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## Amy Winehouse - The Girl Done Good DVD Review



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UGO Rating

**Overall:** Grade B+

Vitals

**Release Date:** May 13, 2008

**Label:** Sexy Intellectual

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# Amy Winehouse - The Girl Done Good DVD Review

By **Alisa Shamrow**

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"The Girl Done Good: A Documentary Review, is a 78 minute documentary that features multiple interviews with jazz experts, individuals who knew her early on."

Amy Winehouse does me in. From the moment I heard *Back to Black*, I found myself on a subsequent three-week repeat-fest of her most recent album by the same name. It was sort of a throwback to the great jazz and blues I'd heard before, and at the same time I'd never quite heard anything like it. Before this album, I'd never quite heard of her, either.

Prior to the release of *Back to Black*, Amy Winehouse had been well-known in her native Britain; after, her name has permeated the top of music charts and media the world over. One would be hard-pressed to find someone who hasn't heard of this remarkably talented artist but, unfortunately, along with her fame has come the poaching of her private life by various tabloids. The result is that one invariably associates Amy Winehouse the artist with Amy Winehouse, paparazzi target, without much material to shed light on who this already legendary person really is.

*The Girl Done Good: A Documentary Review* takes a considerable step toward fixing this problem. It is a 78 minute documentary that features multiple interviews with jazz experts, individuals who knew her early on, and those that played a material role in garnering her the attention of industry professionals who would provide opportunities for her to showcase her talents.

Frequent comparisons to Dinah Washington, Billie Holliday and Ella Fitzgerald aside, what makes this documentary truly worthwhile is the expert deconstruction of Amy Winehouse's musical and lyrical abilities, and the stark contrast with her contemporaries. Over the course of the film, music and pop culture specialists take you from a look at a 14-year-old schoolgirl, expelled for rebellion, to a current musical phenomenon, coping with the adoration of millions of fans and the underlying emotional rollercoaster that accompanies this success. You'll find an all-encompassing discourse on her early years to her latest image of tattoos and, perhaps aptly described, "war paint."

Considerable time is also spent discussing each of her albums, and insight is given into the historical musical influences that are heard in her songs. Each hit from *Back to Black* is analyzed in-depth, and variances between this album and her earlier work are brought clearly into focus, allowing the viewer to witness the transitions of her style and abilities.

I found this documentary rather addictive, and was enlightened. Amy Winehouse turns raw talent and profound sensitivity into brutally honest and relatable songs that resonate strongly of emotion and personal experience. Each seems a narrative of a moment that she has chosen to allow us to glimpse, but just enough to keep the form of the art itself intact.

To quote one of the interviewees, Barb Jungr, a Jazz singer and vocal coach, "There's quite a lot of subtlety in the approach, and there's a sense of power withheld...and that's a very wonderful thing because you know that there's more there, and you're not necessarily getting all of it..." From what we are getting, it's evident that's a lot more to come. Here's anticipating a great sequel that encompasses the next culturally revolutionary

achievements Amy Winehouse is sure to compose for herself, and share with the world.

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