner*, Golden Globe-nominated action-comedy *Midnight Run*, post-apocalyptic Cormac McCarthy adaptation *The Road*, and films from the *American Pie*, *Naked Gun* and *Scary Movie* franchises. Movies to follow later in the month include true-life 2018 hijacking thriller *7 Days in Entebbe* (Feb. 2), Paulina Lagudi's memorably titled *Mail Order Monster* (Feb. 6), [Kevin Costner](#)'s 2003 Western *Open Range* (Feb. 6), Claire Danes-starring family drama *A Kid Like Jake* (Feb. 15), critically derided 2018 teen romance *Midnight Sun* (Feb. 16) and time-loop horror-thriller *Haunter* (Feb. 21), among others.

Don't think we forgot about TV, either—Showtime is airing new episodes of four original shows in February, in addition the premiere of a brand-new series. We'll begin with the latter: *Desus & Mero*, the talk show hosted by TV, podcast and Twitter personalities Daniel Baker and Joel Martinez (aka Desus Nice and The Kid Mero), formerly of *Viceland*, becomes [Showtime's first weekly late-night talk show on Thursday, Feb. 21](#), at 11 p.m. ET. The half-hour show airs new episodes from New York City weekly, with its eponymous duo "speaking off the cuff and chatting with guests at the intersection of

pop culture, sports, music, politics and more,” per Showtime. The pay-cable channel’s next-newest title is stock-market comedy *Black Monday*, which made its debut on Jan. 20 and airs new episodes on Sundays at 10 p.m. ET. We praised the series as “a solid sitcom” in our review, singling out “its high-caliber cast” (including Don Cheadle, Andrew Rannells, Regina Hall and Paul Scheer) and “trendy subject matter” (the most disastrous stock market crash in Wall Street’s history) in particular. And where more established programming is concerned, Showtime airs new episodes of political docuseries *The Circus*, long-running family dramedy *Shameless* and half-hour single-motherhood comedy *SMILF* on Sundays at 8 p.m., 9 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. ET, respectively.

Last but not least are Showtime’s documentaries, comedy specials and streaming collections. The sole entries in those first two categories are Teddy Pendergrass doc *Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don’t Know Me* (Feb. 8) and Tone Bell special *Tone Bell: Can’t Cancel This* (Feb. 22), respectively, while Showtime’s streaming collections include curated film sets themed to Black History Month, black excellence, rescue missions and period pieces.

Find Showtime’s complete February slate below.

## **ORIGINAL SERIES:**

DESUS & MERO (Series Premiere: Thursday, February 21 at 11 p.m. ET/PT)

BLACK MONDAY (New Episodes: Sundays at 10 p.m. ET/PT)

SMILF (New Episodes: Sundays at 10:30 p.m. ET/PT)

SHAMELESS (New Episodes: Sundays at 9 p.m. ET/PT)

THE CIRCUS (New Episodes: Sundays at 8 p.m. ET/PT)

## **NEW MOVIES STREAMING ON SHOWTIME IN FEBRUARY:**

### **Available 2/1:**

21 GRAMS

ABOUT A BOY

AGE OF SUMMER

AMERICAN PIE

AMERICAN PIE 2

AMERICAN WEDDING

BLACK HAWK DOWN

THE BOYS ARE BACK

BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON

CARTER & JUNE

CHERI

CLERKS

DANGER ONE

A DEMON WITHIN

GET THE GRINGO

THE HOURS

HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS

INHALE

IT’S A PARTY

JACKIE BROWN

THE KITE RUNNER

A KNIGHT’S TALE

MARY SHELLEY

MIDNIGHT RUN

THE NAKED GUN 2 1/2: THE SMELL OF FEAR

NAKED GUN 33 1/3: THE FINAL INSULT  
THE NAKED GUN: FROM THE FILES OF POLICE SQUAD!  
NARC  
PAINLESS  
PULP FICTION  
THE ROAD  
SCARY MOVIE  
SCARY MOVIE 2  
SECONDHAND HEARTS  
THE SHAGGY DOG  
SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE  
SORORITY ROW

**Available 2/2:**  
7 DAYS IN ENTEBBE  
DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN

**Available 2/6:**  
MAIL ORDER MONSTER  
OPEN RANGE

**Available 2/12:**  
BETTER START RUNNING

**Available 2/15:**  
A KID LIKE JAKE

**Available 2/16:**  
MIDNIGHT SUN

**Available 2/21:**  
HAUNTER

## **DOCUMENTARIES & COMEDY SPECIALS:**

**Available 2/8:**  
TEDDY PENDERGRASS: IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME

**Available 2/22:**  
TONE BELL: CAN'T CANCEL THIS

## **STREAMING COLLECTIONS**

Black History Month Documentary Collection: Whitney. "Can I Be Me," Word is Bond, Kobe Bryant's Muse, I Am Giant: Victor Cruz, Prince: Sign 'o' the Times and more (Available 2/1 – 2/28)  
Black Excellence Collection: Monster's Ball, Remember the Titans, Diary of a Mad Black Woman, He Got Game, What's Love Got To Do With It and more (Available 2/1 – 2/28)  
Save The Day Collection: 7 Days in Entebbe, Black Hawk Down, The Hurt Locker, Patriots Day and more (Available 2/2 – 3/1)  
Bodices & Bowties: The Cider House Rules, The Hours, A Knight's Tale, Mary Shelley, Pride & Prejudice and more (Available 2/1 – 2/28)



## Showtime Will Reportedly Air Teddy Pendergrass Documentary

October 25, 2018 - 3:33 am by [Latifah Muhammad](#)

**‘If You Don’t Know Me’ will debut at the Philadelphia Film Festival on Oct. 26.**

R&B legend Teddy Pendergrass is the focus of a new documentary chronicling his rise to stardom, and the car accident that temporarily halted his career. *Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don’t Know Me*, is scheduled to debut at the Philadelphia Film Festival on Friday (Oct. 26).

The film will also air on Showtime, in addition to the U.K.'s Sky Arts channel and the BBC, [Variety](#) reports. A premiere date has yet to be announced.

Award-winning filmmaker Olivia Lichtenstein directed and co-executive produced *If You Don’t Know Me*, along with Pendergrass’ former managers, Shep Gordon, Daniel Markus and Allan Strahl. The film dissects the various "levels" of Pendergrass' story, from his days as a member of Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes (best known for the 1968 single “If You Don’t Know Me By Now”) to his solo stardom, and burning desire to crossover from the R&B world.

In 1982, Pendergrass got into a car accident that left him paralyzed from the chest down and subsequently stopped him from becoming more famous, Lichtenstein told *Variety*. “I think that’s why people don’t know him in the same way as a Marvin Gaye or a Luther Vandross,” she said. “What I hope is he’ll get to crossover now, with the film.”



The Philly native was an architect of the early R&B era. His first five solo albums went platinum, and spawned timeless hits that include “Close the Door,” “Turn Off the Lights” and “Love T.K.O.”

“Teddy P” was on a winning streak that undoubtedly stalled after the car collision. Despite his courageous return to the stage following the accident, he struggled to recapture the commercial success of his heyday. Pendergrass announced his retirement in 2007, after 40 years in the music industry. He died from colon cancer in 2010.

Watch the documentary trailer below.



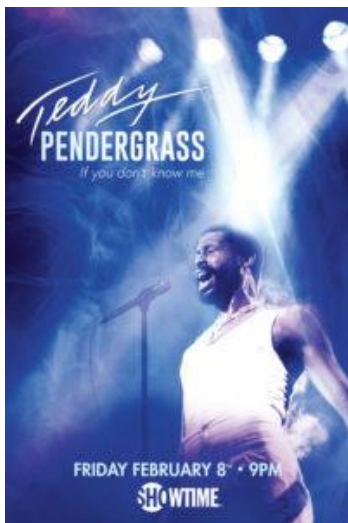
# BLACKFILM



NEWS READ

## Showtime To Air Teddy Pendergrass – If You Don't Know Me On Feb. 8

The first male African American artist to record five consecutive platinum albums



In celebration of Black History Month, SHOWTIME will premiere **TEDDY PENDERGRASS: IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME**, exploring the rise of legendary soul singer Teddy Pendergrass, the first male African American artist to record five consecutive platinum albums. Set against the backdrop of 1960s America, and his comeback after a life-changing accident, Pendergrass' untold and ultimately inspiring story premieres **this Friday, February 8 at 9 p.m. ET/PT.**

Capturing Pendergrass' rise to fame the film includes rarely before seen archival footage and features revealing interviews with his family, friends and colleagues alongside industry legends, Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff.



