

CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

This is it! The world's most extraordinary performer Michael Jackson has died, and therefore there will be no "This Is It Tour" or curtain down concerts for the King of Pop, in London or anywhere else in the world. "This is it, this is the final curtain call," Michael told fans in London after announcing his comeback. He was right. This is it, one of the precision movers on stage has shaken his body to the ground creating a state of shock all around the world.

Since he was five years old, one fact has been undeniable that no one ever moved like Michael Jackson. In 1982 Michael revolutionized dance forever. He redefined possibilities of physical expression as he moved with precision on the dance floor.

Whether it was on a video set or on stage Michael moved with precision steps, the "moon-walk" was one of them which he first demonstrated on an '80s TV special. Michael was moving as if he was floating in the air in the early '80s. And by the 1988 release of "Bad" his third, he was a legend.

Jackson won many of music industry's highest honours including 13 Grammys. He was two times inductee to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame for his solo accomplishments. He had sold about 250 million records worldwide as a solo artist.

Many music industry critics consider his Thriller video to be the greatest music video of all time and a large step forward in artistic quality for music videos. MTV and Rolling Stone magazine, in a list compiled in 2000, named four of his songs, "Billie Jean" #5, "The Jackson 5 'I Want You Back' #9, "Beat It" #22, and "Rock with You" #82, among the 100 greatest songs of all time. His Thriller is the world's all time best-selling album with over 59 million copies sold.

The thoughts of Sri Lankan music fans will be with Michael, the father of three children, Prince Michael (12 years), Paris Michael (11) and Prince Michael II (07), and his family, as they join with many millions of devastated Michael Jackson fans across the world.

The pop star's mother Katherine Jackson has been granted temporary custody of Michael's sons at least until a Court hearing in early August.

Meanwhile, Jackson's family have stated that there will be no public viewing of Michael's body. There will be a public memorial service, possibly on Sunday (tomorrow).

The Britain's Sun newspaper has reported, the singer who died after suffering a suspected cardiac arrest in his Los Angeles home on Thursday (June 25) - was taking narcotic pain killer Vicodin, muscle relaxant Soma, sedative Xanax, anti-anxiety drug Paxil and heartburn pill Prilosec at the time of his death.

Jackson's family lawyer Brian Ozman has reportedly told the Sun that Michael's details were unbelievably awful, and horrifying as one can expect.

Where on earth one can expect to find autopsy reports with beautiful details?

Michael Jackson was suffering from a rare skin disease called vitiligo and the celebrity had to deal with it, which involved medicine and surgery to a considerable extent.

Michael was unsuccessfully trying to hide the impact of his disease and other illnesses affecting his health from the media. He was a perfectionist who did not want to disappoint his audience on account of his poor health.

Jackson had said, he was compensating for his "lost childhood". He had said that his relationships with children stem from the sense of innocence they have, an innocence he feels he lost too soon.

He too had his problems and weaknesses as a human



Michael, the legendary years

In 1994 Jackson married Lisa Marie Presley, the daughter of Elvis Presley; the marriage lasted less than two years, ending in divorce.

In 1996, he married Debbie Rowe, with whom he had a son, Prince Michael, and in Prince Michael II (07), and his family, as they join with many millions of devastated Michael Jackson fans across the world.

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Michael the performer extraordinaire

Michael Jackson 1958 - 2009

Name: Michael Joseph Jackson
Born: August 29, 1958 (1958-08-29) Gary, Indiana, United States
Died: June 25, 2009 (aged 50) Los Angeles, California United States
Genre(s): Pop, R&B, rock, soul
Occupation(s): Singer, songwriter, record producer, arranger, dancer, choreographer, actor, author, businessman, financier
Instrument(s): Vocals, multiple instruments, percussion
Voice type(s): Falsetto [1]
Years active: 1967–2009
Label(s): Motown, Epic
Associated acts: The Jackson 5/The Jacksons

Album Discography

Got to Be There	(1972)
Ben	(1972)
Music and Me	(1973)
Forever, Michael	(1975)
Off the Wall	(1979)
Thriller	(1982)
Bad	(1987)
Dangerous	(1991)
Invincible	(2001)

Major Awards:

American Music Awards	-22
Billboard Awards	-40
BRIT Awards	-7
Golden Globe Awards	-1
Grammy Awards	-19
Guinness World Records	-13
MTV Awards	-13
NAACP Image Awards	-14
RIAA Awards	-56
World Music Awards	-12

In late 2002, Jackson stirred up controversy while staying at the Adlon hotel in Berlin by briefly suspending him over the edge of the railing of a balcony. Jackson defended his actions, saying that he held the child very tightly with



Who's bad?

There had been rumours that Jackson was having children by various women with one woman claiming that she was giving birth to quadruplets and the father was Jackson's but was later confirmed not to be his at all.

He suffered the same problem two decades earlier with a woman claiming Michael was a father to one of her fraternal twins. Jackson wrote the memorable "Billie Jean" as a result. Thriller, Jackson starred in the film The Wiz alongside mentor Diana Ross in 1978.

It was here that he met Quincy Jones, the music producer for The Wiz, who would later produce Michael's three most acclaimed solo albums, Off the Wall, Thriller and Bad. In 1979, produced a record four Top 10 hits and sold seven million copies in the United States. While performing "Billie Jean" during the Motown 25: Yester-



Tip-toe stand or that "Smooth Criminal" lean...

