

Rolling Stone



Rolling Stone Films, Bungalow Media + Entertainment and CNN Films, Take Home Emmy Award for Outstanding Arts and Culture Documentary Little Richard: I Am Everything

October 7, 2024, New York, NY: Today, Rolling Stone Films announced their first Emmy award win for Outstanding Arts and Culture Documentary for the documentary Little Richard: I Am Everything, which they share with film partners Bungalow Media + Entertainment, CNN Films and Max. The award was presented on September 26, 2024, by the National Academy of Arts and Sciences. The film tells the story of the black queer origins of rock n' roll, exploding the whitewashed canon of American pop music to reveal the innovator – the originator – Richard Penniman, Little Richard.

“Four years ago, we set out to tell the story of one of the most influential and charismatic individuals in rock n’ roll history, said Gus Wenner, CEO Rolling Stone and Executive Producer, Little Richard: I am Everything. “We found dream partners in Bungalow Entertainment and CNN Films and the brilliant filmmaker Lisa Cortés whose visionary approach allowed us to tell Little Richards story completely. Rolling Stone Films is honored to be part of this project, which continues the rich legacy of a treasured music icon. These are the kinds of stories Rolling Stone is committed to tell.”

"I set out to honor the boldness, brilliance, and complexity of Little Richard, an artist who shattered boundaries and created space for those often left in the margins of history," said director, Lisa Cortés. "Little Richard: I Am Everything is a testament to his legacy as both an innovator and a cultural disruptor. Collaborating with Rolling Stone Films, Bungalow Entertainment, and CNN Films allowed me to fully realize this vision and bring his story to life in a way that celebrates his profound impact on music and culture. I'm deeply grateful for this collaboration, and thrilled that his story continues to resonate so powerfully."

"Little Richard's career is one of the most fascinating and important stories in music and pop culture history," said film producer, Robert Friedman. "Partnering with Rolling Stone provided an opportunity for us to tell Richard's inspiring and entertaining journey through the many decades of his career, finally giving him the recognition he deserves as the 'King' of rock and roll"

Through a wealth of archive and performance that brings us into Richard's complicated inner world, Little Richard: I am Everything, unspools the icon's life story with all its switchbacks and contradictions. In cutting edge interviews with family, musicians and black and queer scholars, the film reveals how Richard created an art form for ultimate self-expression, but ironically and tragically was never able to give to himself. Throughout his life, Richard careened like a shiny cracked pinball between God, sex and rock 'n roll. The world tried to put him in a box, but Richard was an omni being, complex, layered and multidimensional- he was unabashedly everything.

Directed by Lisa Cortés, Little Richard: I Am Everything is produced by Bungalow Media + Entertainment for CNN Films and Max, in association with Rolling Stone Films. Robert Friedman, Lisa Cortés, Liz Yale Marsh, and Caryn Capotosto are producers. The film is executive produced by Mike Powers, Anita May Rosenstein, and Dee Rees; Jason Fine and Gus Wenner for Rolling Stone Films; and Amy Entelis and Courtney Sexton for CNN Films.

The acclaimed documentary premiered at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival. The film was released theatrically by Magnolia Pictures. Little Richard: I Am Everything was nominated for a Grammy® Award for Best Music Film and a finalist for a Peabody® Award. The film is available to stream now on Max.

About Rolling Stone Films

Five decades since its founding, Rolling Stone remains the leading authority in music, entertainment and pop culture, reaching a global audience of more than 60 million readers, viewers and listeners each month. Rolling Stone Films embraces and expands the mission of the publication, leveraging a rich archive of IP and original storytelling to illuminate the culture of our times, with premium documentary and scripted films, television series and podcasts. Recent productions include *Supervillain: The Making of Tekashi 6ix9ine* for Showtime and *Rolling Stone: Stories From the Edge* for HBO. The team is led by Rolling Stone veteran, Jason Fine, and former HBO Max executive, Alex Dale. RS Films works with a diverse array of partners, filmmakers and creators to produce content for major networks and streaming platforms. Their latest production, *Little Richard: I Am Everything*, premiered at Sundance in 2023 to critical acclaim and aired on CNN and Max following a theatrical release in the fall. The film took home an Emmy Award for Outstanding Arts and Culture Documentary on September 26, 2024.