The unforgettable voice of hits **Don't Leave Me This Way**, **If You Don't Know Me By Now**, **Love T.K.O** and **Close the Door**, Pendergrass' career was struck by tragedy in 1982 when a car accident left him paralyzed at the age of just 31. He later made a triumphant comeback in front of a global audience of 1.9 billion at Live Aid.



TEDDY PENDERGRASS: IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME is a BBC Films, Wasted Talent, Storyvault Films and Tempo Entertainment production. The film is directed by **Olivia Lichtenstein** and executive produced by Shep Gordon, Daniel Markus, Allan Strahl, Michael Saunders, Katherine Saunders, Jo Bamford, Joe Oppenheimer and Michael Wood. Lichtenstein, Piers Tempest and Ian Flooks serve as producers.



## WATCH THIS: FRIDAY



Jessica Williams

**“2 Dope Queens”** (10 p.m., 12 a.m., HBO; 3:30 a.m., HBO2): The comedy duo of Jessica Williams and Phoebe Robinson returns for a second season of four new weekly specials adapted from their hit podcast of the same title. The Season 2 premiere, “Fashion,” finds Williams and Robinson welcoming Academy Award winner Lupita Nyong’o (“Black Panther,” “12 Years a Slave”), who chats with the duo about some of her favorite fashion moments.

**“Hell’s Kitchen”** (7 p.m., FOX): In the two-hour season finale, “A Rollercoaster Ride; The Grand Finale,” the final two chefs receive some unexpected help as they prepare their final menus. As the finalists reflect on their highs and lows of the season at a celebratory brunch Chef Gordon Ramsay treats them to, they’re surprised by a visit from their families. The teams return to Hell’s Kitchen to go over the menus and get ready for the most important service in the lives of the two finalists, which takes place at Six Flags Magic Mountain.

**“American Made”** (7 p.m., 1:55 a.m., Cinemax): Tom Cruise received some of the best reviews of his recent career for his performance in Doug Liman’s 2017 biographical drama, which chronicles the experiences of former TWA pilot Barry Seal (Cruise), who flew covert missions for the CIA before becoming a drug smuggler for the infamous Medellin Cartel based in Colombia. Busted for that illicit gig, Seal then became an informant for the DEA. Sarah Wright, Domhnall Gleeson and Alejandro Edda co-star.

**“Diners, Drive-ins & Dives”** (8 p.m., 11 p.m., Food): Guy Fieri knows where to find a world of flavors without leaving the United States in the new episode “Round the World Roundup.” Just outside Atlanta, in Smyrna, Ga., a doctor-turned-chef fires up amazing Asian deliciousness from righteous ramen to Korean wings. Two buddies in Austin, Texas, have patrons lining up to sample their tasty take on tacos. Hungry folks in Salt Lake City take a shine to a couple who cook some really luscious Lebanese cuisine.

**“Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don’t Know Me”** (8 p.m., Showtime): Filmmaker Olivia Lichtenstein’s 2018 feature documentary chronicles the turbulent career and life story of an R&B and soul legend who died in 2010. Pendergrass first found fame as frontman for Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes, then launched a very successful solo career that saw the release of four consecutive platinum albums. A near-fatal car crash in March 1982 left him paralyzed from the chest down, but eventually Pendergrass resumed his solo work until he retired in 2007.



# SHOWTIME TO PREMIERE DOCUMENTARY ON TEDDY PENDERGRASS

RASHAD GROVE FEBRUARY 5, 2019



During the late 1970s all the up to the early '80s, Teddy Pendergrass was one of the biggest stars in Black music. His seductive ballads and the disco funk sound that was curated by TSOP (The Sound of Philadelphia) gave Pendergrass a lane all to himself. He gave future R&B singers the template by holding “Ladies Only” concerts. But his multi-platinum recording career came to a screeching halt in March of 1982 after a devastating car crash left him a quadriplegic. Now in a documentary on Showtime, directed by Olivia Lichtenstein, will premiere on this Friday, February 8.

The film, *Teddy Pendergrass- If You Don't Know Me By Now* chronicles the rise, fall, and triumph of the R&B Soul legend. From his humble beginnings growing up in North Philadelphia, to landing a lead singing role in Harold Melvin and The Blue Notes, to launching his incredibly successful solo career.

Even after his accident, Pendergrass resumed his career by recording hit albums and touring until his death on January 13, 2010.

In an interview with [Variety](#), Lichtenstein explained her passion behind the project and contacting his manager Shep Gordon to get it done. She said, “I called Shep and said, ‘People don’t remember Teddy the way they ought to, and I have to make this film,’ and Shep said, ‘Let’s do it.’”

“It works on lots of levels,” Lichtenstein said. “It’s interesting because of the music. It’s interesting because of the time. There was this issue of being a crossover artist, this ridiculous distinction between black and white music. “I think that’s why people don’t know him in the same way as a Marvin Gaye or a Luther Vandross. What I hope is he’ll get to crossover now, with the film.”

Teddy Pendergrass sang on chart-topping songs with Harold Melvin and The Blue Notes such as “If You Don’t Know Me By Now,” “Wake Up Everybody,” “Bad Luck,” and many others. His solo work includes classics like “I Don’t Love You Anymore,” “Close The Door,” “Come On and Go With Me,” and “Turn Off the Lights.”

You can check out the trailer of “Teddy Pendergrass- If You Don’t Know By Now,” below.





# The Filtered Excellence: February 7, 2019

Published by [Earl Douglas](#) at February 7, 2019

**Bob Geldof once asked us, “Where is the filtered excellence!?” It’s right here. Once a week we take a break from comedy to bring you this week’s picks of the best things to *watch*, the most interesting things to *do*, great things to *try*, the best picks to *read*, our favorite things to *listen to* and more.**

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## WATCH THIS

**Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don’t Know Me.** During his 20 year recording career, Teddy Pendergrass had five consecutive platinum albums, headlined legendary ‘for ladies only’ shows and was considered ‘the Black Elvis’. But in the pantheon of all time great soul/R&B singers, he is, at best, glossed over, at worse, forgotten. Now, nearly 10 years after his death, Teddy Pendergrass’ life, career and legacy gets a much-deserved spotlight in this Showtime documentary from director/producer Olivia Lichtenstein and Executive Produced by Pendergrass’ former manager Shep Gordon (Supermench). It shows how he went from singing in church and playing drums in local bands, to turning Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes from fledging local act to a national sensations – all by the time he turned 21. The film also covers the details behind his departure from the Blue Notes and how he was able to launch a massively solo career without the benefit of having a ‘crossover’ hit. Finally, the doc covers the car crash that left him paralyzed from the waist down, his three year absence from the public eye and his emotional return to the stage at Live Aid in Philadelphia. Lichtenstein keeps the pace moving steadily with an array of archival clips, rare concert footage and remembrances from those who were directly in Pendergrass’ inner circle. There’s also, of course, a ton of great classic songs from the entire Pendergrass canon. It’s a long overdue salute to one of the soul/R&B’s greatest ambassadors. **Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don’t Know Me premieres this Friday at 9pm Eastern on Showtime.** You can also go to [www.sho.com](http://www.sho.com) for more information.

**ReMastered: Sam Cooke.** Merging the emotion of gospel with the energy of R&B, Sam Cooke laid the template to what we now called Soul Music. In addition to having a string of hits, Cooke was also was building a career off-stage, developing and producing the next wave of gospel, R&B and Soul acts, starting a label, and becoming more active in the American Civil Rights Movement. When Cooke was shot to death at the Hacienda Motel in December 1964, a narrative as to what happened was quickly established, and, despite the calls for an extensive investigation, never disputed. The latest episode of the Netflix series looks back at Cooke’s musical legacy, his increasing political stances, his friendships with Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali and explores all of the angles as to what happened on that fateful night in Los Angeles. It also calls into question why the political side of Cooke has all but been whitewashed from history. A thoughtful, probing look back at one of music’s all-time greats. **ReMastered: Sam Cooke premieres this Friday on Netflix.**

**Trigger Warning with Killer Mike.** Hip hop artist and activist Killer Mike hosts this new Netflix docu-series that attempts to tackle a variety of topics important to the black community including wealth distribution, unemployment,

religion, sex, gang culture and capitalism. But the Run The Jewels co-founder takes an entirely different tact in approaching this issues in ways that are humorous, controversial, but always thought provoking. If you only know Killer Mike, from his work with Run The Jewels or his appearances on shows such as Real Time With Bill Maher, be prepared to see an entirely different side. Trigger Warning with Killer Mike is available now on Netflix.

