

Hollywood vs. History

4 Amazing
True Stories
on the Big Screen

ADMIT ONE

★★★★★
MOVIE
PREMIERE
ROW A, SEAT 1

ADMIT ONE

PREMIERE
SEAT 1
ONE

Real Life

The Movie Version



Biopic

Biopic

(noun): A biographical picture. A movie that tells the story of a real person's life.

- Why do directors change the facts?
 - ★ To add exciting drama.
 - ★ To save time (compressing years into two hours).
 - ★ To make characters more sympathetic.



The King's Speech (2010)

King George VI must overcome a severe stammer (a speech problem) to lead his country during wartime. He hires a unique speech therapist named Lionel Logue.

In the Movie	In Real Life
Timeline: Started therapy in the 1930s	Fact: Started much earlier, in 1926.
The Stammer: Very severe and crippling	Fact: Relatively mild.
Politics: Winston Churchill supports the King	Fact: Churchill violently opposed him.

Quick Check: True or False?

1. The real speech therapy started in the 1930s.

False



2. King George VI had a speech therapist named Lionel Logue.

True



3. The movie exaggerated how bad the King's stammer was.

True





Nowhere Boy (2009)

Young John Lennon grows up in Liverpool. He feels torn between his strict Aunt Mimi and his fun, music-loving mother, Julia.

In the Movie

The Band: "The Beatles" are never mentioned

Paul McCartney: Paul is much shorter than John

The Fight: John punches Paul in the jaw

In Real Life

Fact: Historically accurate! They were called "The Quarrymen" first.

Fact: They were exactly the same height.

Fact: John never hit Paul in real life.

Quick Check: Short Answer

1. Who raised John Lennon for most of his childhood?

Answer: His Aunt Mimi

2. Did John Lennon really punch Paul McCartney?

Answer: No

3. What instrument did John's mother teach him to play?

Answer: The banjo

CINEMA

CINEMA

ADMIT ONE

RETRO
TICKET



Walk the Line (2005)

Country music singer Johnny Cash finds fame, battles heavy **addiction**, and falls in love with his musical partner, June Carter.

In the Movie

First Wife (Vivian): Shown as mean and unsupportive

Record Deal: Easily signed by Sun Records

Prison: Cash fought hard to play at Folsom Prison

In Real Life

Fact: She was very nice and supportive (and the movie hid her African-American heritage).

Fact: Cash had to beg the owner constantly to listen to him.

Fact: Cash never went to prison himself, only jail overnight.

Quick Check: True or False?

1. Johnny Cash spent many years in prison.



False

2. In real life, his first wife Vivian was very supportive.



True

3. The movie shows exactly how Cash got his first record deal.



False



Red Joan (2018)

A quiet British grandmother is suddenly arrested. She is revealed to be a KGB **spy** who stole nuclear secrets for 40 years!

In the Movie

University: She attends Cambridge University

Politics: She is disgusted by communists

Her Husband: An English physics professor

In Real Life (Based on Melita Norwood)

Fact: She actually went to the University of Southampton.

Fact: She was a proud, lifelong communist.

Fact: A Russian-Jewish math teacher.

Quick Check: Fill in the Blank

TOP SECRET

1. Melita Norwood stole **Nuclear / Atomic** secrets for the KGB.
2. For how many years did she act as a spy? **40 years**
3. True or False: The movie accurately showed her real political beliefs. **False**

CONFIDENTIAL

The Hollywood Exaggeration Scale

The King's Speech:
Changed timeline, but
the essence is true.

Nowhere Boy:
Added a fake punch,
but true to his
teenage emotions.

Walk the Line:
Changed his wife's
personality and
exaggerated his prison

Red Joan: Completely
changed her politics,
husband, and
university.

**Mostly True
to Life**

**Highly
Exaggerated**



Time to Talk!

Is it okay for movies to change history to make a better story? Why or why not?

Which of these four movies do you want to watch the most? Explain why.