The Phenomenal

MASTER OF HIS CRAFT, megastar Michael Jackson recently finished a two-day stand at the Richfield Coliseum near Cleveland. Here Jackson is shown performing during the highly acclaimed 19-song, 2½ hour show destined for the Capitol Center in Landover, Md., October 13 and 17-19.

The Early Years

* **1969.** After five years of hard work at home, around town and on the road, the Jackson brothers' career takes shape. Reared in Gary, Indiana, the sons of Joseph and Katherine Jackson start singing with their parents as the Jackson Family.

Shortly thereafter, the five sons—Michael, Jackie, Tito, Marlon and Jermaine—take their show on the road. Winning over the traditionally hard core audiences at the Apollo Theatre in New York and the Uptown in Philadelphia, the brothers build a strong reputation as performers.

* **1970.** With Michael as the 11-year-old lead singer, the Jackson 5 sign with Motown Records. The group charts four consecutive number one singles: **"I Want You Back," "ABC"** (a Grammy winner for Best Pop Song, 1971), **"The Love You Save"** and **"I'll Be There."**

* While maintaining his position with the Jackson 5, Michael firmly establishes himself as a solo artist with an array of hit singles and albums beginning in 1971. His most successful Motown singles are: **"Got to be There," "Rockin' Robin," "I Wanna be Where You Are"** and the number one **"Ben,"** the title song from the film of the same name.

AT AGE 11, Jackson became the most popular lead singer of a group in 6 months with his winning smile and ready wit.

* Michael's best-selling Motown albums (1971-1976) are: **Got to be There, Ben, Music & Me, Forever, Michael and The Best of Michael Jackson.**

* With the Jackson 5's sound steadily maturing, more hit singles and massive record sales follow: **Never Can Say Goodbye," "Mama Pearl," "Get It Together," "Dancing Machine,"** and **"Forever Came Today"** are among the hits.

* A string of hugely successful albums further underline the Jackson 5's status as one of the music industry's biggest selling groups. They include: **I Want You Back, ABC, Third Album** (all top five), plus **Goin' Back to Indiana, Get It Together, Dancing Machine** and their final LP for Motown, **Moving Violation.** A total of eleven albums are recorded for Motown. In 1976, the label releases **The Jackson 5 Anthology.**

* The group significantly advances its worldwide popularity with frequent television appearances and world tours, one of which includes a command performance before Queen Elizabeth at King's Hall in Glasgow, Scotland during Great Britain's Silver Jubilee.

The Middle Years

* **1976.** In March, the group signs with Epic Records and becomes The Jacksons. Brother Randy joins the group; Jermaine remains with Motown, launching a successful solo career. Produced by Gamble & Huff, **The Jacksons** diversifies the group's sound and reasserts it as a potent musical force. The LP achieves gold status and the single **"Enjoy Yourself,"** sells over one million copies.

* 1976. The group stars in its own successful summer variety series on CBS-TV. **The Jacksons** mixes music with comedy and features such guests as Tim Conway and Redd Foxx.

* **1977.** The Jacksons release their second Epic album, **Goin' Places,** again produced by Gamble & Huff.

* **1978.** The turning point. The Jacksons assume responsibility for their own recordings for the first time in their career. **Destiny,** written and produced by the brothers, with Michael contributing his writing talents to each cut, becomes the most successful LP in the Jackson's catalogue, achieving platinum status for sales well over one million copies.

The album features the singles, **"Shake Your Body (Down to the Ground);"** written by Michael and Randy and certified platinum for sales of more than two million, and **"Blame It on the Boogie."** The LP triumphantly establishes the Jacksons as major songwriters and producers of pop and R&B.

* **1978.** Michael's debut screen role in **The Wiz** presents

THE GUINNESS BOOK (1984) stopped its presses for the 1st time in history to include Michael Jackson in 2 categories: "Biggest-Selling Solo Album of All Time" (for THRILLER, 24 million copies) and "6 Top Ten U.S. Singles From The Same LP."

a major new talent on the motion picture screen. He wins the praise of critics and the public alike for his demanding role as The Scarecrow opposite film heavyweights Diana Ross and Richard Pryor. Michael immediately receives numerous film offers.

In the movie, Michael sings two songs: **"Ease on Down the Road,"** a duet with Diana Ross which becomes a hit single, and **"You Can't Win.** Michael begins sharing ideas with the film's musical director, Quincy Jones.

1979-1982

* **1979.** Michael releases his landmark Epic debut solo album, **Off the Wall.** Mixing pop, R&B and jazz, the LP is produced by Quincy Jones, with Michael coproducing three songs that he wrote. **Off the Wall** breaks new ground vocally for Michael; confains his most adventurous and mature vocals.

