



MICHAEL JACKSON

Michael Joseph Jackson (August 29, 1958 - June 25, 2009) was an American singer, songwriter, dancer, and actor. Called the King of Pop, his contributions to music and dance, along with his publicized personal life, made him a global figure for over four decades.

Jackson was a shy and quiet person off-stage. He was never truly comfortable with the media attention he received and rarely gave interviews.



Early life

- He was the eighth of ten children in an African-American working-class family who lived in Gary, Indiana. Michael grew up with three sisters (Rebbie, La Toya, and Janet) and five brothers (Jackie, Tito, Jermaine, Marlon, and Randy). His sixth brother, Brandon, died shortly after birth.
- Jackson had a troubled relationship with his father. His deep dissatisfaction with his appearance and his tendency to remain childlike throughout his adult life, are the result of the maltreatment he endured as a young child.



The Jackson Five

- In 1965, Michael and Marlon joined the *Jackson Brothers* —a band formed by their father which included brothers Jackie, Tito, and Jermaine. The group was renamed *The Jackson 5*.
- The band toured the Midwest where they performed at clubs, cocktail lounges and major talent shows. *The Rolling Stone* magazine described the young Michael as "a prodigy" with "overwhelming musical gifts," writing that he "quickly emerged as the main draw and lead singer."



Solo career

- Jackson broke numerous records as an artist. He released the best-selling album in history, *Thriller*, in 1982. He earned several Guinness World Records titles. He won a total of 13 Grammy Awards—eight of them in one night in 1984—and was the first artist to have five singles reach No. 1 from the same album (1987's *Bad*).
- In 1984 was badly injured while filming a commercial for "Pepsi-Cola", suffering burns to his face. Jackson had surgery to repair his injuries, and is believed to have begun experimenting with plastic surgery. His face, especially his nose, would become dramatically altered in the coming years.




- In 1985, Jackson showed his altruistic side, co-writing and singing "We Are the World," a charity single for Africa. Many music stars participated in the project including Lionel Richie, Ray Charles, Bob Dylan and Tina Turner.



- In August 1994, Jackson married Lisa Marie Presley, daughter of rock icon Elvis Presley. They divorced in 1996. Later that same year, Jackson wed nurse Debbie Rowe. The couple had two children, son *Michael Joseph "Prince" Jackson Jr.* and daughter *Paris Michael Katherine Jackson*. Rowe and Jackson divorced in 1999.



- Jackson's reputation was served several blows in 1993 and 2004 when he was accused of child molestation. In both cases, Jackson was finally acquitted of all charges. His reputation, however, was effectively destroyed.

- 
- Despite all of the allegations and stories of odd behaviour, Jackson remained a figure of great interest, as demonstrated by the strong response to his concert plans titled "*This Is It*" beginning July 8, 2009. He saw all of the tickets to his "*This Is It*" tour sell out in only four hours.
 - Sadly, less than three weeks before the first show was due to begin in London and with all concerts being sold out, Jackson died after suffering a heart attack on June 25, 2009. He was 50 years old.



- Michael Jackson performing the *moonwalk* in *Billie Jean*