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Whitney Houston film to be directed by Angela Bassett

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The Lifetime US TV channel confirmed the film will chronicle Houston's rise to fame and her turbulent relationship with ex-husband Bobby Brown, from their first meeting to their marriage.

The Oscar-nominated star said "their humanity and bond fascinates us all".

Houston died in February 2012, aged 48, after accidentally drowning in a hotel bathtub in Los Angeles.

The coroner's report into her death ruled the star had drowned due to heart failure and "chronic" cocaine use.



Bobby Brown and Whitney Houston were together through the height of her fame

The six-time Grammy Award winner sold millions of records worldwide including her hit cover of Dolly Parton's I Will Always Love You from 1992 film *The Bodyguard*, in which she also starred.

"I have such regard for both Whitney's and Bobby's amazing talents and accomplishments, and I feel a responsibility in the telling of their story," Bassett said.

Although the film will be the actress' first turn behind the camera, she has played several characters based on real people.

Her performance as Tina Turner in 1993 biopic *What's Love Got to Do With It* earned her a best actress Golden Globe and an Oscar nomination.

She also played Voletta Wallace, the mother of murdered rapper Notorious BIG, in the 2009 film *Notorious*.

Earlier this year she received several TV award nominations for her role in Lifetime TV mini-series *Betty and Coretta*, where she and Mary J Blige played the wives of Dr Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, who formed a life-long bond after their husbands' assassinations.

With a working title of *Whitney Houston*, the biopic is set to air in 2015. The cast has yet to be announced.