



A Candle for Michael Newsletter

Issue #132 - April 2024

Sharing MJ news and comment from the World Wide Web

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Editorial

Happy 11th birthday to our newsletter. Yes, this issue marks the completion of eleven years of monthly MJ newsletters, and some of you have been here for the entire journey, while others have joined in along the way. All are a part of the story, which is just one small part of Michael's immense global family of fans and supporters – true believers!

Our main image this month (above) is instantly recognisable as being from Michael's performance at the 30th Anniversary Grammy Awards ceremony held in 1988. I've written an article about this event, the nominations Michael received for the *Bad* album, and especially his incredible live performance. You can access it [here](#) - I hope you enjoy it.

Wishing you peace and happiness and a very happy month of Michaeling!

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Calendar of MJ Events

Ongoing – [MJ ONE by Cirque du Soleil](#), Las Vegas.

Until 9 June – [MJ: The Musical](#), on Broadway, New York City

Until – 7 Dec – [MJ the Musical](#), Prince Edward Theatre, London

2 Apl – 7 Apl – MJ the Musical on Tour – Tucson, AZ

10 Apl – 28 Apl – MJ the Musical on tour – Denver, CO

25 Apl – Major Love Prayer www.majorloveprayer.org

- Actor playing John Branca says MJ deserves biopic**
 Actor Miles Teller, who plays John Branca in the *Michael* movie, told Variety he thought MJ deserved a biopic regardless of what some people might think about him. To prepare for the role, the *Top Gun: Maverick* star said he tried to inundate himself with as much information as he could and said he'd met John Branca. "I've gotten to hang out with him a little bit," he said. Miles also expressed his excitement about being part of the large ensemble cast. "I just like being a part of the team if you come from theatre." Despite Variety's focus on the abuse allegations during their interview, Teller stuck to his guns about being involved with the film. "You only get so many opportunities in this business to make films," he said, and added that he thought the *Michael* movie will blow people away. "Regardless of what you know or what your opinion may be, Michael is one of the greatest to ever do it, if not the greatest," Miles said. "He deserves a movie, and I'm excited to be a part of it." Sources: B1030.com and News.com.au.

- Bigi Jackson takes a legal position on expenses**
 Bigi Jackson is contesting his grandmother Katherine's claim for payment of half a million dollars in legal expenses in a matter involving the MJ Estate. Katherine's appeal was dismissed, but she is now asking for the Estate to reimburse all her costs in the matter. Bigi is not opposed to Katherine's reasonable attorney fees being covered for expenses she incurred in litigating the executor's petition for the business transaction (believed to be the sale of a portion of the Mijac Music Catalogue to Sony) that set all of this in motion. [ET](#) reports that Bigi's court documents state that "it is questionable that four lawyers charging fees of \$850 to \$1,400 per hour was necessary to perform the work." Bigi agrees the court "may grant Katherine's fees and costs" but only "to the extent that the Court finds them reasonable and necessary." The Estate has responded that "It is difficult to imagine that the trustees could provide any more liberally for Mrs Jackson," and that "virtually no request of Mrs Jackson for her care or maintenance has been declined" in the years since Michael's death. [Billboard](#) claims that documents filed with the court by the MJ Estate on March 21 state that Mrs Jackson has received more than \$55 million since June 2009. According to [People](#), Katherine responded that there would be no loss to creditors or injury to the estate or any interested person if it covered her legal fees of half a million dollars accrued while appealing last year's court decision.

- MJ's jacket is top seller at Julien's Auction**



While there were plenty of items from other big name artists, including Taylor Swift, Dolly Parton and Freddie Mercury, Bill Wyman and more, it was Michael's jacket from the 1996 Brit Awards that scored the highest bids at Julien's Music Icons auction on 27 Feb. Made by Dennis Tompkins and Michael Bush, the jacket was the event's top-selling item, fetching US\$50,800. View the auction catalogue and sale prices on [Julien's website](#).

- Consolidation of cases and next court date**
 The judge has agreed to the request from Robson and Safechuck's lawyer to consolidate their cases for their claims against the MJ companies (i.e. Michael's Estate). The Estate's legal team did not oppose the request. [@andjustice4some](#) reports on Twitter that a joint report is due on 22 May, with next

