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NE of the greatest entertainers of all time is still making money years after his untimely death. Michael Jackson started his career in the late 1960s with his brothers in the Jackson 5, and has been on a roll ever since. During his life time, Jackson made album after album, satisfying his fans, and influenced them to come to his shows to see him perform live.

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

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 hollywood-life.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.



I met Michael Jackson back in 2001 and he was a great person, really nice and friendly. I believe that his legacy will go on forever.

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