

A Candle for Michael Newsletter

December 2017

Sharing MJ news and comment from the World Wide Web



This Newsletter

Hi everyone. As we're now in the traditional season of giving, I'd like to take the opportunity to give a big THANK YOU to everyone for supporting this newsletter, and especially to all those individuals and groups who have posted online news items and links that I have shared to our group. These, along with items I've found via my own daily research, give our group a purpose and make this newsletter possible.

As another year approaches, let's resolve to keep up the great work in supporting Michael's legacy in so many wonderful ways. We have our disagreements over how that should be done, I know, but if our hearts are in the right place, I'm sure "love will find a way."

We are a global family that has one very special individual and purpose in common. That in itself is worth celebrating.

Keep on *Michaeling* everyone!

Kerry Hennigan

Kerry Hennigan

Global MJ Pilgrim ("I'm with the doll")

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Calendar of MJ Events

Until Summer 2018 – Michael Jackson exhibition at the GRAMMY Museum, Los Angeles <https://goo.gl/6yPmx4>

25 Dec – Christmas Day - Major Love Prayer Day
www.majorloveprayer.org

1 Jan – New Year's Day

13 Jan – In the Studio with MJ 2018 pop-up seminar in Orlando. Visit inthestudiowithMJ.com for tickets

20 and 21 Jan – In the Studio with MJ 2018 – Tokyo, Japan
<https://goo.gl/HDrZzL>

News of Note

- **"Neverland Ranch" Name Registered for Museum**
In November 2017 The Blast entertainment website announced that Triumph International, on behalf of the Michael Jackson Estate, had lodged papers on 30 Dec to register the name "Neverland Ranch" with a view to it being used for a number of entertainment services, including a museum. Although the real Neverland isn't being considered as a location for the museum, plans include incorporating items from the original home into the design, like the front gates to the ranch. The application lists a number of things they intend to use the trademark for, including "operating museum and providing guided tours of the museum" and "non-downloadable musical performances, musical videos, film clips, photographs and other multimedia materials featuring music and/or visual representations of Michael Jackson." JA source close to the Estate told The Blast that a museum has been discussed for some time and they are simply beginning the process of securing a name before they move ahead with any possible plans. Read the article [here](#).
- **Thriller 35th Anniversary Celebrated online**
The biggest selling album of all time, Michael Jackson's "Thriller", was released 35 years ago last month. The occasion did not go unnoticed by online music writers who shared their thoughts on what makes "Thriller" a perennial favourite. India's 94.3 Radio One celebrated throughout the month of November with audio contributions from various



- **Artist Kehinde Wiley talks about portraying Michael**
Artist Kehinde Wiley, whose monumental portrait of Michael Jackson will feature in the exhibition "Michael Jackson: On the Wall" next year in London, recently spoke to the National Portrait Gallery's director Nicholas Cullinan about his work, including his portrait of Michael. According to an article by Louisa Buck in The Art Newspaper, "Wiley paid particular tribute to Jackson's 'own deep personal understanding of painting' and revealed that the musician—who apparently owned a library of more than 10,000 art books—had engaged him in lengthy conversations about the 'different brush strokes in early and late [paintings by] Rubens and the viscosity of paint—we talked about my studio practice on a granular level'". Read the full article here: <https://goo.gl/UfRTH2>
- **"They Don't Care About Us" in Kurdish**
Michael's most powerful protest song, "They Don't Care About Us" continues to reflect the angst of people who feel marginalized and victimized. Now, an Istanbul-based Kurdish music group called Bajar, has adapted MJ's 1996 hit song in Kurdish and released a music clip of their performance. In adapting the lyrics to the Kurdish Kurmani dialect, Bajar led by the Ankara-born vocalist Vedat Yildirim simply translated Jackson's English lyrics into Kurdish. You can watch the video of their performance here: <https://goo.gl/a1piRS>
- **Memories of "Dangerous" studio personnel**
In a recent post on Facebook, Brad Sundberg shared some of his priceless memories of some of the people he worked with in the studio when Michael was recording "Dangerous". Brad writes "If you look through the liner notes (many of which I wrote myself), there are names and bits of info that likely mean very little to you, so I thought it might be fun to introduce you to a few people." To read Brad's recollections, visit: <https://goo.gl/Zq6fqj>
- **New unfounded allegations made by tabloids**
In the midst of serious allegations of sexual impropriety amongst Hollywood heavyweights, last month one tabloid site posted a story claiming the late Corey Haim had indicated Michael Jackson had abused him as a child. However, Haim, who was introduced to Michael by their mutual friend Corey Feldman, was 21 years old when he met Michael. Other inconsistencies in the claim abound, but the story was nevertheless picked up by other tabloids, with details amended to suggest it still could have happened. For an excellent refutation of the tabloids read Helena's blog on the VindicateMJ Wordpress account at: <https://goo.gl/qm3hNq>

celebrities and MJ collaborators and those inspired by him. The station even created an artistic video tribute for the occasion: <https://goo.gl/TSiho> Forbes joined the celebrations with an article titled "35 Years Later: 3 Things Musicians Can Learn From Michael Jackson's 'Thriller'" which you can read here: <https://goo.gl/iRD2Zj>

