

**arte**  
SALES

A full-page photograph of Michael Jackson performing on stage. He is wearing a highly reflective, metallic gold jacket with a wide collar and gold buttons. His right arm is raised high, holding a microphone. He has a wide, open-mouthed smile. In the background, a person wearing a dark, reflective helmet is visible. The background is dark with some stage lights.

# **MICHAEL JACKSON** **10 YEARS AFTER** 52'



# MICHAEL JACKSON, 10 YEARS AFTER

A documentary directed by Gilles Ganzmann, produced by JARAPROD

**PROVISIONAL DELIVERY: AUTUMN 2018**

## PITCH

On 25 June 2009, the sudden death of Michael Jackson triggered an outpouring of emotion around the world,

On that day, the King of Pop brutally disappeared, leaving many secrets behind... and his three children, Prince, Paris, and Blanket, lost their father. A father so unlike any other.

A decade on, people have opened up and another side to Michael Jackson has emerged.

Thanks to exclusive interviews exclusive interviews of his father, Joe Jackson, his brothers Tito and Jermaine, his friends, his managers, his employees, dancers and choreographers in his clips, his greatest fans and those closest to him, we will reveal the secrets that were unveiled after his death and what has become of his empire and businesses.

Who manages Michael's huge fortune and his inheritance?

10 years later, has the mystery of his death been elucidated?

Who found his body? Did the pressure of the "This is it" concerts push Michael to overdose? Why did it take 3 months to bury his body?

What has become of Neverland? We will meet employees who speak for the first time.

10 years later, what have become of his children, Paris, Prince and Blanket?

**A road trip investigation, filled with music, to discover everything we ever wanted to know about the disappearance of the greatest idol of all time.**

**Discover a Michael Jackson you had not imagined...**



**July 2009:** Paris Jackson, aged 10, at his father's burial, saying, "He has been the best father you can ever imagine, and I love him so much."



**March 2018:** a photo of Paris Jackson kissing top model Cara Delevingne on the mouth caused a media storm.

# SYNOPSIS

The narrative framework will be structured around five main themes:

- 1) Was Michael Jackson killed, was it a suicide, or was his death an accident?

Shortly before he died, Michael Jackson was dealing with some serious legal and financial problems. He was on medication and had invested a lot in his upcoming tour.

- 2) What happened to his 12km<sup>2</sup> Neverland ranch, which included a theme park, theater, and a house with 16 bedrooms and 29 bathrooms.



Michael Jackson inside Neverland





View of NEVERLAND Valley Ranch in Santa Barbara (California)

- 3) How did his mother, father, and brothers view Michael Jackson the star? How did it change after his death? And how did his mother Katherine, aged 78, take care of her three grandchildren?



Katherine and Prince Jackson at the world premiere of Michael Jackson ONE in 2013

- 4) What was it like growing up for Prince, Paris, and Blanket? The star's three children who are now aged 21, 20 and 16 respectively. When they were young, they wore masks to hide their identity, while today they are hounded by the media.



Michaël Jackson with his children, Prince and Paris (2004)

- 5) What has happened to Michael Jackson's business interests since his death?



# SEQUENCES

## 1/ 10 YEARS LATER: WHAT CAUSED HIS DEATH AND WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE?

Who discovered Michael Jackson's body? Did the pressure of the *This Is It* tour and the threat of bankruptcy push Michael to take an overdose? Why did it take three months to bury his body? We will discover how nobody wanted to pay for Michael Jackson's burial, and yet a few days after his death, AEG organized a huge show about the star, the TV rights to which would have been sold for millions.



## 2/ 10 YEARS LATER: HIS FORTUNE

Michael Jackson is ranked #1 in the Forbes list of the richest dead men in the world, ahead of Elvis Presley and John Lennon. But while he was still alive, he faced bankruptcy and was paying off debts to Colony Capital, an investment fund that bought up all his debts and his Neverland home. Where does the money (150-200,000 euros every month) given to his mother, Katherine Jackson and his three children come from? His will says they will only inherit after they turn 45.

### 3/ 10 YEARS LATER: HIS CHILDREN

What kind of childhood did Michael Jackson's children have and what was he like as a father? Prince Jackson is now 21 and lives alone. He dreams of being an actor and director but for now, only produces short films. What is life like as the son of Michael Jackson? How is he received in Hollywood? What has the last decade been like for him?



Prince JACKSON, aged 20 (2018)



Blanket JACKSON, aged 14 (2016)

Paris JACKSON, aged 19 (2018)

Paris Jackson has just celebrated her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. She is no longer the model daughter who cried as her father was buried and whose words at that event broke hearts around the world. She has spent the last 10 years rebuilding her relationship with her mother Debbie Rowe. And today, she is loved by the paparazzi, who report her every outing and escapade. Blanket is 16 years old, and still lives with his grandmother, Katherine. We know relatively little about Michael Jackson's youngest son, whose resemblance to his father is striking.



