

# Throwback: Aretha Franklin-Rock Steady



[youtube id="EXJx2NnnxA0"]Aretha Franklin was the Queen Of Soul and had recorded her signature song "Respect" during the '60s. When the '70s arrived she had enough experience with gospel, soul, blues, and pop to bring her sound into another decade with the confidence of an artist who has come into her own. *Young, Gifted and Black* took its title from Nina Simone's song and it was one of Franklin's best moments at Atlantic Records. There were songs from other writers but Franklin's four original compositions included the dance floor grooves of "Rock Steady." She had sold a lot of records and in 1968, she became the first recipient of the Grammy for Best Female R&B Performance and would win the award for eight years in a row. But "Rock Steady" proved that Franklin's voice did not get left behind in the '60s but moved powerfully into the *Soul Train* era. "Rock Steady" became a timeless party record for all generations and maintained her versatility as she had just recorded the rock-oriented *Live At The Fillmore West* in 1971 and then released the live gospel album *Amazing Grace* in 1972 not long after *Young, Gifted and Black*. The album has been recognized among fans and critics as one of the best albums ever recorded. In the summer of 2019, Franklin's long-lost concert film, *Amazing Grace* will open in theaters April 5th.Â

---

# Aretha Franklin: Amazing Grace Official Trailer

[youtube id="gkK0IQwTiKE"]Aretha Franklin's long-awaited *Amazing Grace* concert film will finally be in theaters this spring. Franklin's January 1972 performance at New Bethel Baptist Church in Watts, Los Angeles was kept away all these years. The public has never seen the film because Franklin was not happy with the end result and there were also legal issues. The album from the performance is the highest-selling live gospel album ever and it is also Franklin's most sold disc. Producer Alan Elliott acquired the rights to the film in 2007 and was able to work with Franklin's estate to release it. *Amazing Grace* debuted at the DOC NYC last November and it will be in theaters nationwide April 5th. Franklin passed in 2018 at age 76 after a battle with cancer. In other news about Franklin, [Variety](#) reports that her biopic *Respect*, with Jennifer Hudson starring as her, will be released August 20, 2020.Â