


'I Really Don't Care, Do U?' Says Everyone Invited to Melania Documentary Premiere

“Melania” finally reveals what we've all wondered: What if a mannequin at Bergdorf's gained sentience and immediately married for money?



JOSHUA POWELL

JAN 30, 2026

 8

 2

 3

Share

...



Okay. I need everybody to sit down because I have absolutely *f*&king* had it.

Last night, at the **KENNEDY CENTER** - named for a president who actually cared about this country - Melania Trump premiered her *documentary*. Amazon paid **\$40 million** for this thing. Forty. Million. Dollars. And Melania personally pocketed \$28 million of that. Let me put that in perspective for you. Nicole Kidman - an actual Oscar-winning actress who has been working her ass off for decades - was the highest-earning actress in 2024 at \$31 million. Emma Stone, who won her second Academy Award, made \$22.5 million for *Poor Things*. To me it's way too much money for making a movie, but that is beside the point. Melania Trump, whose greatest acting achievement is pretending to love her husband (and her acting sucks), just out-earned both of them. For a documentary. Where she's the executive producer. With full editorial control. I'm sorry, what?

Jason Spingarn-Koff, a professor at UC Berkeley who's worked on hundreds of documentaries said it best: once the subject is also the producer with editorial control,

“we are in the realm of public relations or in this case it seems to be a work of myth making.” It’s not a documentary. It’s a 104-minute commercial for a woman who has shown us absolutely nothing of substance for the past decade. If it were only substance we were after. How do you make an honest documentary about yourself when you slinked into the country and stayed illegally, claimed to be an architect (never was) and got your citizenship only *after* you gave birth to “Baron” who has become just another Trump grifter, but...*elongated, stretched*???

Back to the flick. How bad is it? Two-thirds of the New York production crew asked to have their names taken off the credits. Two-thirds. South Africa pulled it from theaters entirely. The whole country said, “no thank you.” Hmmm, might it be that people from that “sh*thole” country, you know the majority of whom are black and were under apartheid for decades and Trump accused of engaging in “white genocide” think she is married to a racist?

Birds of a feather.



Mrs. Trump, Vanity Fair 12/17/25

Box office predictions are between \$1 and \$2 million opening weekend. (I picture Don Jr. and Eric hitting their daily debit card limits on Fandango to help break even a million.)

Amazon spent \$40 million to buy it and another \$35 million on marketing. That math isn’t mathing, sweetie. *It’s a bribe.*

So why would Amazon pay that much for content destined to flop? Well, let’s talk about Jeff Bezos, because this bald, googly-eyed billionaire bootlicker has some explaining to do. In October 2024, eleven days before the election, Bezos blocked The Washington Post from endorsing Kamala Harris. The paper he owns. The one with “Democracy Dies in Darkness” on the masthead. The editorial was already written. Done. Ready to go. And he killed it. Over 200,000 subscribers canceled (I am one).

Robert Kagan, who'd been a columnist there for 25 years, resigned and called it "obviously an effort by Jeff Bezos to curry favor with Donald Trump." Ben Bradley, the former executive editor - you know, the guy Tom Hanks (this article is about movies - sort of) played in *The Post* - called it "cowardice, a moment of darkness that will leave democracy as a casualty."

But here's where it gets real juicy. On the same day his newspaper announced they weren't endorsing anyone (incidentally the same day Kay Graham tried to crawl out of her grave and return to work), executives from Blue Origin - Bezos's space company - met with Trump. Blue Origin has a \$3.4 billion NASA contract. Amazon Web Services is swimming in federal money. And a few weeks later, after Bezos had a nice little dinner at Mar-a-Lago, Amazon magically decided to pay \$40 million for Melania's *film*. Bezos says there's "no quid pro quo." Sure, Jeff, you greedy, testosterone-filled lying trout.



Bezos hugging then-fiancée Lauren Sánchez after her Neil Armstrong-lite flight on his phallic spaceship. The Associated Press.

