

## Also Out This Month...

### GEORGE MICHAEL **FREEDOM UNCUT**

**F**ROM HIS EARLY days in Wham! to his meteoric rise to international stardom as a solo artist, George Michael's life was always the subject of controversy, speculation and intense media scrutiny. In this new, posthumous documentary, he "reclaims" the narrative of his career, personal life and scandals in collaboration with co-director and friend, David Austin. Michael was heavily involved in the making of this film before his tragic passing in 2016, making it a poignant, if somewhat unbalanced tribute to his legacy.

Featuring interviews with what feels like everyone who's ever crossed paths with the artist (Elton John, Stevie Wonder, Ricky Gervais among many, many others), the film zeroes in on the landmarks and events that shaped his trajectory: struggles with fame, the release of "Freedom," legal battles with Sony, the untimely death of his partner.

At almost two hours long, the film certainly does feel "uncut" and Michael's involvement in its making is distinctly palpable in the way his story is told. The tone sometimes

verges on adulatory, painting a somewhat one-sided picture of a man who seemingly did no wrong. Yet, if you go in knowing exactly what you're in for—a deftly produced, lip-smackingly entertaining two hours of fan service, brimming with beloved hits—you won't be let down.

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*George Michael Freedom Uncut* will be screening in cinemas worldwide on June 22

By Eva Mackevic