28 Apl – [The Wiz at Lido Cinemas Hawthorn](#), Melbourne, Vic

30 Apl – 5 May – MJ The Musical on tour – Des Moines, IA

7 – 12 May – MJ: the Musical on tour – Kansas City MO

14-26 May – MJ: the Musical on tour – Minneapolis MN

28 May – 6 Jun – MJ: the Musical on tour – St. Louis, MO

11 – 16 Jun – MJ the Musical on tour – Buffalo, NY

22 Jun – [King of Popcorn movie night](#) at Hayvenhurst

18 Jun – 7 Jul – MJ the Musical on tour – Boston, MA

9 – 14 Jul – MJ: the Musical on tour – Grand Rapids MN

16 Jul – 11 Aug– MJ: the Musical on tour – Cleveland OH

20 Jul – [King of Popcorn movie night](#) at Hayvenhurst

13 Aug – 8 Sep – MJ: the Musical on tour–Washington DC

31 Aug – [King of Popcorn movie night](#) at Hayvenhurst

17 Sep – 22 Sep – MJ: the Musical on tour – Memphis, TN

15 Oct – 20 Oct – MJ the Musical on tour – Tulsa, OK

23 Oct – 3 Nov – MJ the Musical on tour – Detroit, MI

12 Nov – 17 Nov – MJ the Musical on tour – Baltimore, MD

3 Dec – 8 Dec – MJ the Musical on tour – Schenectady, NY

4 Dec – 31 Jan 2025 – [MJ: the Musical](#) opens in Hamburg

7 Dec – [King of Popcorn movie night](#) at Hayvenhurst

8 Jan – 19 Jan 2025 – MJ the Musical on tour–Philadelphia PA

Feb 2025 – [MJ: the Musical](#) opens in Sydney, Australia

4 Mar – 16 Mar 2025 – MJ the Musical on tour – Orlando, FL

18 Mar – 25 Mar 2025 – MJ the Musical on tour – Miami, FL

8 Apl – 20 Apl 2025 – MJ the Musical on tour – Ft Lauderdale

18 April 2025 – “Michael” biopic premieres.

News of Note

- MJ the Musical official London premiere**
 MJ: the Musical starring Myles Frost officially opened at the Prince Edward Theatre in London's West End on March 27. Michael's three children, Prince, Paris and Bigi, were in attendance along with other red carpet celebrities, including award winning composer Hans Zimmer and Michael's friend comedian Chris Tucker. Read the article in [Aussie Theatre](#) and watch a video clip [here](#). Also seen attending the show were Tom Mesereau and Lord Grade of Yarmouth (House of Lords) who wrote [a letter](#) to the press castigating the negativity of official critics. A retired theatre producer himself, Lord Grade said, “I was bowled over by every aspect of the show.” Listen to what radio and TV presenter Jenni Falconer says about it [here](#). Also celebrating the occasion was [Smooth Radio](#), which posted an article and interview with Myles Frost backstage in London. Bookings are currently available up to 7 December (link in our Calendar, above).
- CEO visits Michael set - buys shares in company**
 CEO of Lionsgate Jon Feltheimer, whose company is making the *Michael* biopic, has picked up shares in the company on the open stock market after visiting the set of the movie. Vice chair Michael Burns said, “He is pretty fiscally conservative in many ways and so that was actually interesting to see him do it, and I swear he bought it because he went to the set — we are shooting the Michael Jackson movie on the Sony lot — and he just came back and just said, ‘This thing is going to be incredible.’” Source: [Deadline](#) For the latest casting updates, including the roles of Diana Ross, Berry Gordy, Quincy Jones and others, access the article [here](#).

court date currently 5 June 2024. As noted by [@MJRepository](#), “Wade and James have had an entire decade at this point to refine their stories and timelines, yet continue to push factually impossible and completely erroneous details in their filings.”

- Bashir TV special creates new headlines in UK**
 Martin Bashir has been caught up in a new row over his “Living with Michael Jackson” TV special amid claims he deceived MJ's family to gain access to Michael. Music producer Denis Ingoldsby has alleged that Bashir tricked him into setting up a meeting with Tito Jackson to discuss the documentary. And Tito has said he too felt double-crossed by Bashir, who allegedly claimed the 2003 ITV film would be a celebration of the entire Jackson family. “I was a bit reluctant as I was very protective of the Jackson family, and Michael was nothing but lovely to me,” Ingoldsby reportedly said. “But he [Bashir] insisted that it was not going to centre on Michael at all... but would be a celebration of the Jackson family as a whole, and their legacy... I was taken in by him... at the end of the day it was all an act, and he only had Michael in his sights. I felt deceived and, ultimately betrayed by this man.” Source: the [Press Reader](#). The revelations further highlight Bashir's deceit not just with respect to Michael, but the Jackson family, and Denis Ingoldsby. While the article mentions that Bashir was called to testify at the trial in 2005, what it does not explain is that he claimed immunity from answering Tom Mesereau's questions by invoking the California Shield Law and the 1st Amendment. (Watch a transcript video [here](#).)
- The story of John Barnes – in the studio with MJ**
 Producer John Barnes was part of Michael's ‘B team’ that worked on the *Bad* album in MJ's home studio at Hayvenhurst. The team consisted of Michael, John Barnes, Matt Forger and Bill Bottrell. They would work up the songs, record demos and then the tapes would go to Quincy Jones and the A team in the recording studio. In this [YouTube](#) video, based on The MJ Cast's John Barnes special, Joseph Vogel's “Man in the Music,” and comments from Matt Forger, you can listen to the story as related by John Barnes and learn what happened to most of those songs. In the comments below the video, [@JRouben](#) posted, “I was John's engineer/mixer on most of his record productions and film scores for nearly four decades. Your account is entirely accurate. Michael bought John a half-a-million-dollar Synclavier and they disappeared to the Hayvenhurst home, with Bill, for a year and a half. John was a musical savant. Thank you for acknowledging his contribution.”
- Michael's Bad World Tour – the biggest of all time?**
 An interesting post by John Branca on his official Instagram account considers how Michael's Bad world tour measured up compared to current successful tours. “Would Michael have had the biggest tour of all time?” he asks. “The Bad Tour was performed before more than 4 MILLION PEOPLE, in a relatively short tour period, at a time when industry ticket prices were very low. Using today's superstar ticket prices, the BAD Tour would gross over \$1 billion making it the biggest tour ever. The BAD Tour was a true concert tour spanning only 16 months, unlike some of these multi-year tours that artists use for their numbers.” View the post [here](#).



- When Chinese Take-Away was delivered to MJ**
 A video of Paul Russell of Sony has surfaced in which the music executive tells the story of a time when Michael had Chinese food for 18 people delivered to the hotel room where he was attending a board meeting. Access the video [here](#) to find out what happened when MJ answered the door himself.