The prime mover

adopted daughter Nicole Richie. Inspired by Band Aid, he was instrumental in organizing the single "We Are the World" (co-written with Lionel Richie) in 1985.

Billie Jean

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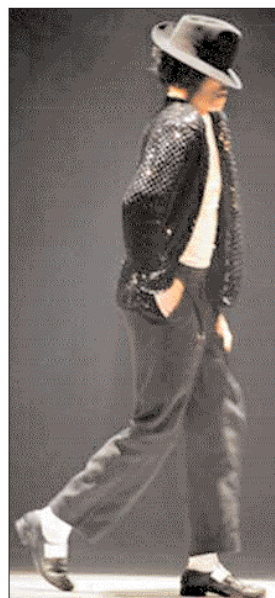
day, Today, Forever special on television on May 16, 1983, Jackson publicly performed the moonwalk for the first time, stunning TV audiences. In January 1984 at the American Music Awards, Jackson was nominated for 9 awards and won a record 8 awards.

In February at the Grammy Awards Jackson was nominated for 12 awards and won a record-breaking 8 awards: 7 for Thriller and 1 for his narrative on The E.T. Storybook. In May, Thriller was certified by the Guinness Book of Records as the biggest selling popular music album of all time. In addition in 1984, he was also awarded the H. Claude Hodson Medal of Freedom at the NAACP Image Awards, feted at the White House by President Ronald Reagan with the Presidential Special Achievement Award and in November was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

As of 2005, Thriller is certified 27x Platinum in the U.S. Bad was another smash success for Jackson though not as big of a success as Thriller was. Its singles and music videos "I Just Can't Stop Loving You", "Bad", "The Way You Make Me Feel", "Man In The Mirror", "Dirty Diana", "Another Part Of Me", "Smooth Criminal" and "Leave Me Alone" provided Jackson with another string of hits.

The album's only relatively unsuccessful single, "Liberian Girl", remains to this day as one of Jackson's least seen music videos and least heard singles. Nonetheless, he made history by becoming the first artist to generate five number one singles off of one album. Of the 7 singles released in the USA, the first 5 went to #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 charts, "Another Part Of Me" peaked at #11 (#1 on Billboard's R&B charts) and "Smooth Criminal" went to #7.

Of all the album's groundbreaking and popular videos, "Black Or White" probably remains the most aired and most remembered today. The original video is over ten minutes long and premiered simultaneously on November 14, 1991.



Michael's signature move, the moon-walk

Jackson once revealed in a televised interview that the most honest song he has ever written, the song he feels people should examine when it comes to him, is "Childhood" from the album HISTORY. The first verse of the song reveals a poignant fact, "no one understands me."

A true masterpiece by King of Pop, who leaves us suddenly, Michael Jackson. YOU WILL never forget what you did to music. YOU WILL ALWAYS BE IN OUR HEARTS. TRUE LEGEND. Rest In Peace! With love, All of your fans worldwide.

CHILDHOOD

written and composed by Michael Jackson

A9
Have you seen my Childhood?
 D/F# E7/G
I'm searching for the world that I come from
 A9
'Cause I've been looking around
 D/F# E7
In the lost and found of my heart...

Ama9
No one understands me
 Bm7 E7sus
They view it as such strange eccentricities...
 E7 Ama9
'Cause I keep hiding around
 Em7 A A7
Like a child, but pardon me...

Dma9 C#m7 Bm7 Ama9
People say I'm not okay
 Bm7/E E7 Ama9
'Cause I love such elementary things...
 Dma9 C#m7 Bm7 Ama9
It's been my fate to compensate,
 Gma13 Bm7/E E7
For the Childhood I've never known...

Ama9
Have you seen my Childhood?
 Bm7 E7sus
I'm searching for that wonder in my youth
 E7 Ama9
Like pirates and adventurous dreams,
 Em7 A A7
Of conquest and kings on the throne...

Dma9(#11) C#m7 A/C# Dma9(#11)C#m7 A/C#
Before you judge me, try hard to love me,
 Dma9(#11) C#m7 A/C# G6 Ama9 D/E
Look within your heart then ask,
 Ama9
Have you seen my Childhood?

Bma9 C#m7 F#7sus F#7 E/G# F#7A# Bma9 F#m7/B

Ema9 D#m7 C#m7 Bma9
People say I'm strange that way
 F#7 Bma9
'Cause I love such elementary things,
 Ema9 D#m7 C#m7 Bma9
It's been my fate to compensate,
 Ama13 C#m7/F# F#7
For the Childhood I've never known...

B(9)
Have you seen my Childhood?
 E/G# C#m7/F#
I'm searching for that wonder in my youth
 F#7 E/G# F#7A# Bma9
Like fantastical stories to share
 F#m7/B BA G#m7 B7/F#
The dreams I would dare, watch me fly...

B/D#
 Ema9(#11) D#m7 B/D# Ema9(#11) D#m7
Before you judge me, try hard to love me,
 Ema9(#11) D#m7 Dma9 Bma9 C#m7/F#
The painful youth I've had
 Bma9
Have you seen my Childhood...