**Won't You Be My Neighbor?** For those who missed Morgan Neville's heart-warming salute to Mister Rogers Neighborhood host Fred Rogers in theaters, it will make its broadcast premiere on HBO. It traces Rogers' Pennsylvania roots, and how his faith, love for children, and his distaste of how children's programming was presented at that time, helped shaped the program that delighted kids for over 30 years. Neville also points out that while the show was warm look at community and pivotal childhood moments, it also tackled adult topics such as war, racism, terrorism and divorce, in a way that still retained Rogers' overall show vision. His testimony before the Senate committee advocating for more funding for public broadcasting is as riveting now than it was back in 1969. With a ton of show clips, interviews and remembrances from family, friends, cast members and contemporaries, Neville has put together the ultimate tribute to a man, who, by example, encouraged us to show love for one another. Won't You Be My Neighbor airs Saturday, February 9th at 8pm Eastern on HBO. You can also go to [www.mrrogersmovie.com](http://www.mrrogersmovie.com) or [www.hbo.com](http://www.hbo.com) for more information.

DO THIS

**New York City. Frida Kahlo: Appearances Can Be Deceiving.** The first major U.S. exhibition in ten years devoted to the iconic Mexican artist will be coming to New York's Brooklyn Museum. In addition to some of her most celebrated paintings, drawings and photographs, it will also feature Kahlo's clothing, jewelry, corsets and other personal possessions that were recovered in 2004. This exhibit blew away audiences during its run in London, so make sure you get your spot early. It's an outstanding look back at one of the art world's true iconoclasts. Frida Kahlo: Appearances Can Be Deceiving will be at The Brooklyn Museum through May 12th. You can also go to [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org) for tickets and additional information.

**In The Dugout with Jackie Robinson.** To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Jackie Robinson's birth, The Museum Of The City Of New York will be presenting this exhibition featuring Robinson's historic stint with The Brooklyn Dodgers. It will include 30 images that he took for Look Magazine, memorabilia, and footage of the Robinson family – most of which have never been seen. It gives a glimpse of how the media perceived Robinson at the time he was making baseball – and American history, In The Dugout with Jackie Robinson will be at The Museum Of The City Of New York through September 15th. You can also go to [www.mcny.org](http://www.mcny.org) for tickets and additional information.

**The Goldblum Variations.** With his unique diction, insightful wit and oddball charisma, Jeff Goldblum has carved himself out a solid career for over 40 years. Now Quad Cinema will present a three week retrospective that will cover the many roles he's played during his long and distinguished career. It will include blockbuster films such as Jurassic Park, Independence Day, The Big Chill; alongside cult classics such Deep Cover, The Adventures Of Buckaroo Banzai, The Fly, Earth Girls Are Easy, Into The Night (which had an early starring role for Michelle Pfeiffer) and much more. A cool tribute to a true Hollywood original. Goldblum The Goldblum Variations will be at Quad Cinema February 8th through the 28th. You can also go to [www.quadcinema.com](http://www.quadcinema.com) for tickets, a complete rundown of films and additional information.

## "Come Go With Me": Showtime to air Teddy Pendergrass doc this month

Comments Off [Share Article](#)



In celebration of Black History Month, Showtime will air a documentary on legendary soul singer Teddy Pendergrass. *Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me* will air this Friday.

Ahead of its premiere, the network released the official [trailer](#), which features archival footage and new interviews with Pendergrass' family, friends and colleagues, including legendary songwriters and producers **Kenny Gamble** and Leon Huff.

The doc explores the rise of the late, great vocalist, who was the first male African-American artist to release five consecutive platinum albums. It also follows his comeback after a near-fatal 1982 car accident at age 31 that left him paralyzed from the chest down.

Pendergrass, who eventually retired in 2007, died in 2010 of respiratory failure at the age 59.

*Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me* premieres February 8 at 9 p.m. ET.

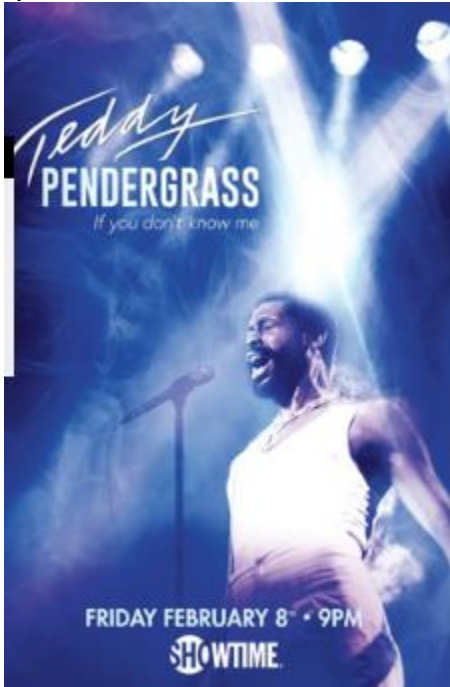
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# Showtime Presents Documentary TEDDY PENDERGRASS: IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME 2/8

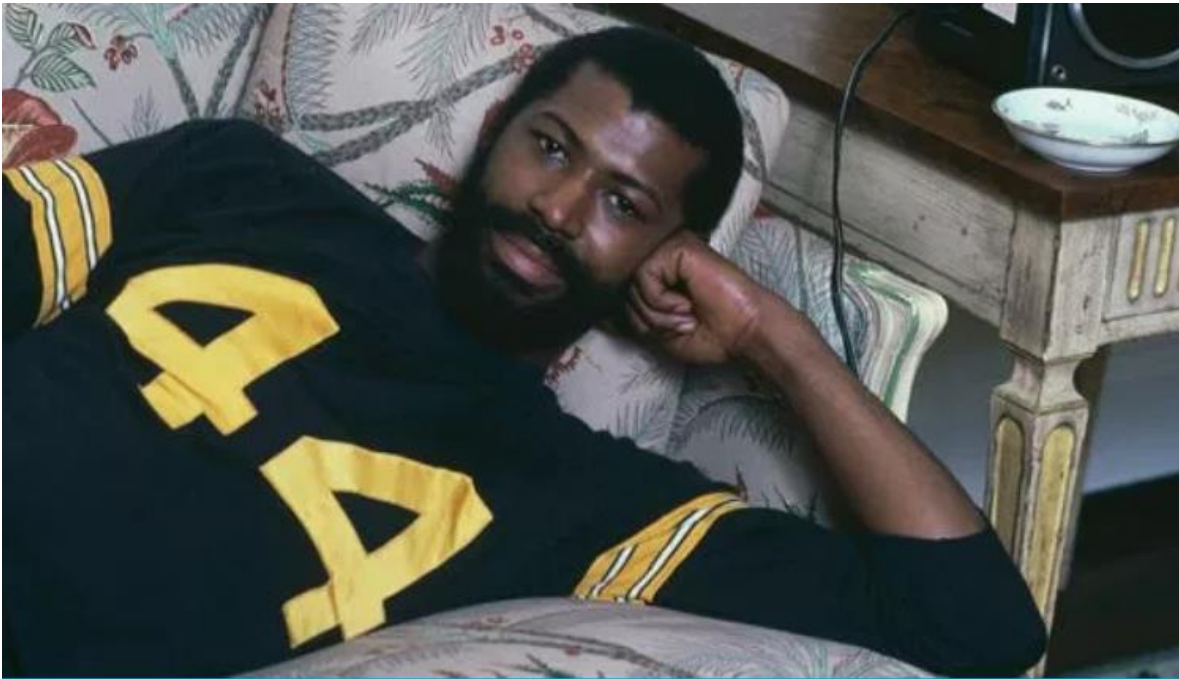
by BWW News Desk Feb. 5, 2019



In celebration of Black History Month, Showtime will premiere TEDDY PENDERGRASS: IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME, exploring the RISE of legendary soul singer Teddy Pendergrass, the first male African American artist to record five consecutive platinum albums. Set against the backdrop of 1960s America, and his comeback after a life-changing accident, Pendergrass' untold and ultimately inspiring story premieres this Friday, February 8 at 9 p.m. ET/PT. Capturing Pendergrass' RISE to fame the film includes rarely before seen archival footage and features revealing interviews with his family, friends and colleagues alongside industry legends, Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff. To watch and share a clip from TEDDY PENDERGRASS: IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME, go to: <https://youtu.be/BQQHO9w7Giw>. The unforgettable voice of hits Don't Leave Me This Way, If You Don't Know Me By Now, Love T.K.O and Close the Door, Pendergrass' career was struck by tragedy in 1982 when a car accident left him paralyzed at the age of just 31. He later made a triumphant comeback in front of a global audience of 1.9 billion at Live Aid.