Let's talk about the director. Brett Ratner - he wasn't the first choice. Steven Spielberg was asked to make it. After looking at the project, he said the only way to make it work would be to direct a movie he couldn't: a snuff film.

The man who got the gig hasn't made a movie since 2017 because six women accused him of sexual harassment and misconduct during #MeToo. Remember that movement? Trump does. He caused it - figuratively, politically, and literally.

Back to Ratner.

Natasha Henstridge said Ratner forced her to perform oral sex on him when she was a 19-year-old model. Her exact words: “He strong-armed me in a real way. He physically forced himself on me.” Olivia Munn said he came out of a bathroom “furiously masturbating” when she brought food to his trailer. Elliot Page came forward that same month. Warner Bros. cut ties with his production company. His career was over. And who brings him back? The Trumps. Of course. Only this family would look at a man credibly accused of being a sexual predator and say, “Yeah, that’s our guy.” One crew member told Rolling Stone, “I feel a little bit uncomfortable with the propaganda element of this, but Brett Ratner was the worst part of working on this project.” Makes a person want a full “Silkwood” shower.



Ratner doing his best Harvey Weinstein in more ways than one.

After Hollywood threw him out, Ratner moved to Israel and became buddies with Benjamin Netanyahu - you know the guy accused of war crimes and stealing from his own citizens. And here’s a fun fact: a photo released in December 2025 as part of the Epstein files showed Ratner posing with Jean-Luc Brunel, one of Epstein’s procurers. On the day the LA Times published its investigation into Ratner back in 2017, Jeffrey Epstein emailed his lawyer: “*brett ratner now. Oy.*” These people all know each other.

It’s a whole club of garbage humans. If I could only find a basket large enough to hold these deplorables. Costco maybe?

Speaking of Epstein - let’s talk about those files. The Epstein Files Transparency Act passed in November 2025 with a 427 to 1 vote in the House. And just guess who voted not to release the files? That would be Clay Higgins (R-La.). Besties with that pipsqueak of masculinity, Speaker Mike Johnson, who has repeatedly defended Higgins from controversy, most notably when Higgins posted racist comments about Haitians in September 2024, calling them “wild,” accusing them of “eating pets, vudu [sic],” and saying Haiti is the “nastiest country in the western hemisphere.” Johnson defended him by saying Higgins “prayed about it” and “we believe in redemption

around here.” And you *know* that our squeaker of the House prayed when he tried for months to block the Epstein Files Transparency Act.



Clay Higgins (R-La.) the only House member to vote against releasing the Epstein files. Speaker Johnson is on the record saying "Clay Higgins is a dear friend of mine". The Associated Press.

Oh yeah, that “Act” which was signed into law by everyone else; it had a deadline, release everything by December 19, 2025. And as of January 2026? Less than one percent has been released. One. Percent. Heavily redacted. Lawmakers on both sides are furious. But what we have learned is damning as hell. Trump flew on Epstein’s jet at least eight times between 1993 and 1996 - “many more times” than previously known. Ghislaine Maxwell was on four of those flights. One flight had only Trump, Epstein, and a 20-year-old whose name was redacted. There’s a court document describing a 14-year-old being brought to Mar-a-Lago in 1994, where Epstein allegedly elbowed Trump and asked, “This is a good one, right?” Trump “smiled and nodded in agreement.”

And Bezos? He attended a 2011 “billionaires’ dinner” with Epstein—after Epstein had already pled guilty and served time for soliciting an underage girl. Ghislaine Maxwell attended Bezos’s fancy “Campfire” literary retreat at least three times, including in 2018. Literary retreat! Think adult bookstore.

So let’s all get on the same page: Melania’s documentary premieres on schedule last night. But the Epstein files? Still mostly sealed. We get a vanity project about the First Lady faster than we get evidence in the largest sex trafficking case in American history. Make it make sense.



