



Tina: ‘Goodness did not balance out Bad’

HBO’s touching story of music icon

by Dwight Brown

She’s like an eternal flame. Can’t remember when she wasn’t around. Can’t imagine life without her. That’s the magic that some music legends can create. They get people to think about them in the past, present and future. The here, now and always.

Tina Turner’s journey into the world of professional music began in 1957 when she, as Anna Mae Bullock, became the star singer with the Ike Turner’s Kings of Rhythm band. The 1960 hit song “A Fool in Love” and a name change to Tina Turner kickstarted her on the road to fame and formed her persona as the “Queen of Rock ‘n’ Roll.”

In “Tina” the new HBO 118-minute tribute by directors Dan Lindsay and T.J. Martin, Turner, in her own words, describes various pivotal epochs in her life and career. Confessions, revelations, setbacks and breakthroughs.

Yes, Angela Bassett, Oprah Winfrey, MTV’s Kurt Loder



Tina Turner performs in 1973 in this photo released by HBO for the new documentary “Tina.” (Photo via AP)

and her manager Roger Davies appear and recollect their interactions too. Rare footage, audio tapes (a pivotal 1981 interview with People magazine), personal photos and new interviews abound. But no one and nothing leaves a stronger impression than the reflective 79-year-old Turner reminiscing and explaining the pitfalls and rewards of her stardom: “The goodness did not balance out the bad.”

Measured, thoughtful and

determined to tell her story, she goes back to that fateful time, meeting the brilliant, troubled musician/showman Ike Turner and being enthralled then dismayed: “I was 17-years-old. I was young, naïve.” Once the floodgates open, it all comes back to her. The live shows, recording studios, Ikettes and physical and emotional trauma. Then fleeing her husband, reviving her career, working in nightclubs and dreaming of filling

rock stadiums one day.

The hardest memories to express are the times with Ike. Though, once the world could see how much she’d suffered and transcended, that scenario became part of her branding, like it or not. A blessing and a curse.

The good part is that music fans and everyday people related to her courageous story. The trouble is that mentioning the bad times retraumatized her. She thought she could abolish that

part of her PTSD by revealing it all in her 1986 bestseller I, Tina: My Life Story, co-written with Loder. It had the opposite effect. The bio fueled even more attention towards the nightmarish parts of her life. The 1993 film What’s Love Got to Do With It, which earned Oscar noms and \$56M at the box office, continued to hold that same spotlight on her.

Listening to her personal anecdotes and seeing how she has gracefully aged is like sitting at the feet of a great aunt waiting breathlessly for her to retell her life stories. She may tire of the exercise, but her fans will not. And hearing one more time how the denial of love from her mom, dad and Ike made her look for love as a performing artist never gets old.

In-between the memories and testimonies, a parade of songs and extraordinary performances keep the footage vibrant. “Proud Mary,” “River Deep Mountain High” and “Nutbush City Limits.” “Let’s Stay Together,” “Private Dancer,” “We Don’t Need Another Hero.” It’s all on her jukebox. If there is one song/performance that is missing, it’s

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Hall of Fame Honor for Eddie Murphy

Actor-Comedian moved by NAACP Image Awards induction

(AP) — Eddie Murphy has been inducted into the NAACP Image Awards Hall of Fame.

Murphy accepted his induction during the organization’s annual award ceremony on March 27. The award was presented by his longtime friend and “Coming 2 America” co-star Arsenio Hall.

“I’ve been making movies for 40 years now ... 40 years. This is the perfect thing to commemorate that and be brought into the hall of fame,” Murphy said. “Thank you very much. I’m very moved.”

The hall of fame induction is bestowed on an individual who is viewed as a pioneer in their respective field and whose influence shaped the “profession for generations to come.”

Previous inductees include Oprah Winfrey,



Actor and comedian Eddie Murphy has been inducted into the NAACP Image Awards Hall of Fame. (AP file photo)

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