TEDDY PENDERGRASS: IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME is a BBC Films, Wasted Talent, Storyvault Films and Tempo Entertainment production. The film is directed by Olivia Lichtenstein and executive produced by Shep Gordon, Daniel Markus, Allan Strahl, Michael Saunders, Katherine Saunders, Jo Bamford, Joe Oppenheimer and Michael Wood. Lichtenstein, Piers Tempest and Ian Flocks serve as producers.

SHOWTIME is currently available to subscribers via cable, DBS, and telco providers, and as a stand-alone streaming service through Amazon, Apple®, Google, LG Smart TVs, Oculus Go, Roku®, Samsung Smart TVs and Xbox One. Consumers can also subscribe to Showtime via Amazon's Prime Video Channels, DIRECTV Now, FuboTV, Hulu, Sling TV, Sony PlayStation™ Vue, and Youtube TV or directly at [www.showtime.com](http://www.showtime.com).



**IT'S HERE! FIRST LOOK AT TEDDY PENDERGRASS' 'IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME' TRAILER**

by [Krystal Franklin](#)

February 6, 2019

Showtime is telling the story of **Teddy Pendergrass** in a new documentary. *If You Don't Know Me* follows the rise and fall of the iconic singer, famously known for his sultry lyrics and signature good looks. Herald as the first black singer to [record five consecutive platinum albums](#), the trajectory of his budding career was quickly altered when tragedy struck in 1982. A car accident left him paralyzed. He was only 31. He died in January 2010 of respiratory failure at age 59.

Watch the trailer below.



For years **Tyrese** has been at the forefront of telling Pendergrass' story on film, even buying the rights to his life story. He told **George Lopez** in 2010 how the two got so close. Watch the entire video to watch an incredible tribute to the late singer.



*If You Don't Know Me* airs Friday, February 8.

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okayplayer.

# A New Teddy Pendergrass Documentary is Premiering on Showtime

POSTED BY IVIE ANI 1 MIN AGO



**“If You Don’t Know Me” features rare archival footage of the late singer.**

A new **Teddy Pendergrass** documentary titled, *If You Don’t Know Me*, is set to premiere on Showtime.

The film features rare archival footage of the late soul singer and interviews with his friends, family and music peers like songwriters Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff.

The film was directed by Olivia Lichtenstein and Pendergrass’ former manager, **Shep Gordon** is one of its executive producers.

*If You Don’t Know Me* chronicles Pendergrass’ life and career, from his childhood living in Philadelphia to his rise to fame singing lead in **Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes**, and his solo artistry. The doc also delves into Pendergrass’ life and comeback after surviving the infamous 1982 car crash. Though the accident left him paralyzed, Pendergrass went on to deliver a legendary performance at Live Aid in 1985 and would go on to release five more albums. He died at the age of 59 in 2010.

*If You Don’t Know Me* premieres February 8th at 9 p.m. ET/PT on Showtime

## Teddy Pendergrass Documentary Gets Showtime Premiere Date – Rolling Stone



A new documentary about seminal soul singer Teddy Pendergrass, *If You Don't Know Me*, will premiere February 8th at 9 p.m. ET/PT on Showtime.

Olivia Lichtenstein directed the film, which will feature rare archival footage of Pendergrass, as well as interviews with the singer's friends, family and music industry colleagues like Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff. Pendergrass' famed [former manager, Shep Gordon](#), served as one of the film's executive producers.

*If You Don't Know Me* will chronicle Pendergrass' entire career, from his childhood in Philadelphia during the Sixties to his rise to fame as the lead singer of Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes, and then as a solo artist. It will also look at Pendergrass' remarkable comeback after a 1982 car crash nearly killed him. While the accident paralyzed Pendergrass from the chest down, he went on to deliver an emotional performance at [Live Aid in 1985](#) and release five more albums. [Pendergrass died](#) in 2010.

In an October interview with [Variety](#), Lichtenstein noted that the car crash likely prevented Pendergrass from becoming a huge mainstream star like Marvin Gaye or Luther Vandross. She added that she hoped *If You Don't Know Me* would introduce the singer to a new audience.

“The way he sings is so authentic it can’t fail to touch you, whatever your age and whatever generation you are from,” Lichtenstein said. “[Producer] Danny Markus, when he saw a cut of the film, said, ‘You let him sing again,’ which is something we wanted to achieve, so it was nice to feel that has worked.”

## Showtime to air Teddy Pendergrass documentary this Friday



(February 4, 2019) Those SoulTrackers who subscribe to **Showtime** will want to circle this **Friday, Feb. 8**, on your calendar.

That is the night of the television premiere of the documentary ***Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me***. Teddy P's career was catalogued nicely on TV One's *Unsung*, and the previews for the new Showtime documentary look like it too will be a nice reminder to soul music fans of the important role that Theodore Pendergrass played in the late 70s and early 80, and the true tragedy it was that his career and life were cut short.

Check out the sneak peek below.



<https://www.soultracks.com/story-teddy-pendergrass-documentary>

## What's the 411?

Patty Jackson | TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT | Feb 7, 2019

Actor **Liam Neeson** is still feeling the fallout from some very frank comments he made. The actor's new movie "Cold Pursuit," is a revenge flick about a father pursuing the drug dealers who murdered his son. During interviews promoting the film, Neeson confessed to having a revenge-type-of-mind once. He related a story years ago when a close female friend told him she was raped and only knew her assailant was Black. As a result, Neeson went up and down the streets hoping a Black "bastard" would approach him wrong and he would react. The audio went viral and set off a huge controversy. He went on "Good Morning America" and declared to **Robin Roberts** he's not a racist, but was trying to honor his friend who was raped. Neeson also noted he never actually harmed anyone as a result, and is ashamed he was so consumed by anger. He also hugged all the Black folks in the audience for his GMA interview. The actor's New York red carpet premiere of his film was still canceled. I don't think he is a racist, but he definitely shouldn't have said what he said. Cold Pursuit hits theaters today.

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**Diana Ross**, who is celebrating her 75th birthday in March, has big showbiz events this year to mark the occasion. First, her famous Central Park New York Concert is coming to theaters. During that very expensive live event in 1983, the former Supreme tried to carry on the show even during a torrential downpour, but for the safety of the audience stopped the show then came back the next day to clear skies and an appreciative audience. "Diana Ross: Her Life, Love And Legacy" will premiere in theaters on her birthday, Tuesday, March 26. Meanwhile, Miss Ross is in the midst of her Diamond Diana Las Vegas residency at the Wynn Hotel & Casino through Feb. 23. And, The Boss is coming to The Grammys this Sunday! She's going to help the awards show celebrate Motown's 60th anniversary salute. The Grammys will be hosted by 15-time winner **Alicia Keys**. **Kendrick Lamar's** work on the "Black Panther" soundtrack garnered eight nominations to lead the pack. One nomination he shares with **Sza** for their collaboration "All The Stars." Meanwhile, five nominations each went to **H.E.R.**, **Cardi B**, **Lady Gaga** and **Childish Gambino**. The Grammys air this Sunday, Feb. 10 at 8 p.m. on CBS.