- **New first-hand stories of Neverland now available**
"Behind the Gates of Neverland. Conversations with Michael Jackson" by Ray Robledo (former Neverland employee) and Lori Armstrong is now available as an eBook from Amazon. You can read my review here: <https://goo.gl/iPmEqH>
- **In the Studio with MJ updates for 2018**
Brad Sundberg has announced that In The Studio With MJ 2018 launches in January with a couple pop-up events in Orlando, followed by an amazing weekend in Tokyo at Noah Studio on January 20th and 21st! For tickets when available visit: <http://inthestudiowithmj.com/>
Read Brad's post on preparing for the launch of Michael's "Bad" tour in Tokyo in 1987: <https://goo.gl/cvPP48>
- **Paris in Australia – and the Aussie Media**
Paris Jackson attended Australia's richest horserace, the Melbourne Cup, as part of the Myer "Fashions in the Field" component and drew criticism for her dress choice and her clowning around for photographers afterwards. She flew on to Queensland to visit the Great Barrier Reef and get up close and personal with some Aussie wildlife, and unwittingly posted a social media meme that caused a stir. It was all innocently done, of course, and she apologized where it was necessary. But her shabby treatment by the Aussie press left her understandably shaken. The aftermath, which was far more positive, has, of course, received a lot less media attention, e.g. the \$600 dress she wore sold out before it hit the stores, to the delight of its designer. For a summary and evaluation of Paris' treatment by the media, read my blog post on Wordpress: <https://goo.gl/7wKNYV>
- **From Record Company Exec to Hearing Loss Advocate**
As head of publicity, product manager and then senior vice president of marketing and sales with Epic Records, Dan Beck spearheaded 16 music videos for Michael Jackson and created the name and concept for the "HIStory: Past, Present and Future, Book 1" album. But in 1999 a hearing test revealed he had lost 65 percent of his mid-range hearing in both ears. How he dealt with the setback makes inspiring reading: <https://goo.gl/MfUXX7>



- **"Michael Jackson held my hand, too"**
The following story was shared by Michael's official social media accounts. "Michael Jackson was an example to us all. He treated everyone with dignity and respect. In this article, a crew member on the 'Scream' video remembers how Michael cared for him after an on set accident." Read the article here: <https://goo.gl/ZnX5Gj>
- **J5 Christmas Album re-issued on Vinyl**
MJ Vibe reports that the Jackson 5 Christmas Album has been re-issued on vinyl, to be released Dec 15. Pre-order from Universal/Motown via the link here: <https://goo.gl/15dVLU>
- **Final issue of L'Uomo Vogue features Paris Jackson**
Paris Jackson was styled by Rushka Bergman for a photo feature in the final ever edition of the Italian publication L'Uomo Vogue. Her father appeared in the Nov/Dec 2007 issue, when he was also styled by Bergman. You can view the feature and read the interview with Paris online at <https://goo.gl/gQvooj>

- **Sheik Jackson for US cinemas**
Cleopatra Entertainment has acquired North American rights to "Sheikh Jackson", the Michael Jackson-themed film that Egypt has selected as its entry into the Oscar Foreign Language Film race. The movie was an official selection at this year's Toronto Film Festival, and now an early 2018 theatrical release is planned according to Deadline Hollywood. Read more here: <https://goo.gl/74y4Qf>
- **"Making Michael" book to be updated**
Author Mike Smallcombe has advised he will be releasing a new edition of his book "Making Michael" which will include "lots of new information and extra chapters." Smallcombe writes "I know there is so much more to uncover when it comes to the life and work of Michael Jackson." He is hoping for a release date of late August 2018, to coincide with what would have been Michael's 60th birthday. Read his full statement here: <https://goo.gl/ggUJ5w>
- **New MJ 101 free guide "Bad 30" now available**
Andy Healy has published a new title in his series of free Michael Jackson 101 guides, this one is "Bad 30". You can access this and all the other titles in the series at <http://www.mj101series.com/>
- **R.I.P. Teddy Lakis**
Teddy Lakis passed away last month following a heart attack in his home town of Munich. Teddy was the assistant of Marcel Avram, whose Mama Concerts Agency managed Michael's appearances for some years. Condolences were posted online by some of Michael's tour personnel, including Michael Bush, who wrote: "he was a great friend to MJJ and made Michael laugh so much..." and Jennifer Batten, "I have gr8 memories of him from touring with MJ." You can read MJ Vibe's article here: <http://www.mjvibe.com/teddy-lakis-died/>
- **Former MJ Manhattan mansion is sold to Keith Urban**
A seven-bedroom property in Manhattan, designed in 1898 by Alexander Welch, was advertised for sale last month. The media took delight in announcing that Michael Jackson had lived there between 1999 and 2000, and paid \$99,000 a month in rent! The big question was, who was going to be able to afford to buy such a property. The answer was Australian country music star Keith Urban, who reportedly purchased it for his actress wife Nicole Kidman. The sprawling six-storey mansion is located on 74th Street, just off Fifth Avenue and close to Central Park on New York's Upper East Side. View a slideshow of the property here: <https://goo.gl/zsF8Sn>
- **Grandpa Joe tweets about grandson Blanket/Bigi**
In a rare video post on his website, Joseph Jackson said, "To my grandson Blanket. You are like your father in so many ways, and you remind me most of him. Enjoy life, see lots of good movies, stay healthy and remember, I do love you!" Read the story and watch the video here: <https://goo.gl/BCVHaF>
- **The true story of Michael at World Music Awards 2006**
Pez Dan of MJ Vibe has written an article detailing the events as he experienced them of Michael's appearance at the 2006 World Music Awards in London, revealing what really happened and how the media headlines got it all wrong (again!) Read his blog here: <https://goo.gl/3MkLWC>
- **Minecraft "This Is It" MJ video is a delight**
Last month MJ Vibe posted a short article on a little Minecraft animation video created by Emigê Animation Studios. The video is Michael (Minecrafted) singing "Human Nature" (This Is It version). Minecraft is a game about placing blocks and going on adventures with characters that are also block-like. Even "block-like" MJ is pretty cool in this little video. Enjoy, and Merry Christmas. <https://goo.gl/vG7pxD>

