

APPENDIX I AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Michael Joseph Jackson (August 29, 1958) was an American singer, songwriter, and dancer. Dubbed the "King of Pop", he is widely regarded as one of the most significant cultural figures of the 20th century and one of the greatest entertainers of all time. He was also known for his unorthodox lifestyle, residing in a private amusement park he called Neverland Ranch, and often becoming the focus of tabloid scrutiny. Jackson's contributions to music, dance, and fashion, along with his publicized personal life, made him a global figure in popular culture for over four decades.

The eighth child of the Jackson family, Michael made his professional debut in 1964 with his elder brothers Jackie, Tito, Jermaine, and Marlon as a member of the Jackson 5. By the late 1970s, Michael was increasingly looking to pursue a solo career. With the help of music producer, Quincy Jones, Michael produced the solo album '*Off The Wall*'. The album was a great success, eventually selling over 20 million copies. The album gained much critical acclaim, and Michael secured the highest royalty rate in the music industry.

His second solo album, *Thriller*, launched Michael Jackson into a position as the most famous pop singer in the world. With little commercial advertising and promotion, *Thriller* rose to number one on album sales and remained at the number one spot for a total of 37 weeks. It gained one of many Guinness World Records for Michael Jackson, attaining 110 million global sales and 29 million sales in the US. *Thriller* included number one hits such as *Beat It*, *Billie Jean*.

By the late 80s, there was an increasing number of stories speculating on Jackson's personal life, health and physical appearance. Michael Jackson underwent numerous operations of plastic surgery to fix his nose and add a dimple in his chin. During the 1980s, his skin started to lighten; this was due to a rare skin pigment disease, but it didn't stop a wave of speculative press stories that he was bleaching his skin colour. The press covered a range of speculative stories about Michael Jackson, including imaginary stories

Michael had invented himself (such as sleeping in an oxygen tent to avoid the ageing process).

He married Lisa Marie Presley in 1994; it lasted two years though they remained friendly after the divorce. In 1996, he married Deborah Rowe in Sydney. Together they had two children, they are: Michael Joseph Jackson, Jr. and Paris-Michael Katherine Jackson. They divorced in 1999 and Rowe gave full custody of children to Jackson.

Towards the end of his life, he was increasingly plagued by money troubles and ill health. He increasingly became dependent on a variety of drugs, which was said to have contributed to his ill health and premature death. And finally he died in Los Angeles, California, USA, June 25, 2009 at the age of 50 years).