

Michael Jackson

“The King of Pop”

Biography



Michael's Early life:

- Born on August 29, 1958 in Gary, Indiana, Michael was one of nine children.
- His father Joe Jackson started the band called Jackson 5, Michael joined at the age of five years old, when his talent was discovered.

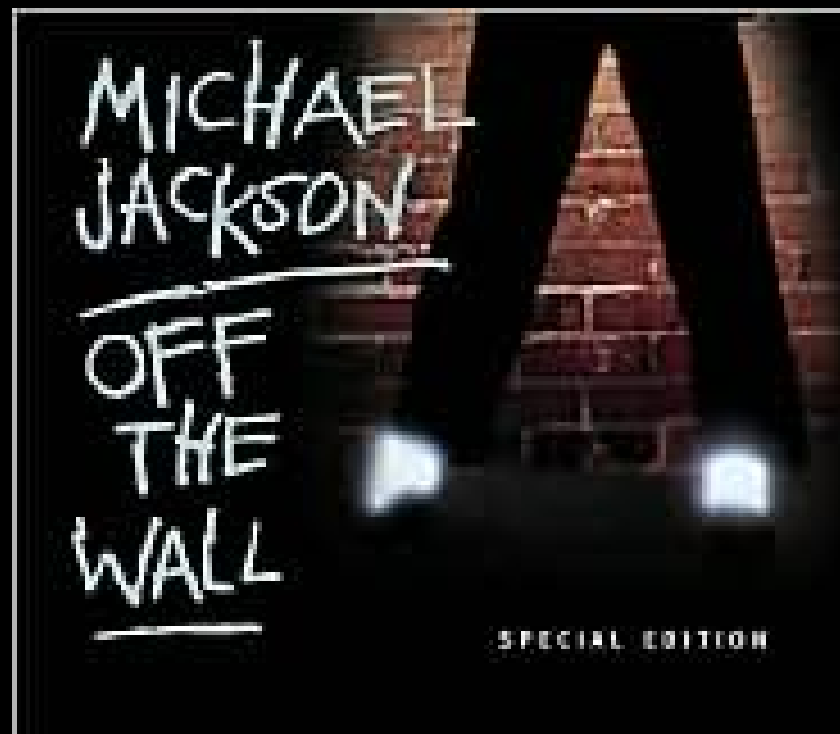




- Jackson 5 became a pop group sensation around the world. After signing with Motown records, the group made hit singles like “ABC”, “I want you back”, and “I’ll be there”. Ultimately their popularity as a group helped launch Michael into a solo career.

The start of Michael's Solo career

- Michael began recording many hit singles with the help of producer Quincy Jones.
- *Off the wall* was his first album that hit the stores in 1979.
- Hit song like “Rock with you”, “Don't stop 'til you get enough” and “Off the wall”, which are songs that are still popular today.



The downfall

- Eventually Michael became a world wide success, recording with many other famous singers gaining tons of recognition as a solo artist.
- Gaining a \$5 million dollar contract with Pepsi-cola in 1984, Michael was unable to finish the commercial because his hair caught on fire.
- Sadly this was that start of the many trials Michael faced in his later life.
- He went on recoding other hit records like *Thriller* and *Victory*.

The end of Michael's career

- After two unsuccessful marriages Michael was left with 3 children and a bunch of charges on molestation.
- Michael created a huge amusement park in his backyard, where he allowed many young kids play.
- Facing a massive amount of negative media attention was the least of Michael's worries because he soon filed for bankruptcy losing many of his expensive possessions.

This Is It

- On July 8, 2009 what would be known as Michael's comeback tour ironically was his last. In a matter of hours tickets sold like crazy, but he never got to inherit the funds from his concert, because on June 25, 2009 Michael passed away.



The King of Pop

- As a tribute to Michael Jackson's death a documentary was made recording the process of the *This is it* Tour.
- The documentary hit theatres and received about \$2.3 million its opening weekend.
- The film went on making a total of \$206.8 million world wide.



Composition History



Billie Jean



- This was Michael's first hit song which catapulted him into stardom. Released in 1982 Billie Jean was produced by Michael along side with producer Quincy Jones. Being one of the first to create a music video that was like a movie, Michael was able to break many racial barriers appearing on MTV.

Black or White

- Black or white was released on October 11, 1991 off of MJ's *Dangerous* album.
- This song was named to be one of the most controversial music video of all time.
- It was featured in over 27 countries and viewed by more than 500 million people world wide.
- MJ ferociously expressed his feelings on racism!

Don't Matter If You Are,
Black or White



You Rock my world



- This song was released in 2001 and was MJ's first hit single in over six whole years.
- You rock my world was nominated for a Grammy Award and the music video won the NAACP image award for best music video.
- The song also featured comedian Chris Tucker.

Listening Guide



Billie Jean

- Billie Jean starts out with piano chords F# playing in a six count beat, and then the drums start in with symbols to back the beat up.
- The song is upbeat and has a disco feel the entire time using the same background beat throughout the song. The song picks up with the same beat but faster during the bridge and Michael's voice falls into *tenor*.
- In the coda there are two lines of words the repeat and descend until the end of the song.

<http://youtu.be/78-XxGVfit0>

Black or White

- This unique collaboration was something that was rarely done during the 90's.
- The many different elements to Black or White set the song apart from the typical mainstream music.
- The main riff features Bill Bottrell's rap.
- And the heavy metal parts throughout the song are credited to guitarist Tim Pierce.

http://youtu.be/0SNuo_Wybog

You Rock My World

- The song is a pop song and has a disco feel to it.
- Complete in Harmonic texture You Rock my World is a great example of a popular song created in the major mode of harmony.
- Michael Jackson performed this song at many concerts during his time and the song was NO.10 on billboards hot 100.
- This song has no meaning behind it, Michael wrote it for mainstream pop culture music publicity.

<http://youtu.be/C1kHeeEMe-s>

Michael Jackson will forever be a legend in music's pop culture!

They did it to try and belittle me, to try and to take away my pride. But I went through the whole system with them. And at the end, I - I wanted the public to know that I was okay, even though I was hurting.
-Michael Jackson

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R.I.P.
THE KING OF POP

1958 + 2009