\*\*\*

The **Jussie Smollett** story keeps changing, but not necessarily because of him! Last week, Smollett was briefly hospitalized after reportedly being the victim of a racial and homophobic attack in Chicago during a 2 a.m. food run he made. Many reports surfaced in the days that followed that the Empire co-star is disputing. He says he didn't tell police that his assailants had MAGA (Make America Great Again) hats despite the news media reports. Reports also surfaced the 35-year-old singer/songwriter/actor didn't want to turn over his phone to police, but his spokespeople dispute that as well. Smollett is now back on the set filming some of the final scenes of the season for "Empire." "He now has security going onto and coming off the set. At press time, more video footage has been gathered by authorities, but reportedly none of it is helping. Police still want to bring Smollett back in



for more conversation despite having already spoken to him twice. As of press time, no arrests have been made.

\*\*\*



Teddy Pendergrass — File Photo

A Sound Of Philadelphia legend's life and career comes to **Showtime** this weekend. **Teddy Pendergrass** died in 2010, and a new documentary for Black History Month 2019 will take a look at his life, music, the devastating accident that left him paralyzed and his incredible comeback as both a performer and advocate for the disabled. Pendergrass set sales records when he became the first African American to have five platinum certified (million-selling) albums in a row. Known as the "Teddy Bear," he was the former lead singer of **Harold Melvin & The Bluenotes** ("If You Don't Know Me By Now," "Bad Luck," "Wake Up Everybody," "The Love I Lost," "Hope That We Can Be Together Soon") before he went solo in 1976 ("Close The Door," "Only You," "Somebody Told Me," "Love TKO," "Turn Off The Lights," "You're My Latest, My Greatest Inspiration"). The documentary will also cover rare footage with **Gamble and Huff** with whom Pendergrass released albums from 1972 to 1984 on Philadelphia International Records as a member of The Bluenotes and a solo artist. "Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me By Now" **premieres Friday at 9 p.m. on Showtime.**

\*\*\*

**Oprah Winfrey** got Philly's own **Bradley Cooper**, **Michael B. Jordan** and possible presidential candidate **Beto O'Rourke** on a special edition of "SuperSoul Conversations" in New York. The Mighty O got Cooper to talk about his Oscar embarrassment because despite multiple nominations, he didn't get a best director's nod. Jordan confessed to Winfrey he sought therapy after playing the villain Erik Killmonger in "Black Panther" because he had to delve into a cold, lonely place to get that character down. Finally, Winfrey and O'Rourke take turns asking each other, are you running for president? Oprah's SuperSoul Conversations airs Saturday, Feb. 16 at 8 p.m. on OWN.

\*\*\*

# The Seattle Times

[Entertainment](#) | [Television](#)

## Friday TV Picks: ‘Hell’s Kitchen’ season finale goes to Six Flags Magic Mountain

Showtime explores the life story of Teddy Pendergrass.

By [Seattle Times staff](#) | Originally published February 8, 2019 at 6:00 am

### ‘Hell’s Kitchen’

Season 18 finale; the last two chef contestants face their final challenge involving feeding the masses at Six Flags Magic Mountain; Gordon Ramsay surprises the contestants with a visit from their families; the winner gets a job at Ramsay’s new Las Vegas hot spot and the \$250,000 prize; 8 p.m. Friday on KCPQ.

### Also on Friday

“**Be My Valentine, Charlie Brown,**” 8 p.m. (KOMO): Annual repeat of 1975 season animated special; the gang attends St. Valentine’s Day festivities at school.

“**Live From Lincoln Center: Pipeline,**” 9 p.m. (KCTS): Play premiere; an inner-city teacher tries to help her son after he gets in trouble at school.

“**Crazy Ex-Girlfriend,**” 9 p.m. (KSTW): Rebecca supports Paula in her time of need, despite her own personal challenges; Greg, Josh and Nathaniel have an unfortunate encounter.

“**Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don’t Know Me,**” 9 p.m. (SHOWTIME): The life story of legendary singer Teddy Pendergrass, the accident that changed his life forever at the age of 31, and his comeback.

“**The Blacklist,**” 9 p.m. (KING): When Red is sent to a federal medical institution after his request to the court for a psychiatric evaluation, Liz and Jennifer use his time away to search for information about his past.

“**20/20,**” 9 p.m. (KOMO): The true-crime story of a woman convicted of murdering her second husband and attempting to murder her daughter, who she tried to frame for the deaths of her late husbands.

“**Blue Bloods,**” 10 p.m. (KIRO): Danny goes against an order during a hostage negotiation; Nicky asks Erin for help when her friend is in jeopardy of losing his scholarship; Frank helps a distraught officer who accidentally shot a girl.

“**2 Dope Queens,**” 11 p.m. (HBO): Season premiere; comedians Jessica Williams and Phoebe Robinson return with weekly hourlong specials; special guests include Lupita Nyong’o tonight and Daniel Radcliffe and Keegan-Michael Key in future episodes.

## What to Watch on Friday: The ‘Black Widow’ murderer in a two-hour 20/20 doc

BY BROOKE CAIN

FEBRUARY 08, 2019 07:00 AM, UPDATED FEBRUARY 08, 2019 09:29 PM

**Black Widow (9 p.m., ABC)** - At first, authorities believed Stacey Castor’s first husband died of a heart attack and that her second husband killed himself by drinking booze and antifreeze. But detectives were suspicious because of inconsistencies in her story, and discovered she had actually murdered both husbands. Then, Stacey called 911 to say that her daughter attempted suicide (booze and pills) and that she had left a suicide note admitting to murdering her father and stepfather. Stacey was convicted in 2009 and sentenced her to the maximum penalty of 51 1/3 years to life in state prison. ABC’s “Black Widow” documentary features an archived interview from prison with Stacey as well as with members of her defense team, prosecutors, investigators, reporters and family members of the men she killed.

ALSO ON TONIGHT . . .

**Hell’s Kitchen (8 p.m., Fox)** - In the season finale, the final two chefs get unexpected help with their menus.

**Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don’t Know Me (9 p.m., Showtime)** - This documentary explores the rise of legendary soul singer Teddy Pendergrass and his comeback after being paralyzed from a car accident at the age of 31.

**Live from Lincoln Center: Pipeline (9 p.m., PBS / UNC-TV)** - In this new play by Dominique Morisseau, an inner-city teacher tries to help her son after he gets in trouble at school.

**2 Dope Queens (11 p.m., HBO)** - The second season of the Jessica Williams - Phoebe Robinson series opens with guest Lupita Nyong’o.

**One Day at a Time (Netflix)** - The third season of this critically acclaimed series returns. It’s a reimagining of the Norman Lear classic but with a Cuban American family, starring Justina Machado and Rita Moreno. If you haven’t watched this, binge all three seasons ASAP. You’ll laugh, you’ll cry.



Published by  
Documentary of the Week

## Remembering Teddy Pendergrass

▶ Listen 2 min

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"Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me" looks back at the life of the iconic singer who's rise was cut short by a tragic car accident. Director Olivia Lichtenstein delivers a definitive biography set to a soulful soundtrack.

Feb 8, 2019 — [Raphaela Neihausen](#) and [Thom Powers](#). For more information, [click here](#) to visit the film web site.



L.A. Oldies

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## "COME GO WITH ME": SHOWTIME TO AIR TEDDY PENDERGRASS DOC THIS MONTH

February 6, 2019 11:35 AM

In celebration of Black History Month, Showtime will air a documentary on legendary soul singer Teddy Pendergrass. *Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me* will air this Friday. Ahead of its premiere, the network released the official [trailer](#), which features archival footage and new interviews with Pendergrass' family, friends and colleagues, including legendary songwriters and producers **Kenny Gamble** and Leon Huff.

The doc explores the rise of the late, great vocalist, who was the first male African-American artist to release five consecutive platinum albums. It also follows his comeback after a near-fatal 1982 car accident at age 31 that left him paralyzed from the chest down. Pendergrass, who eventually retired in 2007, died in 2010 of respiratory failure at the age 59.

*Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me* premieres February 8 at 9 p.m. ET.

