

Little Richard Documentary Soundtrack Streaming Now



Little Richard: I Am Everything: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack is now available on all streaming platforms. The album has music from Lisa Cortés' superb documentary about the late rock and roll icon. Little Richard's hits "Tutti Frutti," "Long Tall Sally," "Good Golly, Miss Molly" and "Rip It Up" are featured alongside two previously unheard covers from Valerie June and Cory Henry. Tamar-kali's original piece from the soundtrack is also included on the 14-song album. The CD format will arrive in September and the vinyl version will come out in December. The black vinyl recording is coming and a Tutti Frutti-colored pressing of the album can be pre-ordered via VareseSarabande.com and CraftRecordings.com.

The documentary follows Richard's life from his childhood in Macon, Georgia, becoming a rock star in the '50s, and his constant push and pull between secular life and religion. Richard's contemporaries, musicians, and academics were interviewed and shared their insights on his music, cultural significance, and personal struggles. In 2010, "Tutti Frutti" was added to the National Recording Registry because it

innovated popular music. The documentary is one of the few times Richard's genius has been publicly recognized. In 1993 he received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and he was inducted into the Songwriter's Hall of Fame in 2003. He was also inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in 2015 before passing in 2020. *Little Richard: I Am Everything* can be watched on Video On Demand and more information can be found at littlericharddocumentary.com. Check out my [review](#) here.

Tracklisting

CD:

1. Good Golly, Miss Molly – Little Richard
2. Strange Things Happening Every Day – Valerie June
3. Baby (demo) – Little Richard
4. I'm Just A Lonely Guy (All Alone) – Little Richard
5. Tutti Frutti – Little Richard and His Band
6. Long Tall Sally – Little Richard and His Band
7. Lucille – Little Richard and His Band
8. Bama Lama Bama Loo – Little Richard
9. Rip It Up – Little Richard and His Band
10. Ready Teddy – Little Richard and His Band
11. The Girl Can't Help It – Little Richard and His Band
12. Send Me Some Lovin' – Little Richard and His Band
13. Tutti Frutti – Cory Henry
14. Legacy – Tamar-kali

LP:

Side A

1. Good Golly, Miss Molly – Little Richard
2. Strange Things Happening Every Day – Valerie June
3. Baby (demo) – Little Richard
4. I'm Just A Lonely Guy (All Alone) – Little Richard
5. Tutti Frutti – Little Richard and His Band

6. Long Tall Sally – Little Richard and His Band

Side B

1. Lucille – Little Richard and His Band
2. Bama Lama Bama Loo – Little Richard
3. Rip It Up – Little Richard and His Band
4. Ready Teddy – Little Richard and His Band
5. The Girl Can't Help It – Little Richard and His Band
6. Send Me Some Lovin' – Little Richard and His Band
7. Tutti Frutti – Cory Henry
8. Legacy – Tamar-kali

**Little Richard: I Am
Everything Unearths Complex
Rock Savant**



BXXBFH LITTLE RICHARD at Wrigley Fields, Los Angeles, 2 September 1956

Little Richard: I Am Everything makes the ultimate case for the rock icon's relevance with a story told mostly using his own words. Lisa Cortés' film traces Little Richard's rise as a pioneering Black rock star from his childhood in Macon, Georgia to finally being recognized by the music industry at age 64. Fellow musicians, friends and scholars offer their perspectives on Richard's genius, complicated by a lifelong tension between his sexuality and religious beliefs.

Viewers, find out that Richard had an intense religious life as a youngster attending both his mother's and father's separate churches. He would take a singing solo at his mother's Macon New Hope Baptist Church and try to turn it into a concert. It was an act that got him banned from taking new solos. Like so many gay kids Richard was kicked out of the family home by his father despite his mother's acceptance of him. Music was a natural vocation but it was also a temporary

redemption in his relationship with his father. Richard gets invited back into the family home after his father hears his music on the radio but the emotional wounds are already there. Old interview footage shows Richard telling an interviewer how his father always disapproved of him and he almost breaks into tears. Being a Black gay Silent Generation man on his way to pioneering rock and roll music he was still not without allies. Singers Billy Wright and Esquerita would come into his life and help him get his first record deal, conceptualize his look, and teach him how to play piano. Louis Jordan, who rarely gets credit for being a proto-rock pioneer is also mentioned as an influence on Richard's music.

" I am the emancipator and the architect. I'm the one who started it all."