#### **4/ 10 YEARS LATER: THE FAMILY**

His mother, Katherine Jackson, lives in Calabasas, opposite to the home of the Kardashians. She is the only person to receive any money from her son's estate, paid monthly by the lawyer who handles the will. At the age of 78, and after having already raised nine children of her own, she is now acting as a mom again to her three grandchildren, who were aged 11, 10, and five when their father died. She had to adapt her life to this new mission and has a close relationship with TJ, Michael Jackson's nephew, the children's tutor. Michael Jackson's father lives in Las Vegas and takes care of his son's business dealings.

#### **5/ 10 YEARS LATER: NEVERLAND**

What is the story of this ranch one of a kind, with running costs of more than a million dollars per month and which once had its own post office? Neverland was Michael Jackson's dream – a former ranch transformed into a giant amusement park with a zoo and a home with over 50 rooms. Neverland also contributed to Michael Jackson's financial problems. Who owns it now and how much is it worth? Was it sold? What happened to the rides, the staff, and the animals? And meanwhile, all of Michael Jackson's possessions are piled up in a warehouse in Santa Monica.



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This documentary will not be a biography, rather a film about Michael Jackson as told by those closest to him, including family, friends, and business partners, on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing.

We will interview Tito Jackson, Joe Jackson, Linda Deutsch, Buz Cohan, Ray Robledo, Gloria Berlin, Ola Ray, to name but a few (see complete list of speakers page 11 to 13).

This film will also be a chance to reveal some hitherto unseen personal documents shared by his family, along with some rare images of Neverland and of his children. To illustrate the documentary, we will also have access to footage from Michael Jackson's concerts, and extracts of legendary music videos like *Thriller* and *Smooth Criminal*. Ola Ray, Michael Jackson's partner in the *Thriller* video, and Vince Patterson, who choreographed *Smooth Criminal*, will take part in the film.

For the first time, we will talk to those closest to Jackson, and paint a more intimate and more complex portrait one of the most famous people the world has ever seen.



*Smooth Criminal* (1988)



# SPEAKERS LIST

**Joe Jackson**, his father



At the venerable age of 89, for the first time, Joe Jackson revisits the relationship he had with his son. He also recounts how he took a step back after his death. He had 6 sons and 3 daughters with Katherine Jackson. He was the foundation for the *Jackson Five* and Michael Jackson's success.

**Tito Jackson**, his brother



Tito is the third son of the family and among the closest to Michael Jackson; he was his confidante. He tells how he had always been different but also what happened within the family after he had passed away.

**Jermaine Jackson**, his brother



Jermaine is the fourth son of the family. He always had a complicated relationship with Michael –whom he saw as a rival. He is actually one of the few brothers who managed to make a name for himself and have a semblance of a career.

He retells his relationship with his brother but also what he discovered after his passing.

**Ola Ray**, actress from the *Thriller* clip



She is the leading actress in the *Thriller* video. With more than 66 million albums sold throughout the world, Ola Ray owes much of her reputation to the video. If nowadays nobody remembers her name, her fame is still considerable – although she does not benefit from it. You will discover that Michael Jackson felt guilty about it 10 years later and was then always by her side.

**Gloria Rhoads Berlin**, Katherine Jackson's best friend and confidante



Gloria has been Katherine Jackson's closest friend for over 60 years – in times of joy and in times of sorrow, Katherine told her about every little thing. Gloria will tell us about their family secrets. You will find out that it was her who found Neverland and managed the sale.

**Buz Kohan**, friend and author for Michael Jackson's songs



He is a key figure in Hollywood yet he does not speak out often. He was a song and sketch comedy writer – notably for Sammy Davis Junior, Frank Sinatra and Fred Astaire. Michael Jackson had done everything to stay in touch with him in order to meet the legends he held in such high regard and to discover the secrets he replicated later. A strong friendship formed between him and Buz Kohan – who was also the author for the latest Oscar ceremony.



**Vince Patterson, Michael Jackson and Madonna's choreographer**



Choreographer for the *Thriller*, *Smooth Criminal* and *Black or White* videos among other...

Choreographer for Madonna's entire *Ambition Tour*, choreographer for Björk in the movie *Dancer in the Dark*.

Vince Patterson is the creme de la creme among choreographers. He will tell us about Michael's slip-ups and how – 10 years later – he still cannot wrap his head around his disappearance. Vince Patterson was already there on the day Prince's birth.

**Linda Deutsch, Michael Jackson's Close Friend and Journalist at the A.P.**



Linda Deutsch covered all of Michael Jackson's trials for the Associated Press.