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**The Key**  
Discover Philly's Best Local Music

## Watch a trailer for Showtime's Teddy Pendergrass documentary *If You Don't Know Me*

February 6th, 2019 | 3:59PM | By [John Vettese](#)



Teddy Pendergrass | via Rolling Stone

On the one hand, Philadelphia icon **Teddy Pendergrass** was, as XPN's Bruce Warren **described him earlier today**, "Philly International's ultimate love man." His sensual singing style was unparalleled, and his songs touched on themes of love from every imaginable angle. On a bigger level, he was a hard-working, ambitious, and energetic recording artist and performer who literally sweated charisma...and he's also somebody with one of the most amazing life stories of resilience and overcoming physical trauma to continue creating music.

This Friday night at 9 p.m. ET, Showtime premieres *Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me*, a documentary that traces the singer's life from his Philadelphia childhood to that famed footage of him getting bras and panties thrown at him onstage, to the 1982 car crash that paralyzed him and his emotional 1985 comeback at Live Aid. As *Rolling Stone* notes, he went on to release five more studio albums before his passing in 2010.

In addition to archival footage and photos of Pendergrass on stage and in the studio, the doc includes interviews with his producers Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff, his manager Shep Gordon, as well as various friends and family.

Watch a trailer for *Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me* below.



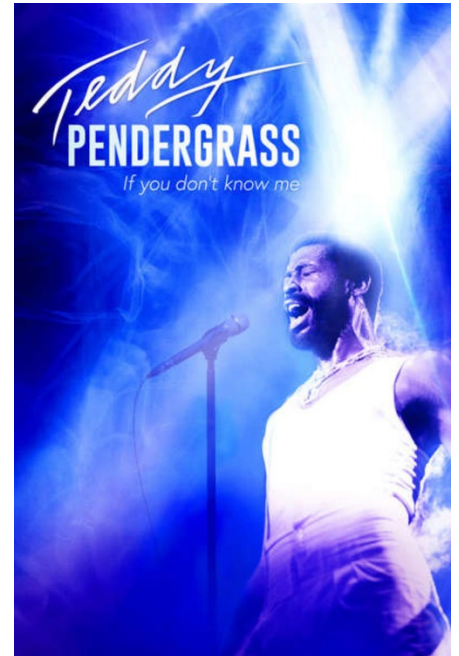
RADIO.COM



## New Documentary - Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me

A New Doc Explores The Rise Of Legendary Soul Singer Teddy Pendergrass

FEBRUARY 7, 2019 | AHMED DENTS



It seems every week there is a new documentary about our favorite and most controversial musicians. **Tomorrow, Friday, February 8 at 9 p.m., Showtime premieres [Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me](#)**, a documentary about legendary soul singer **Teddy Pendergrass**. Showtime describes the film as the following:

*"TEDDY PENDERGRASS: IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME, explores the rise of legendary soul singer Teddy Pendergrass, the first male African American artist to record five consecutive platinum albums. Set against the backdrop of 1960s America, and his comeback after a life-changing accident, Pendergrass' untold and ultimately inspiring story."*

The documentary was directed by [Olivia Lichtenstein](#) who in an [interview with BLACKFILM](#) explained why the story attracted her:

*"I think that I'm surprised in a way it hasn't been done before because it is such an incredibly rich story, and I think that one of my motivations for making it, as I said, was because I felt that*



*he wasn't, isn't as well remembered as well as he should be given his talent and what he did. He had been a little been forgotten."*

Take a look at the trailer below for *Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me*.





## New Teddy Pendergrass Documentary Premieres On Showtime



Source: Paul Natkin / Getty

A new documentary about singer [Teddy Pendergrass](#), *If You Don't Know Me*, will premiere tomorrow, February 8th on [Showtime](#). *If You Don't Know Me* will chronicle Teddy's entire career, from his childhood in Philadelphia, to his rise to fame as the lead singer of Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes, and then becoming a solo artist. It will also look at his remarkable comeback after a 1982 car crash nearly killed him. The accident paralyzed Teddy from the chest down, he went on to deliver an emotional performance at [Live Aid in 1985](#) Teddy Pendergrass died in 2010.





# 1st Look: “Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don’t Know Me” Documentary

Written By: [Divine Martino](#) | *Posted February 6, 2019*



Source: [WENN.com](#) / WENN

There is a Teddy Pendergrass documentary on the way and from the looks of it, it’s gonna be epic! The doc, titled, “*TEDDY PENDERGRASS: IF YOU DON’T KNOW ME*,” will premiere on [Showtime](#). Check out the trailer below:



The doc promises to explore the rise and fall of the sexy soul singer, who was the first male African American artist to record five consecutive platinum albums. It is set against the backdrop of 1960s America and tells the story of his comeback after a life-changing accident.

Pendergrass' untold and ultimately inspiring story premieres this Friday, February 8 at 9 p.m. Will You Watch?

## 1st Look: “Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don’t Know Me” [Trailer]

Written by TJB Writer in Blog



### 1st Look: “Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don’t Know Me”

The trailer for SHOWTIME’s *TEDDY PENDERGRASS: IF YOU DON’T KNOW ME* has been released. The docu explores the rise of legendary soul singer Teddy Pendergrass, the first male African American artist to record five consecutive platinum albums. Set against the backdrop of 1960s America, and his comeback after a life-changing accident, Pendergrass’ untold and ultimately inspiring story premieres this Friday, February 8 at 9 p.m. ET/PT. Capturing Pendergrass’ rise to fame the film includes rarely before seen archival footage and features revealing interviews with his family, friends and colleagues alongside industry legends, Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff.

Watch the trailer below.



# Teddy Pendergrass Documentary To Premiere On Showtime On Friday

By [RTTNews Staff Writer](#) | Published: 2/7/2019 3:30 PM ET



A documentary on the life of legendary soul singer Teddy Pendergrass will premiere this Friday on *Showtime*.

The film, titled *Teddy Pendergrass- If You Don't Know Me By Now*, is directed by Olivia Lichtenstein.

*Showtime* shared a teaser on *Twitter* on Tuesday, with the announcement, "Hear the untold and inspiring story of the rise of legendary soul singer, Teddy Pendergrass."

Lichtenstein recalled a phone conversation she had with Pendergrass' manager **Shep Gordon** regarding her intent to make the film.

"I called Shep and said, 'People don't remember Teddy the way they ought to, and I have to make this film,' and Shep said, 'Let's do it,'" she told Variety in an interview.

## BEST BETS | FRIDAY

### **Dateline: Secrets Uncovered** 8 p.m. on OXYGEN

When a couple experiences a seemingly perfect life, their relationship becomes a tragedy after a woman is found shot to death, but when the authorities attempt to uncover the truth behind the murder, an innocent person is caught. (HD)

### **Forrest Gump** 8 p.m. on PARMT

A slow-witted man with a knack of being in the right place at the right time, tirelessly pursues his childhood sweetheart, while his strong character and simple wisdom changes the lives of those around him during the turbulent times in America. (HD)

### **Hell's Kitchen** 8 p.m. on WXIN

The final two chefs are given some unexpected assistance for their final menus before they share noteworthy moments with chef Ramsay and the chefs' families; the teams return to Hell's Kitchen and prepare for service

### at Six Flags Magic Mountain. (HD) **Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me** 9 p.m. on SHO

The life of Teddy Pendergrass, the first male African American artist to record five consecutive platinum albums against the backdrop of 1960s America, is explored, including his comeback to music after a life-changing accident.

### **Live from Lincoln Center** 9 p.m. on WFYI

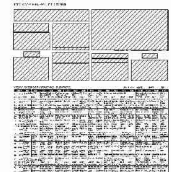
**Section 20's search for the missing nuclear warhead leads them to Goa, India, where three scientists have been kidnapped by Gopan (Rudi Dharmalingam), a militant under orders from a mysterious "king-fisher," on "Strike Back," airing Friday at 10 p.m. on Cinemax.**



In the play "Pipeline" by Dominique Morisseau, an inner-city teacher becomes desperate to save her son from criminal charges when he gets in trouble at school, and as part of her efforts, she must confront his rage and her choices. (HD)

### **Extreme Love**

**10 p.m. on WE**  
A woman decides to turn the tables on her partner; a spouse makes a surprising request; a couple decides to start an unexpected business; a woman must deal with her boyfriend, who makes some unrealistic and dangerous demands.





## BEST BETS • FRIDAY

### **Step Brothers**

**7 p.m. on TNT**

Two grown men who live with their single parents become step-brothers when their parents marry, and they are reluctantly forced to share a bedroom together.