-Little Richard

There were other defining moments revealed such as the time when Sister Rosetta Tharpe put a teenaged Richard on stage with her at the Macon City Auditorium to sing "Strange Things Happening Every Day." When he finds his own voice years later as a new Black star with "Tutti Frutti" the success of it all is hampered by the rules of segregation. The recording industry quickly found white artists like Pat Boone to cover Black music for white audiences. Boone's lackluster versions of "Tutti Frutti" and "Long Tall Salley" sold more and lessened Richard's creditability in the eyes of the general public.

The outspoken Richard told an interviewer how Boone was a necessity for the white music industry because whites did not want their children idolizing a Black man. Things get complicated when Richard talks about how white kids discovered him and other Black artists and started attending the segregated Black shows to see them. The formula still applies in 2023 when Eminem is given access to rock radio but other rap acts are left on Black radio. Or when Adele is heard on

R&B stations but Jill Scott is never played on pop radio. Richard's dilemma is why bands like Living Colour and Fishbone were given minimal support by the music industry. The 38-year-old community-building Black Rock Coalition was formed in response to this issue.



BXXBCB LITTLE RICHARD at Wrigley Fields, Los Angeles, 2 September 1956

Commentators like ethnomusicologist Fredara Hadley talked about the absurdity of Pat Boone and the overall disregard for Black creatives. Nona Hendryx, Jason King, Billy Vera, Mick Jagger and Richard's bandmates all shared wonderful insight into his genius. But Ricard's accounts of his life are singularly candid, discerning and extremely funny. His laughter when he shares the anecdote about Pat Boone's inability to sing "Long Tall Salley" accurately exposes the ridiculousness of American racism. Richard's naturally effeminate mannerisms endeared him to white America and he was quick to explain how the pancake make-up and straightened hair allowed him to work in white clubs.

Black men wearing permed hair was not new; Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Billy Eckstine, and Ike Turner wore what was called a conk but Richard's look and music were wilder, theatrical and gay. English glam rockers, Alice Cooper, David Bowie, KISS, Sylvester, Prince, Marilyn Manson, Tyler, The Creator, Adam Lambert, Lil Nas X and Saucy Santana all have a debt to Richard's style. Bowie openly acknowledged his connection to Richard as did The Beatles and Elvis Presley.

By the end of the film Richard's contributions as one of rock's forefathers are lauded on a night at the American Music Awards after an introduction by Arsenio Hall. The 1997 event took place 42 years after his first hit record. But since that time his name had faded from the media and so far there has

been no discussion on a film about his life. *Little Richard: I Am Everything* is a welcomed piece about an artist who still is not mentioned enough in conversations about American cultural icons. It is also a revelatory portrait of Richard's struggles personally and with society and how these kinds of things always seem to be the catalysts behind great art. ***Little Richard: I Am Everything* is streaming on Amazon Prime.**

**Little Richard I Am
Everything Is Showing Now**



BXXBCN LITTLE RICHARD at Wrigley Fields, Los Angeles, 2 September 1956

Little Richard: I Am Everything debuts in theaters and online streaming today. Lisa Cortés documentary about the late rock and roll pioneer is having a limited run but can be seen online everywhere. Richard's reign in the '50s and '60s put him in a place to be one of the Black artists to break the color line by bringing Black and white audiences together. His influence is often overlooked and he never really fully recognized during his lifetime. The documentary follows his path from childhood to stardom and John Waters, Nona Hendryx and Billy Porter are a few of the artists to chime in on Richard's impact. Check out the trailer below and go to the [official website](#) to access viewing options. Stay tuned for a review of the documentary.

Little Richard: I Am Everything Documentary Coming In April

Little Richard: I Am Everything is coming to theaters in April. The late uncredited King of Rock is the subject of a documentary directed by Lisa Cortés. Richard's story as an early rock pioneer discovered by the Queen of Rock Rosetta Tharpe is examined in the film which has appearances from Mick Jagger, Billy Porter, Tom Jones and more. His musical contributions and conflicted sexuality are looked at as well as the racism he faced as a flamboyant Black man coming up in the '50s. Richard was one of the first Black artists to achieve crossover success yet white artists like Pat Boone were able to have more success with his songs. There are interviews with family members, musicians, queer scholars and a collection of archived footage. Magnolia Pictures is releasing the documentary for special one-night screenings on April 1st and then a digital release on April 21st. Dee Rees is the executive producer and Tamar-Kali composed the music for the film. Tickets are available at littlericharddocumentary.com.