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### **The Girl Done Good: A Documentary Review**

Typically, friends and relatives wait for the eulogies to be read before closing the book on a loved one. They regret not sharing their kind thoughts and honoring that person's accomplishments at a time when it might have meant something. Because **Amy Winehouse** appears to be in a hurry to join **Billy Holiday, Janis Joplin** and **Jimi Hendrix** at that great NA meeting in the sky, some of her admirers already have begun preparing their eulogies. It's difficult to say if that's what motivated the producers of *Girl Done Good* to create a career retrospective after only two albums, but it's probably a good thing they did. At a time when Winehouse's reputation resembles something the paparazzi might have dragged in, **Girl Done Good** should provide detractors with an alternate view of her value to the music scene and the media something to fixate on, besides the beehive, tattoos and drug habit. **Girl Done Good** documents Winehouse's evolution from her rebellious teens in North London to British chart-topper, international stardom, paparazzi magnet and rehab regular. As this is an unauthorized biography disguised as a critique, **Girl Done Good** relies on music and images not licensed by the chanteuse, as well as the first-hand testimony of former teachers, band members, music arrangers, journalists, singers and other industry professionals. Even if most of them came to praise Winehouse, the documentary doesn't whitewash her failures. The testimony describes an artist in whose voice can be found traces of **Billie Holliday, Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee, Diana Ross, Otis Redding, the Ronettes, Shangri-las** and, briefly, **Michael Jackson**. Even without Winehouse's immediate presence, **Girl Done Good** entertains and informs in equal measure. (I would have recommended adding subtitles to Winehouse's comments, as her thick accent is nearly impenetrable.)

- Gary Dretzka