

J. Kevin Swain Directs Biography: Bobby Brown

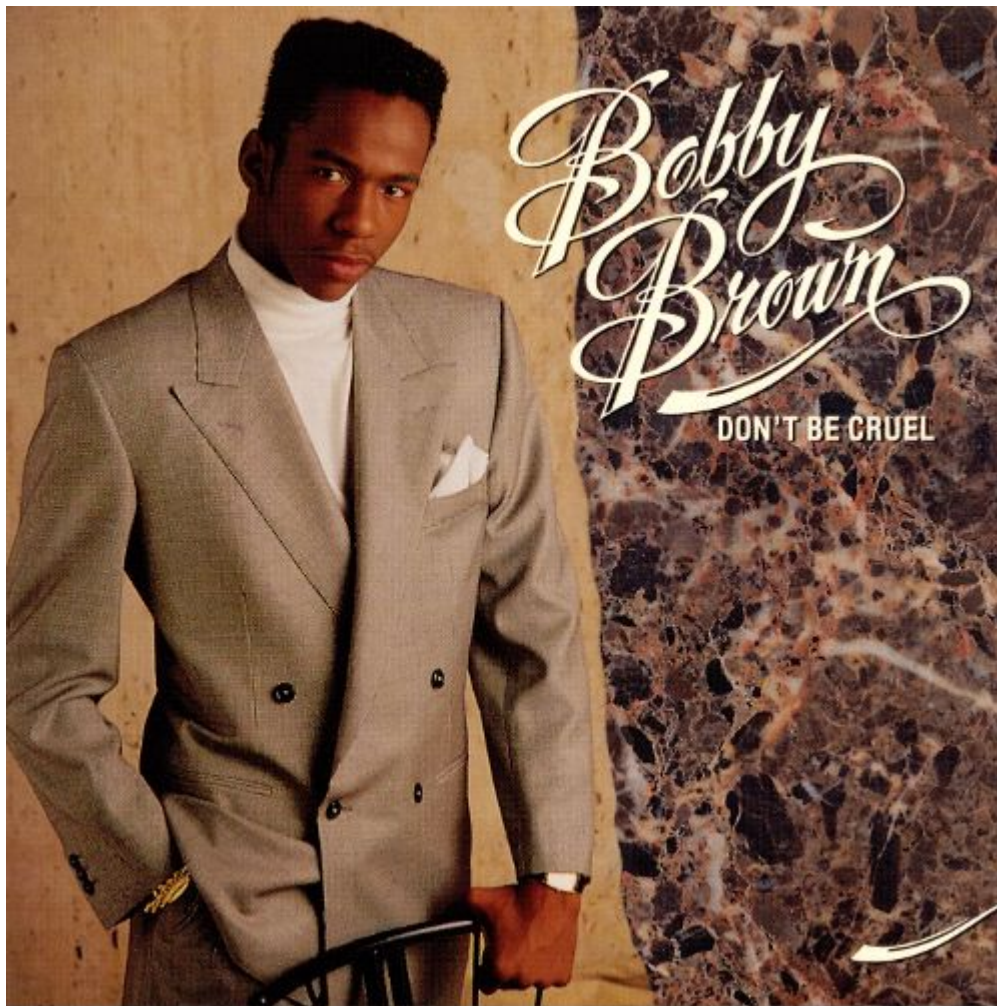


J. Kevin Swain is the director and executive producer of the upcoming *Biography: Bobby Brown* on the A&E Network. It was Swain's second time helping present Brown's life to the public as he was one of the producers of *Being Bobby Brown*. He traveled with Brown and spoke with his family, friends and colleagues to dig deeper into his life. The two-night documentary explores Brown's rise as a successful artist, his addiction struggles and the loss of his two children and first wife Whitney Houston. Swain had encouraged Brown years ago to tell his story and last year Brown reached out and asked the veteran director to take on the job. Brown says, "My longstanding relationship and great respect for Kevin made it an easy choice to select him to direct my documentary."

Swain's history in the world of media made him an ideal pick for Brown. His past work on The Source Hip-Hop Music Awards, The Soul Train Awards, Tupac Live From The House of Blues and most recently Amazon Prime's Summer Walker Live more than prepared him for Brown's documentary. Swain received a Grammy nomination for Public Enemy's The Enemy Strikes Live in 1993 and an Emmy nomination for the VH1 Rock Docs episode "Soul Train: The Hippest Trip In America." He is currently finishing the docuseries Paris Noire which looks at the legacy of African-Americans in France's most popular city. Swain is also directing Pharrell's 2022 Something In The Water festival this summer.

Biography: Bobby Brown will debut on the A&E Network Monday, May 30th at 8 PM ET.

Throwback: Bobby Brown-Every Little Step



[youtube id="P0FKzPfsxA4"] Bobby Brown's "Every Little Step" was part of his *Don't Be Cruel* explosion into the middle of pop culture in 1988-89 with New Jack Swing as its guide. Brown left New Edition and started his solo career in 1986 but it wasn't until sophomore album *Don't Be Cruel* that he became a star on his own. Brown's dance performance in the video for the L.A. Reid and Babyface-penned "Every Little Step" enhanced its reception. The singer's dance moves and Gumby haircut became signposts of the '80s at its best. The hip-hop and R&B connection in New Jack Swing took off with *Don't Be Cruel* two years after Janet Jackson's *Control* which had Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis's influence on the genre. Brown's album became the most sold of 1989 and he earned first Grammy for Best Male R&B Vocal Performance. He was an heir to Michael Jackson's ability to own the stage with his charisma, movement and vocals. Bobby Brown's inspiration from Jackson was passed on and artists like Usher and Chris Brown count Bobby as one of their

influences. Bobby Brown's history was presented twice in *The New Edition Story* in 2017 and *The Bobby Brown Story* miniseries in 2018.Â

Media Questions Of The Week



How much of *The Bobby Brown Story* is fact and how much is fiction?