The LP secures his position as one of contemporary music's best songwriters. Compositions by Stevie Wonder, Paul McCartney and Rod Temperton are also featured.

* **Off the Wall** makes history. Michael becomes the first solo recording artist to ever place four singles from the same LP in the nation's Top Ten: **"Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough"** (written by Michael), **"Rock With You," "Off the Wall"** and **"She's Out of My Life."** Both **"Don't Stop"** and **"Rock With You"** achieve the number one position, each earning gold certification for sales of more than one million.

* Michael is honored with a Grammy Award for Best Male R&B Vocal Performance for **"Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough."**

* The multi-platinum **Off the Wall** sells five million copies in the U.S. and another three million around the world. In England, the LP is triple platinum; Australia, seven times platinum; Canada, triple platinum; Holland, gold. The LP spends nearly eight months in Billboard's Top Ten and 84 weeks on the trade publication's charts. In England, the Paul McCartney-penned **"Girlfriend"** is released as a single making it the first time in that country that five singles are released from the same LP.

* **1980.** The Jacksons release **Triumph,** another platinum success featuring the smash singles: **"Lovely One," "Heartbreak Hotel"** and **"Can You Feel It,"** and once again produced by The Jacksons.

* **1980.** The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, in recognition of The Jackson's contributions to music, honors the

(Continued on Page 3)

The weekly entertainment guide for the Baltimore-Washington area. Published by the AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS group.
628 N. Eutaw St.
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
(301) 728-8200
John J. Oliver, Jr.
Chairman of the Board/Publisher
Frances M. Draper, President
Benjamin M. Phillips IV
Secretary/Treasurer
Charles K. Taylor
General Manager
Penny S. Demps, Editor
Contributing Writers
Carl Matthews
Bob Matthews
Cynthia Nevels
Darryl E. Owens
Deborah Quinerly
Olive Vassell
Robyn-Denise Yourse
Denise Dorsey-Production Coordinator

In This Issue

Cover Story.....2, 3
All That Jazz..5
Sounds.....6
About TV.....7
Strictly Personal....8, 9

Michael Jackson

(Continued from page 2)

group with its own star along Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

* **1981.** The Jacksons gross an estimated $5.5 million on a 36-city concert tour kicking off July 9. The Jacksons raise over $100,000 for the Atlanta Children's Foundation in a special benefit concert at the Omni in Atlanta.

CAPTAIN EO, a unique three-dimensional, narrative musical film presentation by Walt Disney Productions stars Jackson and has played exclusively at Epcot Center's Kodak Imagination Pavilion in Disney World in Florida. Here, Emmanuel Lewis (let) joins his superstar buddy.

* **1981.** The Jacksons' dynamic onstage energy and emotional fervor is captured on **The Jacksons Live!,** a double album on which the group performs its Epic and Motown hits.

* **1982.** Michael writes and produces the songs **"Muscles,"** for Diana Ross. It becomes a major pop and R&B hit.

* **1982.** Michael narrates **E.T.: The Extraterrestrial,** the storybook LP of the Stevens Spielberg film, and sings **"Someone in the Dark."** The album is released in November.

THRILLER

More than three years in the making, **thriller** is released on December 1, 1982. Produced by Quincy Jones, with Michael coproducing three of the songs he wrote—**"Billie Jean," "Beat It," "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'** " (he also wrote his duet with Paul McCartney, **"The Girl is Mine"—Thriller** sports an impressive collection of musicians that span the pop, **R&B,** rock and jazz genres: Greg Phillinganes, Eddie Van Halen, Steve Lukather, Louis Johnson, Steve Porcaro and Vincent Price, to name a few.

The LP's first single, **"The Girl is Mine,"** debuts on radio in late October. By year's end, the single is gold (more than one million singles sold) and the LP is platinum (more than one million albums sold).

Nothing quite prepares anyone for what is about to happen in 1983, but nothing really could have, for no one could have anticipated the stunning set of surprise events that would catapault **Thriller** to where no album had ever gone before.

As the new year begins, Epic releases **"Billie Jean,"** the LP's second single. Within three weeks, it hits the top of the R&B charts; no one has done it that quick since 1970 when Michael and his brothers did it three times.

On the pop side, **"Billie Jean"** makes it to the top in six weeks. Meanwhile, the release of **"Beat It,"** the third single, with searing guitar work by Eddie Van Halen, is moved up to early February and is an instant hit even on AOR radio!

And then along comes surprise event number one in two parts: the "Billie Jean" video in mid-February and the "Beat It" video in mid-March.

Video has become an influential force in record sales since the birth of MTV in the summer of '81 and the subsequent proliferation of local and national outlets to exhibit these 'mini-films.' It would seem that a truly electric performer, by simply doing on video the things he does best on a stage, could capture a whole new audience.

