

By D'Antre Cole

Even after his passing, there are still shows being performed in tribute to Jackson's extraordinary talent. There aren't that many people that can bring up the fact that someone is nominated for awards after they're dead. Michael Jackson received numerous awards even after his death in June 2009.

Jackson just released an album in May 2014 titled "Xscape." The album made its debut at No. 2 on the U. S. Billboard chart with first-week sales of 157,000 copies in the United States. These are amazing numbers because artists who are alive and well can't pull off those sales figures. The song that was the lead single, "Love Never Felt So Good," featuring Justin Timberlake, had been out for about two weeks prior to the album's release, so people bought the album because they knew for a fact that if Michael Jackson had some new material and that they had to be the first to hear it.

Critics loved the album, saying "M.J. will live forever" and that they were sure he would have more material in the upcoming years to add to his legacy. Jackson has some great producers on the album, including Rodney "darkchild" Jenkins, L.A. Reid, Timbaland, and other.

Michael Joseph Jackson was born Aug. 29, 1958. He has siblings who are nearly as famous — Janet Jackson, Jermaine Jackson and LaToya Jackson. He began singing professionally when he was just 7 years old, and as lead singer of the Jackson 5, he recorded numerous hit records and performed all over the world.

Jackson said his musical influences were
James Brown, Smokey Robinson, Marvin Gaye, Stevie
Wonder and Diana Ross. Jackson released his first solo
album in 1971, "Got to Be There." The album didn't do
so well, but Jackson did not give up. Jackson worked
with legendary producer Quincy Jones on the most

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Remembering the King of Pop

successful projects of his solo career. In 1979, he released the album "Off the Wall" that had several hit singles, including the chart-topping songs "Rock with You" and "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough."

Jackson then released his greatest album of all time, and the greatest selling album of all time, "Thriller," in 1982. Thriller sold more than 10 million copies in two days

and more than 29 million copies to date. The success of the album led to endorsements from Pepsi, Sony and Suzuki, and others.

Jackson married
Lisa Marie Presley, Elvis
Presley's only child, in 1994,
according to hollywoodlife.com. The couple first met
in 1974 and re-connected in
November 1992.

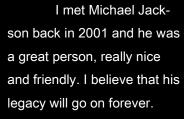
During his career,
Jackson earned numerous
major awards such as the
Grammy, American Music
Award and MTV Award for
his achievement in music.
"Thriller" won album of the
year.



Jackson was also lauded for his charitable works. His humanitarian work was recognized on May 14, 1984 when he was invited to the White House to receive an award from President Ronald Reagan for his support of charities that helped people overcome alcohol and drug abuse.

Jackson's music influenced a generations of

artists who followed him. Beyonce, Usher, Chris Brown, Jay Z and Drake have cited Jackson as their musical influence.



Jackson died on
June 25, 2009 in a desperate
search for sleep as he prepared for a comeback tour
that he hoped would pull him
out of deep debt and restore
his reputation as the world's
top entertainer.



Photos courtesy of Microsoft Office Publisher 2007