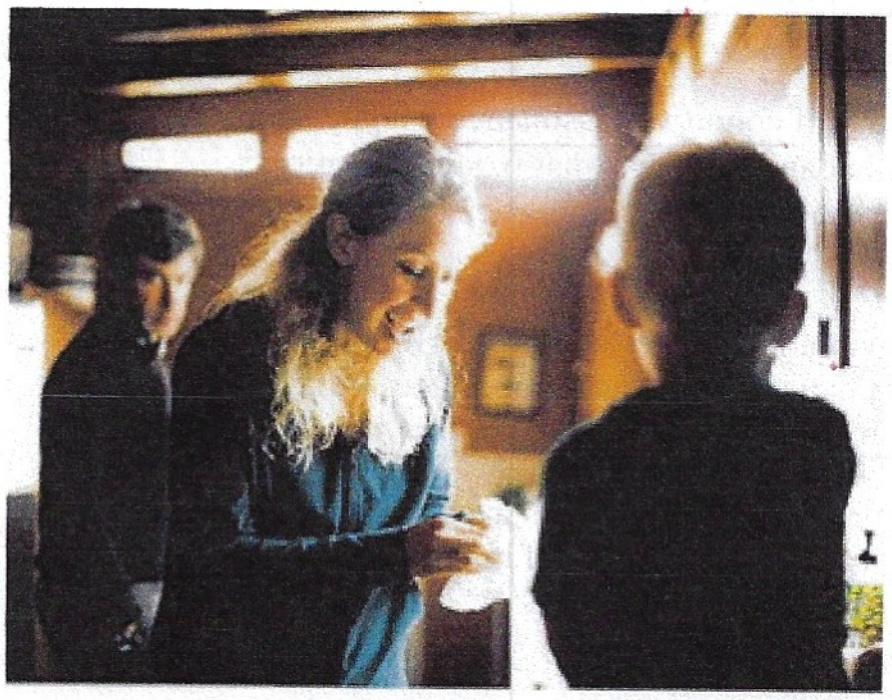
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COLLECTION A24/ EVERETT Nathan Fielder, Elizabeth Holmes and one of her children in the new film 'You Can See Everything.'.

Many Questions Remain In Holmes Documentary

' You Can See Everything' has viewers reeling from its intimate look

BY ESTHER ZUCKERMAN

This article contains spoilers for "You Can See Everything."

The nearly three-hour documentary "You Can See Everything" wildly overshot box-of--fice expectations this past weekend. The investigation into the psyche of Elizabeth Holmes had the strongest opening weekend for a non-concert documentary since "Fahrenheit 9/11," making $15 million in 855 theaters and selling out more than 3,000 screenings.

Co-directed by comedian Nathan Fielder and filmmaker Lance Oppenheim, "You Can See Everything" has been the subject of crescendoing buzz since it premiered as a surprise screening last month at the Telluride Film Festival. Now that it's in theaters, audiences are getting a look at how it captures Holmes's life with her partner, Billy Evans, and their two children in the month leading up to the start of her prison sentence for defrauding investors in her blood testing company.

Holmes has been well-covered in Wall Street Journal investigative reporting on how Theranos's technology didn't work. But "You Can See Everything" is leaving viewers with many questions as it takes its twists that involve Fielder moving in with the couple and a famous actress stepping in to help make sense of what he witnessed. Here is more insight into the much-discussed movie.

How did the filmmakers get access to Holmes?

In the movie, Holmes explains she and Evans picked Fielder because they see her tale as a "human story," rather than one that might require scientific expertise, but Fielder later says he got the sense in their first meeting that she was unfamiliar with his work.

During various press stops, Oppenheim and Fielder have said they first started discussing Holmes after attending a magic show where she was mentioned. (Fielder is a noted magic fan.) Oppenheim then told Fielder that he had heard that Holmes had reached out to the studio A24 about a documentary.

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During a Q&A after the movie's New York Film Festival screening, Fielder said he initially wasn't sure there would be a documentary project for him to pursue, but he was curious to meet Holmes.