What anyone who had ever been to a Jacksons concert already knew—that Michael Jackson on stage was as good as it gets—many more people could now discover in the comfort of their own homes over and over again.

Thriller goes to the top of the charts on February 21, 1983. Over the next month, as the videos find their audience, **Thriller** leaves its competition in the dust. The chart race every week is for the number two slot.

Along about the middle of May, **Thriller** starts to come back down to earth, until surprise event number two presents itself on the network televised Motown 25th anniversary special on May 16, 1983.

After some film clips of the Jacksons from the days of yore and a moving performance by the brothers, reunited with brother Jermaine, the stage is left to Michael.

Fifty million Americans watch Michael Jackson moonwalk across the stage during his performance of **"Billie Jean"** and the tremors are felt in record stores from coast-to-coast the very next day. Once again, **Thriller** leaves the field behind.

Meanwhile, on the singles front, **"Beat It"** follows the path of **"Billie Jean"** to the top, giving **Thriller** three gold singles, two number ones and a number two. Records begin to topple as **"Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'** " (May 1983 release) goes top five, and is followed by the top ten hits, **"Human Nature"** (August '83) and **"P.Y.T. ("Pretty Young Thing),"** released in early October.

By Thanksgiving, ten million copies of **Thriller** have been sold in America, making it the best seller in the history of the CBS Records' labels. The LP promises to be a big Christmas item for the second year running, but it looks like its days as a number one album are behind it.

Then, on December 1, exactly one year after **Thriller's** release, MTV debuts the 14-minute short film of the LP's title cut that even the brilliance and excitement of "Billie Jean" and "Beat It" did not suggest was in the cards.

OVER 2 MILLION people in twelve countries were treated to 41 sold-out stadium concerts between May 23, 1988 and September 11, 1988, another all-time record scored for Jackson.

The reaction to this third stunning event is instantaneous and unparalleled. It is as if every person who has thought about buying **Thriller,** but hasn't yet is galvanized to act.

In the next three months, **Thriller,** spurred on by the "Thriller" film, plus the winning of seven American Music Awards in January, 1984 (a record) and eight Grammys in February (a record), sells an additional 7.5 million copies in America alone.

In the process, "Thriller" becomes the LP's fifth top five single and seventh top ten (both records) and the Guinness Book of World Records recognizes **Thriller,** first as the largest selling solo album in history and then as the largest selling album in history.

VARIED VENUES — Jackson, who sang and narrated on the album "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial," became one of the most respected and admired performers in popular music. Shown here in production (L to R) Quincy Jones, Jackson, and Steven Spielberg.

Indeed, for the first time ever, Bantam Books holds up the press run of their paperback edition of the 1984 book so that Michael's newsbreaking achievements can be recorded immediately.

Thriller has earned more than 150 gold and platinum awards around the world, and Michael, in addition to the eight Grammys and seven American Music Awards he received for **Thriller,** has also received four Black Gold Awards and the People's Choice Award for favorite all-around male entertainer.

Finally, Vestron Video released a home video package in mid-December, 1983, **Making Michael Jackson's Thriller,** which was the largest selling music home video ever with more than 900,000 units sold.

1984-1986

* Michael records the **Victory** album with The Jacksons, which is released in early July, 1984. **"State of Shock,"** a duet featuring Michael and Mick Jagger, climbs to the number three slot and the LP is the group's first double platinum achievement.

* The historic Jacksons Victory tour begins on July 6, 1984 in Kansas City. It will run for five months, crisscrossing the U.S. and Canada with the most ambitious design and execution ever created for the concert stage. More than two million people come out to see the show. Michael does it all, night after night.

* The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce honors Michael with his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The star is placed in front of the famed Mann's Chinese Theater.

September 1984. Michael announces that he will donate all of his tour profits to three charities: The United Negro College Fund, Camp Good Times and the T. J. Martell Foundation for Leukemia and Cancer Research.

October 1984. The Paul McCartney/Michael Jackson duet, Aided by a wonderful video in which the two perform, **"Say, Say, Say"** is a number one hit before year's end and has a six-week run at the top.

* **January 1985.** Michael and Lionel Richie write **"We Are The World,"** a passionate call to Americans and people everywhere to help fight the epidemic starvation in Africa. Joined by more than forty of their peers, they record and release the song to incredible response, and USA for Africa is born to aid in the fight started by Bob Geldof and his British compatriots with Band Aid. Based on Subsequent work and events, history is surely made.

* **August 1985.** After ten months of negotiation, Michael Jackson enters the music publishing world in earnest with his purchase of the nearly 4000-song ATV music catalogue,

(Continued on Page 6)

HISTORIC — Nine concerts slated for December of '88 in Tokyo sold out in one day. No other artist except for Jackson, himself, has ever drawn such large numbers and sold out so quickly.