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## Amazing Grace – Review

In 1971, the late Aretha Franklin recorded a special **gospel** album before a live audience in a Los Angeles church. The result, 'Amazing Grace', became one of the biggest albums of her career.

However, these two recording sessions were also filmed by a camera crew led by late Academy Award-winning director Sydney Pollack. Due to technical difficulties and synchronising issues, the **footage** was never completed and ended up being shelved for more than 38 years. Before Pollack's death in 2008, the **recordings** were acquired by producer Alan Elliot, and they have now finally been released as a documentary.



If you are expecting a level of **showbiz** and glamour, think again. Like the album, Amazing Grace is gospel stripped bare with Pollack's **grainy** footage creating an improvised account of the sessions, leaving Franklin to inspire the patrons. Comprising churchgoers, fans and the supporting Southern California Community **Choir**, their collective reactions to Franklin's voice, especially during the eponymous track, create a sense of unity among attending Caucasians and African-Americans. The film offers a rare treat of her behind the **piano** while having her brother and father in the church makes it more of a family affair.



In Amazing Grace, 29-year-old Franklin proves that she is more than the Queen of **Soul**. Driven by emotion and a personal spiritual connection that stems from childhood, she loses herself in the music as if it is a source of comfort. Her closed eyes highlight the fact that she is not playing to the camera and she is not there to entertain – she is there to connect with God, and the beads of sweat she constantly exudes from the multiple spotlights aren't going to stop her.

As a result, audiences just see her for what she does best and she does this to a tee. Soaring through each song, the raw, unrestrained power of her vocal performance creates a magnetism that is rare in the entertainment industry, and offers an experience that only comes occasionally.

With Ms Franklin at her **prime**, Amazing Grace is the most intimate **concert** audiences will ever see. All hail the Queen of Soul – and the Goddess of Gospel.



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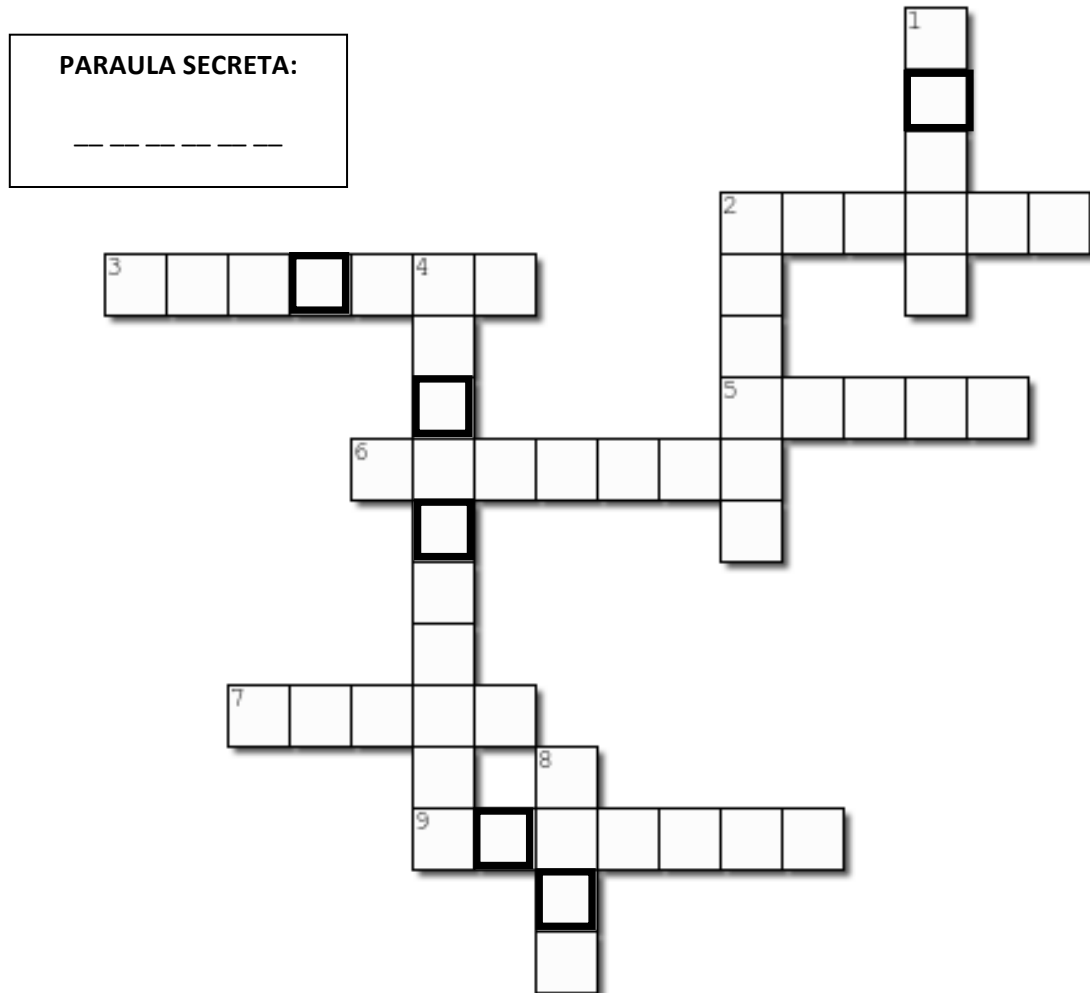
Ajuntament de Cardedeu

cinema  
**ESBARJO**

# Amazing Grace – Crossword

GUANYA 2 ENTRADES GRATUÏTES AMB EL CINEMA ESBARJO I CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL

- 1) Completa els mots encreuats amb el vocabulari de la crítica.
- 2) Reuneix les lletres de les caselles en negreta i forma la paraula secreta.
- 3) Sigues el 1r en publicar la paraula al Facebook de Cambridge School [www.facebook.com/CambridgeSchoolPage](http://www.facebook.com/CambridgeSchoolPage) i guanyaràs 2 entrades per a una pel·lícula en VO al **Cinema Esbarjo de Cardedeu** (a recollir al mateix cinema).



## ACROSS

2. not clear and look like the images are made of up of small spots, usually because they are old
3. an event in which a singer, band or orchestra plays or sings in front of an audience
5. the stage in your life when you are most active or most successful
6. film of a particular subject or event
7. a large musical instrument with black & white keys that produce notes when you press them
9. abbreviation for show business

## DOWN

1. a group of singers who perform together
2. a type of Christian music inspired by soul and r and b that developed in churches that black people went to in the south of the US.
4. a piece of music or speech that has been recorded
8. a type of Africa-American music that developed in the 1960s combining r and b, pop, rock and roll and gospel.



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