Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**20 Feet From Stardom Documentary Film Study**

Read the questions before you watch the film so that you will know what to look for while you watch. While you are watching, take notes about each questions in the spaces provided, however, make sure that your note taking doesn't interfere with the watching the film. Answer each questions using complete thoughts, in complete sentences.

1. How was B-roll effectively utilized in this documentary to help tell the story?

2. How does the soundtrack (not just the music) enhance the film? Why?

**3. Cuts and Transitions:** In the film, watch for the following cuts/transitions and describe the scene and how the cut was used in enhance the scene.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type:** | **Scene Example** |
| Shots |  |
| Cuts |  |
| Standard Cut |  |
| Jump Cut |  |
| Cutaway |  |
| J-Cuts |  |
| L-Cuts |  |
| Cutting on Action |  |
| Cutaways |  |
| Match Cuts |  |
| Fade Up or Down |  |
| Dissolve |  |

3. How often do you notice the backup vocalists on albums, in concerts, or on television? Will you notice them more after seeing the film?

4. Which singer did you relate to most or find the most interesting, and why?

5. In the film, famous singers such as Bruce Springsteen discuss on what it takes to move from the back of the stage to the front, but what do you think it takes to break through and become a soloist?

6. The film mainly examines the rock scene in American and British music in the ‘70s. Do you imagine there is a different experience for backup singers in R&B, pop, hip hop, and other genres?

7. The film discusses how backup singers are used less and less in studios today. Have you noticed this in the music you listen to? What is the effect of auto-tuned or studio-produced voices?

8. Lisa Fischer says that music videos changed the pressures placed on vocalists. In the days of radio, the focus was their voice. Which of your favorite singers would probably not have succeeded in the music video age? Which would not have survived in the radio age?

11. Did this documentary appeal to you? Explain why or why not.

12. If the filmmakers were to ask you how the film could be improved, what would you tell them? Describe the changes you would suggest in detail and the reasons for your suggestions.

13. What truths did this documentary present? What did it leave out?

14. List 6 facts about backup singers that you did not know previously.