Brian Grazer, Donald Trump, director Brett Ratner, Melania Trump and Sean 'Diddy' Combs. Courtesy Mother Jones

This whole movie thing is just another chapter in the Trump family grift, which at this point is so massive it makes my head spin. According to *The New Yorker*, the family has made \$3.4 billion from Trump's time in office. *Forbes* says his net worth has nearly tripled from \$2.3 billion in 2024 to \$6.7 billion by the end of 2025. The House Judiciary Committee says their crypto ventures alone have added as much as \$11.6 billion to the family's holdings. There are the meme coins - \$427 million in fees. Jared Kushner's firm got \$2 billion from the Saudis. Mar-a-Lago membership is now \$1 million. They're doing real estate deals with Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. All countries that just happen to be getting favorable treatment from this administration. And now Melania gets \$28 million for a glorified home movie that no one will watch.

This documentary is going to be a spectacular failure. Letterboxd already has it at 2.5 stars. CNN's data guy Harry Enten gives it a 63% chance of scoring below 20% on Rotten Tomatoes. Amazon didn't send advance screeners to any critics - which is what you do when you know you've got a turd on your hands. But here's the thing: it was never supposed to make money. The point was the transaction. Forty million dollars flowing from one of America's most powerful companies to the family of the sitting president. The point was Bezos buying protection for his federal contracts. The point was showing everyone that in Trump's America, you bend the knee (or get down on both) or you get crushed.

Kate Bennett, who covered Melania for years at CNN, *sort of* nailed it: "I don't think the public will ever really know the deep inner thoughts and behind-the-scenes moments of Melania Trump, by design." *By design?* Please, there are no "deep inner thoughts." She has no more design than an after-hours drop box with the depth of a teacup.

This documentary doesn't exist to reveal anything. It exists to enrich its subject, rehabilitate its creepy director, and reward the billionaire who's too chickensh#t to

stand up for democracy.

And for the big orange goon? Another distraction. Be it taking over Venezuela, bombing Iran, threatening to take over Iceland or Greenland (whatever), having his hit-woman Noem kill Americans - *whatever* it takes to keep us all distracted.



FYI - This photo is AI generated. Thanks Jeff!

Last night, at the Kennedy Center, they popped champagne. Melania did her enigmatic stare. Brett Ratner felt relevant again. Bezos secured another favor with the president. And somewhere unknown, in a dark Amazon server facility, Pam Bondi and Herr Miller were trying to hack into a DOJ server and erase the Epstein files.

This is corruption wrapped in a premiere and tied with a red carpet bow, being screened in a *stolen* theater.

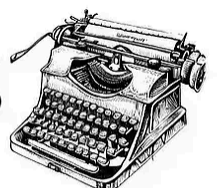
Spoiler alert: in the trailer, Melania walks into the Capitol in that ridiculous black hat (think Princess Beatrice and Eugenie at Will's wedding) and says, "Here we go again."

Welcome to the show. If Margo Channing were attending, she'd certainly have told the people no need to fasten your seatbelts. It's going to be a very *dull* ride. Though she'd probably tell the ladies to watch their Judith Lieber and Chanel bags and *always* have a chaperone - at least with this crowd.

THE POWELL HOUSE PRESS

Since 2006

SUBSCRIBE TODAY



#MelaniaTheMovie #Scam #Satire #Politics #Grift #Democracy
#ThePowellHousePress



8 Likes • 3 Restacks

← Previous

Next →

Discussion about this post

Comments Restacks



Write a comment...



Betty Boldbrew Betty Boldbrew 3d ...

♥ Liked by Joshua Powell

“Now with 30% more narrative.” - Agnes Fartmore, The Brewtonia Gazette

♥ LIKED (2) 💬 REPLY ↗ SHARE



Neural Foundry 🌀 Neural Foundry Substack 3d ...

Solid analysis on the transactional mechanics here. The timing alone makes the Bezos-Amazon-Trump connection pretty transparent - blocking the Post endorsment and then buying a documentary at 10x what comparable content costs. I've worked in media acquision before and nobody pays that kind of premium without some other calculus involved. The detail about two-thirds of the crew removing their names tells alot.

♥ LIKE (2) 💬 REPLY ↗ SHARE