After being with him and his lawyers for so long, Linda had become very close to Michael Jackson.

During Michael's child abuse trial she was the only one to believe in his innocence.

She also covered the star's disappearance.

She will tell us about Michael Jackson's business 10 years later.

**Matt Forger, Sound Engineer for the *Thriller* album**



He had the chance to make record takes and mix the *Thriller* album. He did not know then that he was working on an all-time record selling album.

He stayed very close to Michael; who entrusted him with the mix for the albums *Dangerous*, *Bad* and all the others afterwards.

On record for the first time, he will tell us about the Michael Jackson who wanted to record albums in the dark, but also the numerous practical jokes he pulled.

He will also explain why he put together and mixed Michael's posthumous album for Sony.

**Ray Robledo, Neverland Employee**

Initially employed as a security guard, Michael Jackson later hand picked him to join the team in charge of the amusement park.

He quickly rose to the position of Park Manager and developed a true friendship with Michael – for whom he worked for more than 10 years. He will recount his daily activities in Neverland and show us a side of the park that we had never seen before.

**Robert Swinson, Theme Park Consultant**

He designed and led Neverland's entire construction.

Throughout the years he had developed a privileged relationship with Michael –who called him his “Dream Maker”.

He is one of the rare people who had a free access to Neverland and an impressive collection of photographic archives.

He has a fragile constitution and is hurting even more since Michael passed away – of post-traumatic stress disorder and severe depression for which he is consulting.

**Larry Nimmer, director and producer**

Following Michael's trial, Larry Nimmer was contacted by Jackson's lawyers to film Neverland independently. He spent some time there in order to see if there was anything incriminating in the star's behavior.

Larry Nimmer recounts Michael's darkest years – according to him, those times directly led to his death.

**Christiane, Debbie Rowe's Best Friend**

A childhood fan, Christiane had always sworn she would move to California and meet Debbie Rowe one day – she did not want to meet her idol directly but Paris and Prince Jackson's mother instead.

From her home in France, she did not understand why a woman chose by her idol Michael Jackson would be so criticized: If Michael had married her it was probably because she was a formidable woman.

Five years later, Christiane had become Debbie Rowe's best friend, her confidante, her protector. She has integrated in Los Angeles so well that she has become the Kardashian family's personal assistant.

**Zar Zanganeh, land developer**

When Michael came home from Bahrain he decided to settle where his father lived – in Las Vegas. He asked Zar to find him the best home.

Zar controls almost 40% of the market for luxury villas in Las Vegas. He will show and tell us what makes a home for Michael Jackson, Britney Spears or Sharon Stone.

And of course 10 years later at what price were Michael Jackson's houses sold – and who can afford them.

**Brian Bringer, President of “Legends in Concert”**

This man has understood well that the one thing his fans and Las Vegas visitors want to see is Michael Jackson alive and performing on stage. Undeterred, he had singers with the same voice print dress up as the King of Pop to create a hit show in the capital of gambling.

Ten years after Michael Jackson's death, his business is booming.



### **Brandon Jones, Michael Jackson imitator in Las Vegas**



In this documentary you will hear his voice before you see him. And surely mistake him for the real one.

Thanks to a few tricks and an excellent make up he really looks like Michael Jackson on stage in Las Vegas. But his singing voice is so close to the star's that his live performances with an orchestra.

## **BIOGRAPHY OF DIRECTOR: GILLES GANZMANN**

Gilles Ganzmann is a TV man. He recently produced and directed a documentary about the Brazilian national soccer team for the 2014 World Cup, another on the Kennedys, and a third on the Céline Dion show, featuring the Canadian star herself. He has rubbed shoulders with the stars of the small screen for more than two decades, having held different roles as reporter or editor-in-chief for France 2 (Bas les masques - Mireille Dumas), France 3 (Lignes de mire - Jacques Chancel), and M6 (Capital, Stars et couronnes).

Ganzmann has also worked for Buena Vista France as editor-in-chief and producer of The Disney Club (TF1). He produced a magazine show with Marie-France Brière, and was appointed to run Expand Interactive. He was responsible for developing the group's products and brands (Koh Lanta, Pop Stars, Qui veut gagner des millions, Fort boyard, Les mini keums, etc.) across all digital platforms. He then joined Fremantle Media France (Head of Development) and was involved with the creation of Oui chef (M6), La nouvelle Star (M6), and Question autour du monde (TV5).

In 2005, Ganzmann produced and directed Stars etc. on Télévision Suisse Romande (TSR) and Edition limitée on RTL Tvi. He has also produced content for younger audiences (Le Mag on TSR) and has produced Miss Suisse Romande for the past two years.



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