Who is the anonymous author of the Op-Ed piece in the [New York Times](#) about controlling President Trump's capricious decisions?Â

[youtube id="xoBt10jw_UM"]

Why did someone take a photo of *Cosby Show* alumnus Geoffrey Owens working at Trader Joes's to shame him on the internet?

Best Musical Television Performances Of 2016

[youtube id="httV17tXBePgfo"]

The Roots On *The Tonight Show* The Roots showed everyone again why they are the hardest working hip-hop band with their consistent sweat as Jimmy Fallon's house band. Whether it was Black Thought improving a rap about the Games Of Thrones or their recent appearance with Shigeru Miyamoto to perform the Super Mario theme, they keep delivering the musical goods night after night.

[youtube id="L_Hgh7sPDLM"]

Beyonce and Bruno Mars' Superbowl Halftime Performances Beyonce stirred-up a lot of people with her double entendre performance dedicated to the Carolina Panthers and The Black Panthers. Her performance was strategic as usual because she debuted her "Formation" video the night before. Bruno Mars' show at Superbowl XLVIII that he was invited back for Super Bowl 50 and he was just as exciting as the first time.

[youtube id="BDxKVYUHBdA"]

A Tribe Called Quest On *Saturday Night Live* Â A Tribe Called Quest's appearance on *Saturday Night Live* was bittersweet and epic. The passing of Phife Dawg in March was one of the year's great losses but ATCQ's SNL performances were passionate and intensified by the presence of Busta Rhymes, Consequence and the painting of Phife that dropped from the ceiling.

Sheila E's Prince Tribute At The BET Awards Â Prince fans are still trying to digest the fact of his death and the Sheila E-lead tribute helped with closure. After the weak Billboard tribute dominated by Madonna it was critical for BET to do a better job and thanks to Sheila E and a host of others, the Purple One got a proper TV send-off.

[Solange – Cranes In The Sky Live @ SNL BMF by *Blak_Music_First*](#)

[Solange – Don't Touch My Hair \(Feat... by *Blak_Music_First*](#)

Solange On *Saturday Night Live* Solange surprised everyone by unexpectedly releasing one of the year's best R&B albums with *A Seat At The Table*. She brought her picturesque videos to life onstage with performances of "Cranes In The Sky" and "Don't Touch My Hair" which seemed to divide white and Black viewers on Twitter.

Brandy At The Soul Train Awards Brandy received the Lady Of Soul Award at the Soul Train Awards and she showed everyone why she epitomizes the spirit of the honor. A 10-minute show of hits included an appearance from Mase on "Top Of The World" and had the whole audience on their feet.

Teddy Riley At The Soul Train Awards Teddy Riley's genius as the architect of New Jack Swing was recognized after 30 years of work with the Soul Train Legend Award. Riley's performance with Doug E. Fresh, Bobby Brown, Tito Jackson, Wreckx-n-Effect, Guy and V. Bozeman was a historical moment of timeless hits.

Beyonce and Kendrick Lamar At The BET Awards Beyonce and Kendrick Lamar's performance of "Freedom" at the BET Awards had fire, water, smoke and an urgency that made it one of the reasons to watch the show again.

[youtube id="cizEeiWpVdM"]

Sharon Jones and The Dap-Kings *Luke Cage* Jones and the Dap-Kings performed "100 Days, 100 Nights" on the Netflix show and thrilled a new audience while helping to make *Luke Cage* one of the coolest shows of the year.

[youtube id="ADrWgBZeXqY"]

Jidenna's *Luke Cage* Jidenna's album is not out yet but strategic appearances like this one performing "Long Live The

Chief" is keeping fans eager for its release. Jidenna's regal and bold style was perfect for Cottonmouth's intense demeanor and upscale Harlem nightclub.

[youtube id="H57qbq7nEw"]

Raphael Saadiq *Luke Cage* Raphael Saadiq sang "Good Man" and raised the question about his next project while adding a vintage musical addition to the show.

[youtube id="rzDgQDZssyc"]

Charles Bradley *Luke Cage* Bradley's time in front of the camera singing "Ain't It A Sin" gave lead character Cage one of the most soulful takedown moments in season one.

Teyana Taylor, Dej Loaf, French Montana, The Lox and Lil Mama *VH1 Tribute To Lil' Kim* Teyana Taylor and Lil Mama captured the essence of the Queen Bee with a ferocious energy that rocked the stage and reminded everyone why the Brooklyn legend became an icon of the '90's.

Fantasia, Monica and Tweet *Tribute To Missy* Â *VH1 Hip Hop Honors* Fantasia, Tweet and Monica's tribute to Missy had so much soul and reflected Missy's as one of the rare artists to have created successful songs in R&B as well as hip-hop.

Queen Latifah, Monie Love, Rah Digga, Lady Of Rage and Yo-Yo *Queen Latifah Tribute VH1 Hip Hop Honors* Queen Latifah's all-star performance of "U.N.I.T.Y." became the anthem of the night and introduced and reintroduced some of the best women rappers of the past two decades.