

# What about us?

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Many things have been said about performer extraordinaire Michael Jackson following his parting from the world of entertainment after having dominated it for nearly four decades as "The King of Pop."

The CNN said, Michael Jackson's Staples Centre memorial service was "not solemn" as one would have expected, but "celebretal."

International print and electronic media described Michael's demise as an irreparable loss to the world of music.

As some put it was forlorn and gloomy around the world.

"I wished I never lived to see his death," said super star singer Stevie Wonder. Reverend Al Sharpton, a longtime friend of Jackson said in his powerful and moving speech at the service, "I want his three children to know: Wasn't nothing strange about your Daddy. It was strange what your Daddy had to deal with. But he dealt with it...He dealt with it anyway. He dealt with it for us."

All these stands to prove how they appreciated and loved the late pop icon and how much respect they have for him. They all loved Michael well and truly from the bottom of their hearts.

There have been Millions of words shared to honour the King of Pop for his outstanding musical career and other personal attributes.

There were but a very few words or declarations that really communicated how much Michael's children have missed as with their superstar father's demise. How have they taken their father's sudden parting.

### Declaration

And, it is fair to say that a local TV channel, had come up with perhaps one of the best declarations to describe the disposition of Jackson's three children after his passing away. The



In never-before-seen pictures of Michael Jackson, showing him at home with his children Prince Michael I and Paris, the world gets to see the King of Pop as a music icon. We rarely get to see him as a loving father. The above picture shows MJ at Neverland, celebrating Prince's sixth birthday in 2003 with a Spider Man-themed party. Courtesy exclusive celebrity news magazine, OK!

The declaration was, "The world may have lost one Michael Jackson, But the children of Michael Jackson have lost the whole world." It was originally made in Sinhala language by senior journalist Bandula Padmakumara during his programme "Mali Pituwu" on Swarnavahini.

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This appear to have made a powerful impact on Sri Lankan society over much that the people, especially the women folk have become so concerned about the fate of the pop icon's three kids more than ever. It is interesting to note that the declaration came two or three days prior to the Jackson memorial at the Staples Centre and its relevance is still felt. And I must confess that I heard many housewives uttering this declaration as they talked about Michael's

death. As an exclusive celebrity news magazine (OK!) had reported on Thursday, the superstar's children, Michael (12) and Paris-Michael Katherine (11), along with their 7-year-old brother Prince Michael II (aka Blanket), have decided that they want their late father's sister, Janet Jackson, to raise them. And it is expected that

there will be a courtroom showdown, next week in which Michael Jackson's mother, Katherine Jackson, and ex-wife Debbie Rowe will vie for temporary custody of Michael's two children. Janet is reported to have got very close with his brother's children in the last two weeks.

As revealed by Jackson family friends, "She has been their rock. It's clear to everyone that they are looking to her for comfort and guidance." Though Michael Jackson named his 79-year-old mother as the guardian of choice in a 2002 will, a source assured the magazine that Janet Jackson, 43, is prepared to step in if she's the children's choice. "Janet is not only willing to raise those children, she is also the only relative who knows how to protect

them," the source explained. "Janet knows the value of a private life and knows how to keep her personal life out of the news. She is determined to do that for Michael's children. She is saying that he would want no less for them, pointing out how far he went to shelter them."

The custody hearing is scheduled to take place at Los Angeles Superior Court on July 20.

### True stardom

It can be safely assumed by looking at Michael Jackson, that most stars we have locally branded as superstars were merely acting like ones that they actually are. I do not know who said this but someone had said, "The secret of being a star is acting like one."

The adage seemed more or less true when one looks at the number of musketeers in the world including Sri Lanka where they "act" like stars even before acquiring their basics in what they do.

They all can learn something from Michael, the man who realized what it is to be a real star. Learn the love he generated on the stage wherever he performed.

Michael Jackson was a hardworking perfectionist and therefore he was the greatest entertainer man who reigned in the world. Nobody can be him, but can learn from him.

### Sensitivity

Defense Lawyer said to the CNN Larry King Live show hours after Jackson's death, that he had thought that they could win the Michael's infamous trial against alleged charges of child molestation, but he was never sure whether he would survive the ordeal after that. Michael was too sensitive to face media criticism as the artist was so concerned about his dignity and wanted his name untainted to go with his legacy.

