

# Viewers find somebody to love in Queen

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The year is 1986. The stage is dark, the amps hum loudly, and the scores of fans grow restless in the densely packed stadium. The sounds of the crowd grow until they reach their peak when a spotlight shines upon an iconic figure.

The man standing front grasping a microphone is known for having had the soul of a true entertainer who lived life to the fullest until he tragically passed of AIDS-related pneumonia in 1991 at age 45.

Rami Malek (Mr. Robot) stars as Freddie Mercury in *Bohemian Rhapsody*, which came out Nov. 2 this year. The film is directed by Bryan Singer (X-Men films) and focuses on Mercury as he becomes the frontman for a local band he renames Queen, which grows to dominate the rock music world. Even today, the titular song of the movie remains one of the most widely enjoyed across generations.

Before becoming Mercury, he was born Farrokh Bulsara from Zanzibar. Mercury goes to a bar for a live show of band called Smile, who he has been following as a loyal fan. After the show, the lead singer of Smile quits, and Mercury approaches guitarist Brian May (Gwilym Lee) and drummer Roger Taylor (Ben Hardy) to see if they might play the songs he wrote. Soon enough, Mercury joins the band along with new bassist John Deacon (Joseph Mazzello), and Smile, now Queen, spontaneously sell



MB Mikayuh Bowers/Freelance artist

their van make their own album. Audiences see the band's rise to fame and their struggle to keep Queen together. The band fights constantly, and corruptive figures in Mercury's life encourage him to go solo, which he at first refuses. Mercury departs from Queen, and sinks into a dark hole that reaches its deepest point when he receives his fatal diagnosis. This leads to him reuniting with his bandmates, apologizing and saying he

needs them in a heartfelt scene. The movie ends with an intense reenactment of the unforgettable 1985 Live Aid concert at Wembley Stadium. There were few dry eyes in the theater audience after Mercury

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struck the piano.

The existing band members of Queen had final say over the movie. Overall, fans seem to agree that *Bohemian Rhapsody* is an exceptional film that celebrates Mercury's memory—throughout the duration of the movie, audiences sang along, clapped, hollered, and shed tears—but some reviewers have made claims of bias and hiding Mercury's true story involving drugs and sex.

However, the defense against this is that the purpose of the film was to tell Mercury's story while also honoring him and his

family still alive today. After all, Mercury says he did not want to be the “poster boy” for AIDS.

The film is filled with many memorable scenes that truly make it special to the audience. Some of the best moments in the film were between Mary Austin (Lucy Boynton) and Mercury, especially when the crowd sings a song dedicated to her, “Love of my Life.” Another most popular favorite is the end scene when the Live Aid concert commences and *Bohemian Rhapsody* is sung.

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