

# TRUE STORY?

*real movies, real lives*

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Everyone loves a good movie no matter what the topic. According to *Wikipedia.com*, biographies or autobiographies are defined as “more than a list of facts like birth, education, work, relationships, and death. It also delves into the motions of experiencing such events. A biography develops complex insight and highlights different textures of personality including intimate details of experiences” With the recent outpour of biographies in box offices, it makes people start to think that movies are better if they are based on fact. It also leads them to wonder why biographies are growing in popularity.

“We are attracted to films about real people who had a real place in history. Biographies are a good way to humanize or dress history,” said Film teacher, Mary Anne Demas. People like biographies because they are interested in why people are famous or successful. “I am interested in how people became important. What happened in their lives? Did they overcome obstacles? It can be about someone who took a risk that made all the difference... It provides an insight into what propelled the individual to greatness,” said Robert Comstock, Broadcast teacher.

Biographies cannot always be counted on to be completely factual. For example, although the movie *North Country* is about a real trial, it is fictionalized. Many biographies are not completely factual; most

are based on real people or some facts, but cannot be taken word for word. “Fictionalizing things is always dangerous because people believe what they see, but it’s a wonderful way to make things come alive,” said Demas. She used *Walk the Line*, the new biography about Johnny Cash and June Carter’s romance as an example. “How much can we really know about the Cashes? It’s all hear-say... We trust films and we believe that the filmmaker gives a balanced view. We should do our research,” she added. “Is what you see on the stage or film more real than what plays out where you are sitting?” said Demas.

What makes a biography really interesting is how it is produced. They can be based on a true story, but highly fictionalized or very objective much like a documentary. On September 26 and 27 PBS aired a documentary on Bob Dylan by Martin Scorsese. “On Bob Dylan, I was disappointed because it was a documentary, so it was not as thorough. Scorsese did not use his expertise; it was oversold,” said Demas.

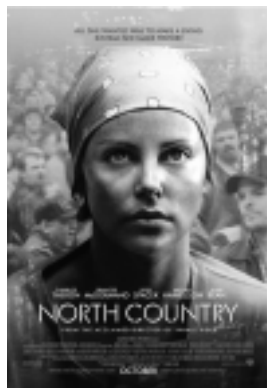
Directors have to do intensive research about the subjects of their biographies. During the production of *Get Rich or Die Tryin’*, production designer Mark Geraghty researched the set design in movies, books, the internet, and documentaries. The crew and director have to get to know and understand the characters and time period that they are trying to portray.

“I like a good story, whether it is true or not doesn’t matter,” said Comstock.

## Biographies in the box office

### Walk the Line

**Genre:** Drama/Music  
**Synopsis:** The story of Johnny Cash’s life, from small beginnings to the peak of his career.  
**Rating:** PG-13  
**Cast:**  
Joaquin Phoenix-Johnny Cash  
Reese Witherspoon-June Carter  
Ginnifer Goodwin-Vivian Cash  
Robert Patrick-Ray Cash



### North Country

**Genre:** Drama  
**Synopsis:** Josey Aimes had to deal with abuse while working as a miner and decided to fight back.  
**Rating:** R  
**Cast:**  
Charlize Theron-Josy Aimes  
Elle Peterson-Karen Aimes  
Thomas Curtis-Sammy Aimes  
Frances McDormand-Glory

### Good Night, and Good Luck

**Genre:** Drama/History  
**Synopsis:** Broadcast Journalist Edward Murrow uses his position in the CBS newsroom to try and get rid of Senator Joseph McCarthy. It focuses on the beginning of the CBS news station.  
**Rating:** PG  
**Cast:**  
David Strathairn-Edward Murrow  
Robert Downey Jr.-Joe Wershba



### Get Rich or Die Tryin’

**Genre:** Action/Crime/Drama/Music  
**Synopsis:** The life of Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson.  
**Rating:** R  
**Cast:**  
50 Cent-Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson  
Adewale Akinnuoye Agbaje-Majestic  
Joy Bryant-Charlene  
Omar Benson Miller-Keryl

### Domino

**Genre:** Action/Crime/Drama/Thriller  
**Synopsis:** The life story of Domino Harvey, the daughter of actor Laurence Harvey. She quit her job as a model to become a bounty hunter.  
**Rating:** R  
**Cast:**  
Kiera Knightly-Domino Harvey  
Mickey Rourke-Ed Mosbey  
Edgar Ramirez-Choco  
Riz Abbasi-Alf



## Local Movie Times



Marcus Theatre  
1301 Hilltop Ave.  
Chicago Heights  
(708)747-0800

**Chicken Little (G)** 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20  
**Derailed (R)** 4:30, 7:05, 9:40  
**Get Rich or Die Tryin’ (R)** 3:45, 6:30, 9:15  
**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (PG-13)** 4:00, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30,

9:45  
**The Ice Harvest (R)** 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50  
**In The Mix (PG-13)** 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00  
**Jarhead (R)** 4:50, 7:30, 10:05  
**Just Friends (R)** 5:15, 7:35, 9:55  
**Rent (PG-13)** 3:50, 6:40, 9:30  
**Walk the Line (PG-13)** 4:10, 7:00, 9:50  
**Yours, Mine and Ours (PG)** 5:05, 7:15, 9:25  
**Zathura (PG)** 4:40, 6:55, 9:05

Glenwood Theatre  
18255 S. Halsted  
Glenwood  
(708)754-7469

**Chicken Little (G)** 4:35, 6:20, 8:15  
**Get Rich or Die Tryin’ (R)** 5:00, 7:30  
**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (PG-13)** 4:35, 7:45  
**Zathura (PG)** 5:05, 7:20

\*All times for November 23

Graphic by Anne Robertson  
Source: imdb.com, google.com