## Bandu in concert at Kiribathgoda Devi

The Old Girls Association of Viharamahadevi Balika Vidyalaya, Kiribathgoda presents Bandu Samarasinghe's 'Bandu in Musical

Concert' today at 6.30 p.m. at the School's Main Hall. There will also be a "Trade Fair" from 9.30 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. There will be an Lottery draw at 3.30

p.m. at the school premises to be inaugurated by the Principal and guests. The income of the lottery will go to the school's indoor stadium fund. The

stadium is under construction near the swimming pool premises. The association secretary Dinesh Polwata said, the estimated cost of the

indoor stadium is 22 million rupees. He hopes to complete this very soon and open the doors to the children to develop their talents.

## OTSC Sing-Along on Aug 01

After the tremendous success of the last year's Sing-along with Annesley Malewana and his band 'Super Chimes', Old Thomian's Swimming Club has organized another sing-along but this time with the special guest the versatile singer Sohan of X permutations fame. It will be held on August 01 from 8 p.m. at the OTSC Club House, Mt. Lavinia.



Annesley Malewana and Super Chimes. The Super Chimes are Channa Athalagay on lead guitar, Prashan Fernando on bass, Dilip Fernando on keyboards and Ashan Fernando on drums. The show is open to OTSC members, their families and guests. The Social Secretary of OTSC Tusita de Alwis said, No tickets will be available at the gate. There will be an entrance ticket draw.

English Oldies of 60s and 70s will be sung by Sohan, the organizers said. Annesley will render his usual blend of Sinhala Pop, the hits of Moonstones era and Super Golden Chimes days.

Show is titled 'Golden Oldies' Sing-Along Nite 4. Brian Thomas will com-



Justin Timberlake faces down to a paparazzi

## JT vs paps

Justin Timberlake has had it with the paps. The pop star had his patience tested Tuesday when he was met by an aggressive snapper who nearly knocked JT over in an attempt to get his shot. A frustrated Justin was spotted trying to get past the man as he exited his car at a hotel in West Hollywood.

The photographer proceeded to jump directly in front of the star, stepping into his face. As the two stood nose to nose, Justin kept his cool by crossing his arms as the furious cameraman angrily shouted at him. An onlooker says, "No one could hear

what this was all about but the photographer was clearly furious about something. But Justin was really cool - he just faced him down and took it all in his stride." Hotel staff eventually separated the men.

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## Raghav, Iceberg Slim and DJ Lauren to perform at Taj

Indian superstar Raghav Mathur and his fellow behind the console, Iceberg Slim will perform in Sri Lanka soon. Cosmic Entertainment announced recently, they will bring Raghav and Iceberg Slim to the Taj Hotel, Colombo on the 25th of July.

Also to be featured during their performances are World's Hottest DJ Lauren Pope and a special dancing Greek outfit Bootycat Dolls, said Cosmic Entertainment manager Stavros B.

If you know the smash hits 'Angel Eyes', 'So Confused', 'Can't Get Enough' or 'It Can't Be Right', then you'd know Raghav, the 28-year old Indian-Canadian heart throb who has been making waves across the world.



Raghav

Playing alongside hot bands like Snow Patrol and Eric Clapton, Raghav performed at the 'Tsunami Relief Cardiff' concert in 2005 to raise £1.25 million



DJ Lauren

It is not only his looks or persona that makes people love Raghav but also that he is a really down-to-earth guy who cares about other people.

Once hosting a Channel [V] (India) show, he played matchmaker to the innocent guy holding a microphone up for a long time. Raghav is such a humane individual that fans respect him. Playing alongside hot bands like Snow Patrol and Eric Clapton, Raghav performed at the 'Tsunami Relief Cardiff' concert in 2005 to raise £1.25 million.

When Calgary-born Raghav learned that one of his songs was voted the Best Original Song by the National Songwriters Association of America in 1998, he decided to go to England to study at Paul McCartney's Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA). Raghav made his mark as a mover and shaker in 2004 with his debut album 'Storyteller'. It sold 1.3 million copies and became the 6th biggest selling album of all time in India.

Born to Kayastha Uttar Pradesh Indian parents, Raghav has got the resume of a bonafide superstar winning high accolades such as a MOBO award for Best Collaboration and a number of international titles for his punny tunes and dance frenzy tracks. His next track will be 'My Kinda Girl' with Hip Hop artist Redman which will be incorporated in his new album 'Identity'. There will be two Hindi tracks on the album, one of them is titled 'Humarabee'. According to the Wikipedia entry, Raghav's achievements are: 2005 Southern Asian Music Awards; Best Artist, 2005 UK Asian Music Awards; Best Single, 2005 UK Asian Music Awards; Best Newcomer, 2005 Urban Music Award; Best Chart Act, 2004 Asian Achievers Award, 2004 MOBO Award; Best Collaboration and 1997 National Songwriters Association of America Award.