

***Twenty Feet From Stardom* - Film Questions**

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

- 2) In what ways do you feel like a backup singer in your life or at school? Are there times when you'd rather play a leading role, rather a supporting one?

- 3) Do you find it problematic that black women were recruited as backup singers to provide a "blacker sound" for white male frontmen? Do you think the film's presentation of mostly white male rock stars and black female backup singers was a conscious choice?

- 4) 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?

- 5) 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 not have survived in the radio age?