Once Fielder and Oppenheim began shooting, initially capturing the 34 days before Holmes started her more than 11-year prison sentence, they saw the central tension of the movie click into place.

"Every person that worked on this movie was going through a similar feeling of cognitive dissonance," Oppenheim said. "We would unpack the day's events and no one could agree on the seemingly mundane moments that would transpire."

Why are people talking about Fielder as much as Holmes?

For a certain segment of viewers, Fielder, a comedian with a cultlike following, is a bigger draw than Holmes, and "You Can See Everything" feels almost like a capstone to his continuing documentary-adjacent project. In all of his work, Fielder shows interest in questioning the very nature of truth as well as how people perform behaviors for the cameras.

Fielder rose to fame with his 2013-17 Comedy Central show "Nathan for You," in which he uses his degree from British Columbia's University of Victoria to sell himself as a savior for struggling entrepreneurs. One of his ideas is to draw attention to a coffee shop by calling it "Dumb Starbucks."

OK, but why is Fielder in this movie so much?

Fielder is a constant looming, presence in his TV shows, but he wasn't initially planning to be on camera, Fielder has said, until Holmes and Evans kept addressing him during filming.

"They sort of would keep talking to me or asking me questions, and I would answer from off camera," he said at the NYFF. "Eventually, the operators would start panning over to me because the conversations would be long." In the 14 days before Holmes reports to prison, Fielder takes her and Evans up on their offer to move into a guesthouse on the property they've been renting so as to observe them more closely. He seems taken aback when the bed they've provided has no mattress. Oppenheim appears briefly but is largely off camera. Unlike Fielder, Oppenheim has a background in more traditional documentary material like the HBO series "Ren Faire," which is like a real life "Succession" set at a Texas Renaissance fair.

Does Holmes really not get 'Who's on First?'

In one of the key moments, Fielder shows Holmes the classic Abbott and Costello comedy sketch "Who's on First?" where Lou Costello is confused because the baseball player's names are "Who" and "What." Fielder wants to use the sketch to illustrate how Holmes's description of the effectiveness of the Theranos device was confusing. When he asks Holmes if she understands why "Who's on First?" is funny, Holmes reveals she didn't grasp the premise of the gag. To Evans this is an example of how Holmes "thinks differently." To audiences, it's another element of her personality to parse.

How did Holmes's partner,

Billy Evans, become such a focus?

Evans is, in many ways, the engine of the narrative. He's the first person you see on screen, and after Holmes reports to prison he becomes the main character, especially when it's revealed how he has power of attorney over her, is shaping her public image by running her X account and is attempting to profit off the film.

Whether he and Holmes were financially incentivized to participate becomes a central question to the movie. Fielder recounts that, during a meeting where cameras weren't present, Evans asked him, Oppenheim and two A24 executives if the couple could get a share of the film's box office proceeds. Holmes had left the room, prompting Fielder to debate whether she was aware of the request. While A24 initially agreed to give him a share of the profits, Evans eventually rescinded his right to them.

Why does Amanda Seyfried show up?

Note

After Holmes starts her prison sentence, "You Can See Everything" shifts gears and introduces Emmy-winning actress Amanda Seyfried, who played Holmes in the Emmy-winning Hulu series "The Dropout." Seyfried first appears as herself, watching footage that Fielder already captured, including a scene in which he shows Holmes the series. Seyfried says the footage inspired her to fantasize about playing Holmes again.

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So Seyfried starts to help Fielder re-enact scenes that cameras weren't present for, reprising her role as Holmes. She also ends up serving as a sounding board, sharing her own interpretations of Holmes and Evans's behavior.

Will this be the final word on Holmes?

"You Can See Everything" is perhaps the fullest portrait of the private life of Holmes to date, but it also paints her as more of a mystery than ever before. No one on screen, Fielder included, comes to easy conclusions as to why she acts the way she does or what she's thinking, and it's possible no matter how much is made about Holmes, we might never know. What we do know is that Evans has been working on a new medical testing business.

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