About Bungalow Entertainment

Founded in 2013 by CEO Robert Friedman, Bungalow Media + Entertainment is an Emmy Award-winning and Grammy-nominated integrated entertainment company that develops, produces and distributes content across all media platforms. Bungalow's recently produced projects include *13 Days in Ferguson* (CBS/Paramount+), *Little Richard: I Am Everything* (CNN Films/Max), *Serving the Hamptons* (Max), *Vegas: The Story of Sin City* (CNN), *Cyber Sleuths: The Idaho Murders* (Paramount+), the mini-series *Surviving Jeffrey Epstein* (Lifetime) and *The Preppy Murder* (AMC/Sundance). Bungalow has also produced feature documentaries including *Spring Broke* (Showtime), and *We the People: The Market Basket Effect*.

About CNN Originals

The CNN Originals group develops, produces and acquires original, long-form unscripted programming for CNN Worldwide. Amy Entelis, executive vice president of talent, CNN Originals and creative development, oversees the award-winning CNN Originals portfolio that includes the following premium content brands: CNN Original Series, CNN Films, CNN FlashDocs, and the newly formed CNN Studios, an internal production studio which creates long-form programming for CNN's global platforms. Since 2012, the team has overseen and executive produced more than 45 multi-part documentary series and 60 feature-length documentary films, earning more than 110 awards and 445 nominations for the cable network, including CNN Films' first Academy Award® for *Navalny*. Acclaimed titles include the Peabody Award winning and 13-time Emmy® Award-winning *Anthony Bourdain Parts Unknown*; five

time Emmy® nominee, Apollo 11, directed by Todd Douglas Miller; Emmy® nominated Eva Longoria: Searching for Mexico; the Emmy® Award-nominated “Decades Series”: The Sixties, The Seventies, The Eighties, The Nineties, The 2000s, and The 2010s, executive produced by Tom Hanks and Gary Goetzman; The Last Movie Stars, directed by Ethan Hawke about the lives and careers of actors and humanitarians Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman; Emmy® winner Little Richard: I Am Everything, directed by Lisa Cortés; The Many Lives of Martha Stewart; This is Life with Lisa Ling; Primetime Emmy® and duPont-Columbia Award-winning, RBG, directed by Betsy West and Julie Cohen; See It Loud: The History of Black Television, executive produced by LeBron James and Maverick Carter; Space Shuttle Columbia: The Final Flight in partnership with the BBC; the Producers Guild Award and three-time Emmy® Award-winning Stanley Tucci: Searching for Italy; BAFTA nominee and Directors Guild Award winner, Three Identical Strangers, directed by Tim Wardle; and the five-time Emmy® Award-winning United Shades of America with W. Kamau Bell; The Whole Story with Anderson Cooper; and Who’s Talking to Chris Wallace?.

CNN Originals can be seen on CNN, the CNN Original Hub on Max and discovery+, the CNN Originals FAST channel, and for pay TV subscription via CNN.com, CNN apps and cable operator platforms.

About Magnolia Pictures

A leading independent film studio for 20 years, Magnolia Pictures is the theatrical and home entertainment distribution arm of the Wagner/Cuban Companies, boasting a library of over 500 titles. Recent releases include THE LEAGUE, from director Sam Pollard and executive producers Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson and Tariq Trotter that celebrates the dynamic journey of Negro League baseball's triumphs and challenges through the first half of the twentieth century; Paul Schrader’s Venice and New York Film Festival crime thriller MASTER GARDENER; Lisa Cortés’ Sundance opening night documentary LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EVERYTHING; SXSW Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award-winning comedy I LOVE MY DAD, starring Patton Oswalt; double Oscar nominee COLLECTIVE, Alexander Nanau’s jaw-dropping expose of corruption at the highest levels of government; Dawn Porter’s JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE; Hirokazu Kore-Eda’s Cannes Palme d’Or winner and Oscar-nominated SHOPLIFTERS; Oscar-nominated RBG; Ruben Östlund’s Cannes Palme d’Or winner and Oscar-nominated THE SQUARE; and Raoul Peck and James Baldwin’s Oscar-nominated I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO. Upcoming releases include KOKOMO CITY, D. Smith’s uproarious and unapologetic Sundance documentary about Black trans sex workers; Steve James’ A COMPASSIONATE SPY, a gripping real-life spy story about controversial Manhattan Project physicist Ted Hall; Sundance documentary INVISIBLE BEAUTY, an essential memoir of fashion pioneer Bethann Hardison; JOAN BAEZ I AM A NOISE, a revealing exploration of the iconic folk singer and activist; Venice

International Film Festival world premiere THE PROMISED LAND, starring Made Mikkelsen; Joanna Arnow's Cannes Directors' Fortnight breakout comedy THE FEELING THAT THE TIME FOR DOING SOMETHING HAS PASSED, executive produced by Sean Baker; and Raoul Peck's UNTITLED ERNEST COLE DOCUMENTARY, which reveals the untold story of the essential photographer's life and work.

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