### **The Rundown**

**7:13 p.m. on ENC**

A mob boss' retrieval expert is sent to the Amazon to retrieve the boss' ne'er-do-well son, who is searching for a priceless treasure.

### **Hell's Kitchen**

**8 p.m. on FOX**

The final two chefs share moments with chef Ramsay and their families; the teams return to Hell's Kitchen to prepare for service at Six Flags Magic Mountain.

### **Dateline: Secrets Uncovered**

**8 p.m. on OXYG**

When a couple experiences a seemingly perfect life, their relationship becomes a tragedy after a woman is found shot to death and an innocent person is caught.

### **Forrest Gump**

**8 p.m. on PARMT**

A slow-witted man with character and dignity who transforms the lives of those around him grows to adulthood amid the historic events of four decades.

### **Live from Lincoln Center**

**9 p.m. on PBS**

In the play "Pipeline" by Dominique Morisseau, an inner-city teacher becomes desperate to save her son from criminal charges when he gets in trouble at school.

### **Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me**

**9 p.m. on SHO**

The documentary tells the untold and ultimately inspiring story of the Philadelphia singer poised to be the biggest R&B artist of all time, until a near-fatal car crash changed his life forever at the age of 31. Paralyzed from the chest down, Pendergrass continued his successful solo career until announcing his retirement in 2007, then dying from respiratory failure in 2010.

### **Strike Back**

**10 p.m. on MAX**

The search for the missing nuclear warhead leads Section 20 to the Indian state of Goa, where three scientists have been kidnapped by a militant under orders.

### **Shaun of the Dead**

**10:37 p.m. on ENC**

A desperate slacker uses an uprising of flesh-eating zombies as an opportunity to turn his life around and win back his former girlfriend.



## spotlight on Real Personalities

By Dan Rice

True inspiration is born of real people struggling against the odds, as illustrated by some choice new TV programs debuting this week.

Premiering Tuesday at 9 p.m. on BET, "American Soul," set in the early 1970s and filled with music, dance, fashion and glamour, is the untold story of the launch of "Soul Train," the first nationally-syndicated black music show, and what happened when the music stopped. Battles with record labels for top talent and off-camera drama as young dancers vie for the spotlight stand in the way of a 30-something Don Cornelius (played by Sinqua Walls, "Power"), who is sacrificing all that he loves to follow his dream. The journeys of these characters collide in a racially charged LA with the odds stacked against them. Guest stars include Michelle Williams (portraying Diana Ross), Kelly Rowland (Gladys Knight), K. Michelle (Martha Reeves), Gabrielle Dennis (Tina Turner), McKinley Freeman (Ike Turner) and Bobby Brown, who will play Rufus Thomas, best known for "Do the Funky Chicken."

"Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't

Know Me," debuting on Showtime Friday at 9 p.m., tells the untold and ultimately inspiring story of the Philadelphia singer poised to be the biggest R&B artist of all time, until a near-fatal car crash changed his life forever at the age of 31. Paralyzed from the chest down, Pendergrass continued his successful solo career until announcing his retirement in 2007, then dying from respiratory failure in 2010.

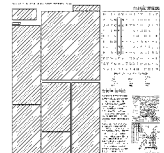
Debuting on HBO Saturday at 8 p.m., "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" embraces the life and guiding philosophy of the late Fred Rogers, the creator and host of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." From Morgan Neville ("20 Feet from Stardom"), the documentary tells the story of a soft-spoken minister, puppeteer, writer and producer whose show was beamed into homes across America daily for more than 30 years. In his beloved television program, Rogers and his cast of puppets and friends spoke directly to young children about some of life's weightiest issues in a simple, direct fashion. There hadn't been anything like Mr. Rogers on television before, and there hasn't been since.

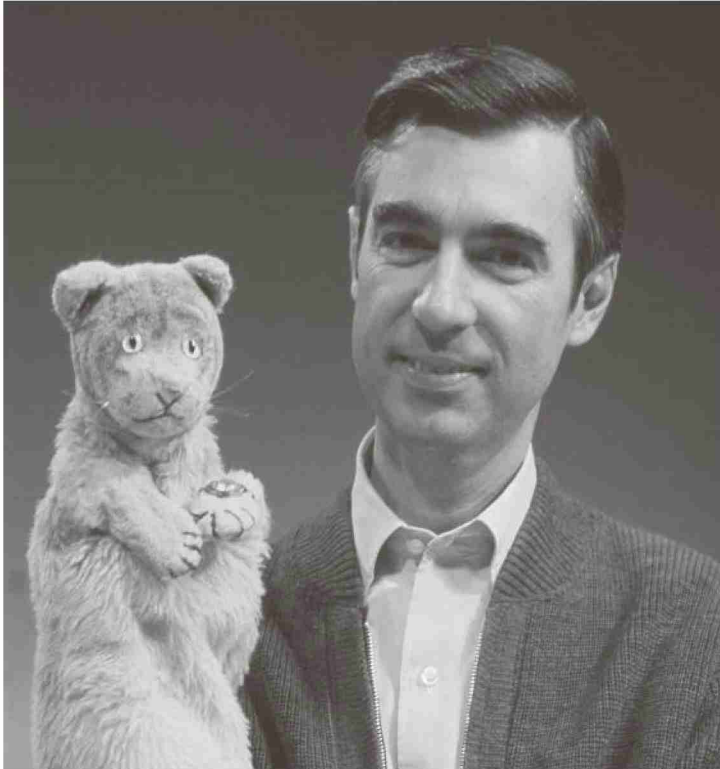
Rogers' career represented a sustained attempt to present a coherent, beneficent view of how television could be used as a positive force in society. "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" explores his legacy, focusing on his radically kind ideas. While the nation changed around

him, Rogers stood firm in his belief about the importance of protecting childhood. This intimate portrait goes beyond zip-up cardigans and the land of make-believe and into the heart of a creative genius who inspired generations of children with compassion and limitless imagination.

Since its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in Jan. 2018, the film has become the top-grossing biographical documentary of all time, earning more than \$22 million at the domestic box office.

Debuting Saturday at 8 p.m. on Lifetime, "Victoria Gotti: My Father's Daughter," executive-produced by Victoria Gotti herself, takes viewers deep into the world of what it was really like to grow up as the daughter of mob boss John Gotti, revealing the glamour, glitz and unique hardships of her world. Sharing never-before-revealed stories about her life, Victoria (played by Chelsea Frei) tells of a sensitive child growing up with a beloved father (Maurice Benard) she worried about constantly, the tragedy of her younger brother's death and her turbulent romance, forbidden by her father, with the man who later became her husband. Victoria had a front-row seat to a life the world became fascinated with, all while trying to reconcile the loving father she adored with a man the outside world was determined to bring down.





**Debuting on HBO Saturday at 8 p.m., the documentary film “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” embraces the life and guiding philosophy of the late Fred Rogers, the creator and host of “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.”**

## spotlighton

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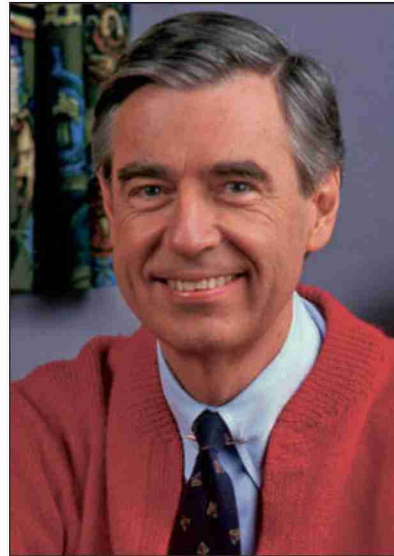
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Fred Rogers



# ‘Considerably superior’: Teddy Pendergrass documentary closes out Philadelphia Film Festival

Stephen Silver | @StephenSilver | Nov 1, 2018



A documentary about Philly singer Teddy Pendergrass closes out 2018 Philadelphia Film Festival. | Hulton Archive, Getty Images



A tribute concert to Philadelphia singer Teddy Pendergrass by the Teddy Bear Orchestra closed out the Philadelphia Film Festival alongside a documentary that chronicles his life and career. | Image: Stephen Silver

Closing out the 11-day affair that was the world premiere of the Philadelphia Film Festival, was the world premiere of *Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me*, a documentary feature about the late Philly soul legend.

