



ELTON JOHN

NEVER TOO LATE

BIOGRAPHY

R.J. Cutler

Director

R.J. Cutler is an award-winning director and producer who has made some of the most significant documentary films and television series of the past quarter century: Oscar-nominated *The War Room*, Emmy-nominated *A Perfect Candidate*, Peabody Award-winning *Listen to Me Marlon*, the inaugural winner of the Emmy Award for Outstanding Non-Fiction Television Series “**American High**”, and Oscar-shortlisted *Billie Eilish: The World’s a Little Blurry*.

In 2020, Cutler launched his production company, This Machine, which quickly established itself as one of the premier producers of documentary film and television. Spearheaded by R.J., This Machine is a filmmaker-driven company that explores the times in which we live through non-fiction storytelling in all media. Through This Machine, Cutler produced and directed *BELUSHI* (Showtime) exploring the too-short life of once in a generation talent John Belushi through previously unheard audiotapes. Next, Cutler directed and produced docuseries, “**Dear...**” (AppleTV+) which profiled icons such as Spike Lee, Gloria Steinem, and Misty Copeland through the eyes of those who have been most affected by their work.

Cutler directed and produced the critically-acclaimed and global phenomenon *Billie Eilish: The World’s a Little Blurry*, which his production company sold to AppleTV+ in a [record breaking sale](#). R.J. peels back the curtain to explore what it’s like to grow up in the limelight through Eilish’s candid vulnerability on personal heartbreak, mental health struggles, and rapid fame. Cutler’s documentary introduced the popstar to millions and brought a [record-breaking 33% of new viewers to the streamer](#).

The intimacy and vulnerability that Cutler elicits from his world-famous subjects is unmatched. He spent nine months with Anna Wintour and filmed her almost every day for his Sundance Award-winning 2009 film, *The September Issue*. With unprecedented access, R.J. artfully captured Wintour and former Vogue creative director Grace Coddington’s multi-faceted creative partnership on screen. A few years later, with dedicated time and patience, R.J. convinced former Vice President Dick Cheney to participate in his 2013 sit-down documentary, *The World*



According to Dick Cheney, where Cheney exchanged his personal anecdotes and controversial opinions spanning from CIA torture to the Iraq War.

R.J.'s most recent directorial series "**Big Vape**," currently streaming on Netflix, dives into the controversial and striking rise of E-cigarette company Juul. The series premiered on Netflix this past October at number one on the platform's Top 10 List. Alongside his production company, This Machine, Cutler partnered with Amblin to produce this series. Last fall, R.J. also produced feature documentary **South to Black Power** which premiered on HBO in November and is inspired by New York Times columnist Charles Blow's *The Devil You Know: A Black Power Manifesto* which explores his proposition to reverse The Great Migration of African Americans to the North of the country back to the South to reclaim their land, political representation, and culture. R.J. and This Machine also produced **The Disappearance of Shere Hite**, a feature documentary acquired by IFC after its premiere at Sundance and released in November, about the pioneering women's sexuality researcher who is voiced by Dakota Johnson. Cutler received a PGA nomination for his producing work on the film. This past summer, R.J. produced **Anthem**, which depicts an experimental music journey across the United States to reimagine the country's National Anthem and is currently streaming on Hulu. Earlier last year, he directed and produced "**Murf the Surf**" (MGM+), a four part true crime docuseries released in February that chronicles the rise of the infamous Roland Murphy, the criminal mind behind the biggest jewel theft in American history.

Next, Cutler will direct an upcoming feature documentary titled "**Elton John: Never Too Late**" about the music icon **Elton John** for Disney+. This documentary feature marks his second project with the music icon as Cutler executive produced the Emmy-winning Disney+ filmed concert **Elton John Live: Farewell From Dodger Stadium** last year. Cutler is also directing an upcoming **Untitled Martha Stewart Documentary** (Netflix), and a three-part documentary series following the **2024 World Series** in partnership with Ron Howard and his production company, Imagine Entertainment, and Major League Baseball. Cutler is also producing the upcoming feature **Lee Soo Man: The King of K-Pop** (Amazon Prime) that will chronicle the life of the iconic K-Pop producer whose work put his country on the map and sparked a global movement, and a documentary feature about the origins of **Mad Magazine** and how the magazine became a staple of American satire.

Cutler's scripted work includes conceiving and directing the television series **Nashville**, directing the feature film **If I Stay**, and creating, writing, directing and producing the Webby Award-winning podcast **The Oval Office Tapes**.

Cutler's work has been nominated for an Academy Award and he is the recipient of numerous other awards including The Critic's Choice Pennebaker Award, two Emmys, two Peabody Awards, a GLAAD Award, two Cinema Eye Awards, and two Television Academy Honor



Awards. In 2009, the Museum of Television and Radio held a four-day retrospective of Cutler's work.

Shortened Bio Updated 6/27/24

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In 2020, Cutler launched his production company, This Machine, to continue focusing on developing and producing non-scripted film and television projects. Through This Machine, Cutler produced and directed ***BELUSHI*** (Showtime), "***Dear...***" (AppleTV+), and ***Billie Eilish: The World's a Little Blurry*** (AppleTV+). Prior to launching This Machine, Cutler directed ***The September Issue*** and ***The World According to Dick Cheney***.

R.J.'s most recent directed series are "***Big Vape***" (Netflix) and "***Murf the Surf***" (MGM+). R.J.'s most recent producing credits are ***Anthem*** (Hulu), ***The Disappearance of Shere Hite*** (IFC), and ***South to Black Power*** (HBO). Cutler received a PGA nomination for his producing work on ***The Disappearance of Shere Hite***. Next, Cutler will direct an upcoming feature documentary titled "***Elton John: Never Too Late***" about the music icon ***Elton John*** for Disney+, ***Untitled Martha Stewart Documentary*** (Netflix), and a three-part documentary series following the ***2024 World Series*** in partnership with Ron Howard and his production company, Imagine Entertainment, and Major League Baseball. Cutler is also producing the upcoming feature ***Lee Soo Man: The King of K-Pop*** (Amazon Prime) and a documentary feature about ***Mad Magazine***.