The film is a success, for two reasons: It gets across Pendergrass' unique appeal, and it's full of great stories by musical old timers and the singer's other collaborators.

Directed by South African-British filmmaker Olivia Lichtenstein, Pendergrass' film chronicles his childhood in 1950s North Philly to his early days in the Philadelphia International Records lineup, both with Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes – and later as a successful solo artist.

The film does a great delivery of Pendergrass' considerable talent and sex appeal, as demonstrated in the concerts he would perform in his heyday that were women-only. The film also follows the car accident on Lincoln Drive in 1982 that rendered the singer a quadriplegic, as well as his subsequent comeback, which included a performance on the Philadelphia end of Live Aid in 1985. Of the two movies I saw last week that culminate in the subject's triumphant performance at Live Aid, *Teddy Pendergrass* is considerably superior to *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

We're told the singer's story through archival footage, as well as talking-head interviews with Pendergrass' friends, classmates, bandmates, and even Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff themselves, who finish each other's sentences on more than one occasion. The singer's family is also represented, including his mother, Ida, who celebrated her 100th birthday this year. We even hear from the woman – who happens to be transgender- who was in the car with Pendergrass at the time of his accident.

The only real misstep in the film? It regularly illustrates events that took place in the 1970s and '80s, with establishing shots that are clearly of today's Philly skyline. And at one point, we see someone watching Pendergrass footage from the '80s, on what's obviously a flat-screen TV of modern vintage.

When I first heard that Teddy Pendergrass was the closing night film at this year's Philadelphia Film Festival, a thought occurred to me: Wasn't there already a Pendergrass doc, about five years ago?

Turns out I was wrong – I'd been thinking of *Supermensch*, Mike Myers' 2013 documentary about longtime showbiz manager Shep Gordon. Pendergrass' was Gordon's client, and that doc consisted of a long section about Pendergrass' life and career. And it turns out the new film's origins lie in that movie as well.

Lichtenstein, the director, told me before the screening that she saw *Supermensch*, and that “I've always loved Teddy Pendergrass, and I didn't realize that was his story and that was what happened to him. So I had one of those moments, when I realized, 'I have to make a film about this guy, I was just compelled to do it, really. Teddy was such a complicated guy, and it was such an interesting story, that there was more than enough for two films, to be honest.”

She added that she grew up listening to Gamble and Huff music, and that she wanted Philadelphia to be “a kind of character in the film.”

The film has been picked up by **Showtime**. And after it screened Friday night, Pendergrass' Teddy Bear Orchestra reunited on stage – complete with several members who had been seen in the movie- and played a few songs.

This year's Philadelphia Film Festival actually continued through the weekend despite the "closing night" taking place on Friday. The fest featured an eclectic lineup of more than 100 films, including Oscar contenders, strong documentaries, and foreign films, including a “Nordic Voices” section. It's the first edition of the festival following the Prince Theater's recent renaming as the Philadelphia Film Center.

This year's PFF featured some Oscar contenders – Alfonso Cuarón's *Roma*, Barry Jenkins' *If Beale Street Could Talk*, Steve McQueen's *Widows*, and Joel Edgerton's *Boy Erased* – that met expectations, and others, most notably Peter Hedges' *Ben is Back*, that were disappointments.

But the fest also featured some outstanding under-the-radar stuff, such as Sandi Tan's astonishing documentary *Shirkers*, which told the story of how the Singapore native fulfilled her dream as a teenager of making a road movie, had the footage taken from her, and then made a movie about the whole saga (*Shirkers* is already available on Netflix).

Another was Jim Cummings' *Thunder Road*, which opens with an extremely awkward funeral eulogy and only gets cringier- and somehow, funnier- from there. And the documentary *Chef Flynn* combines the so-so story of a teenaged chef prodigy with a much more compelling one about his overbearing mom.

The worst thing I saw at the fest was probably *Infinite Football*, a mind-numbing Romanian documentary about a guy's quest to reinvent soccer to make it safer, although *Vox Lux*, with Natalie Portman as an abrasive, tragedy-adjacent pop star, wasn't far behind. I expect to spend much of the winter arguing with those who loved it.

Sure, the festival lineup didn't have everything. The upcoming film from the Coen brothers wasn't in the lineup, and while *Creed II* and M. Night Shyamalan's *Glass* were filmed in the area in the last year, but neither appeared at the festival (though M. Night himself was spotted at one screening.) But overall, this year's PFF provided a fine, well-curated cross-section of the year in film.



## TEDDY PENDERGRASS DOCUMENTARY 'IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME' WILL AIR ON SHOWTIME AFTER FESTIVAL RUN [WATCH TRAILER]

NY MAGEE OCTOBER 26, 2018 AT 2:00 PM

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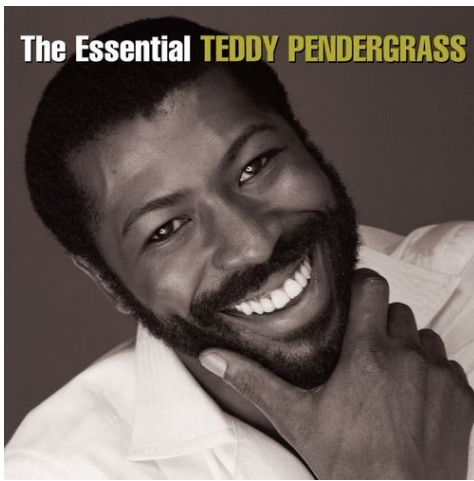


\*The upcoming feature documentary “[Teddy Pendergrass – If You Don’t Know Me](#)” offers “a comprehensive and engrossing” narrative that adds dimension to the life of the late soul legend.

The doc will premiere at the Philadelphia Film Festival on Friday then go out on Showtime in the U.S. and Sky Arts and the BBC in the U.K., where Moviehouse will also handle a theatrical release, per [Variety](#).

Producer and director Olivia Lichtenstein was inspired to make the film after she watched Mike Myers’ movie “Supremensch,” about Hollywood power player Shep Gordon, who was also Pendergrass’ manager.





“I called Shep and said, ‘People don’t remember Teddy the way they ought to, and I have to make this film,’ and Shep said, ‘Let’s do it,’” Lichtenstein recalled, adding that if all you remember about Pendergrass, who was born in 1950, is that he was an artist whose life was cut short by a 1982 auto accident, you’re missing the full picture of his inspiring story.

“I don’t think people remember Teddy as well as they should. He was such an amazing singer, and that’s a huge part of his legacy. But the more you know about him, the more his story resonates, and on so many levels. He was a complicated man, with a lot of compartments, and as a filmmaker that’s what you want. You want to be able to peel back all of those layers,” she said.

via [Daily News Philly](#):

*If You Don’t Know Me revisits the execution-style murder in April 1974 of his first manager, Taaz Lang, a case that was never solved, though the film recounts speculation that the crime was linked to organized crime elements operating on the margins of the music industry.*

*When Gordon, who is featured prominently, took over management of Pendergrass’ career, he sought and received FBI protection for the singer. He also accented Pendergrass’ sex appeal, arranging a series of ladies-only concert tours that cemented the singer’s status as a major star. There is insight into Pendergrass’ musical style from Gordon, Gamble, Huff, and also Questlove.*

“What’s great about Questlove, apart from the fact that he’s a gifted talker, which is great for me, is that he is part of the story, too, as so many people are in the film. He’s not just a commentator, but a witness,” Lichtenstein said.

Watch the trailer below:





# Teddy Pendergrass Documentary Currently In the Works

[Marie David](#) | Oct. 26, 2018



Photo Credit: Michael Putland/Getty

**If you are a big Teddy Pendergrass fan, we have some exciting news for you!**

**There's a documentary about the singer's life currently in the works. Titled '*Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me*' is set to premiere at the Philadelphia Film Festival on Friday before airing nationally on Showtime.**

**The documentary "tells the tumultuous life story of the R&B and soul legend." Olivia Lichtenstein, the producer and director, made the film through U.K. In a brief statement she says:**

**'People don't remember Teddy the way they ought to, and I have to make this film.'**

**We couldn't agree more!**