

HIS-Story: hold on

Unbelievable. Unbelievably great. Unbelievably tragic. Simply unbelievable.

A short glimps at a moved life...

1995 - 1998In public:

Michael is rehearsing for a special TV-event which is supposed to be held in New York (The 'One Night Only' Concert for HBO). When he finally collapses on stage during the rehearsals it gets clear that he didn't feel well already for some time. Immediately Michael is taken to hospital into intensive care. Just shortly after the accident Lisa Marie and Michael announce their divorce. Critics seem to be right – this was not a very long relationship…

'Blood on the Dancefloor', a remix-album with four new tracks on it is released, and Michael again goes on tour. How could it be differently – the 'HIStory'-tour breaks all records. Michael donates a great amount of the incomes to charity.

He's still on tour (in Sydney) when he marries Debbie Rowe a longtime friend. And Debbie is preagnant with Michael's first son. On February 12th 1997 she gives birth to Prince Michael Jackson Junior. On April 3rd 1998 Prince's sister Paris Katherine Michael Jackson is born.

Michael does everything. He loves being involved in every aspect of caring for the baby. He is such a wonderful father, feeding him, holding him, and, of course, singing to him, Debbie says. (OK-interview with Debbie and Michael) Unfortunately also this marriage does not last forever.

In autumn 1998 Debbie proclaims their divorce. The couple wants to stay friends. The real reason of their separation shouldn't be revealed before 2003 when Debbie (in a completely different context) feels like being forced to talk about this relationship.Rumours:

Several days in intensive care and doctors with very serious faces – how sick is Michael?! The rumours go from AIDS – to a heartattack – to drugs. Or is his body so weak because of all those plastic surgeries?

Allegedly Lisa Marie tells Michael right at his sickbed that she will go for divorce …

The stories about a relationship between Michael and his dermatologist's assistent Debbie Rowe finally are verified. But the media doesn't believe that this marriage has something to do with 'love'. Everybody believes this to be a deal to get children for Michael.

Michael Jackson is a father! A new wave of rumours gets running: he's got more than 20 nannies who are not allowed to cuddle and/or kiss the children. Besides the kids are kept in sterile rooms only which are observed by a videosystem. And because of their father's fear of germs the toys of the children must be burned after being touched once. Debbie is not allowed to see her children not to talk to or touch them.

And worst: the kids are not Michael's own children because they are white. Maybe they are not even Debbie's own children and she has only been the 'baby-box'!

When the couple separates after 3 years the situation seems to be clear: this marriage has been a business-deal to get 'Jacko'; the thing he loves most: little children…

'Can you take the children away from this Wacko??' – ask the newspapers.Behind the scenes:

When Michael collapses on stage in New York his condition is very serious. Because of a virus-infection he didn't eat and hardly drink for days. Totally exhausted and dehydrated he still rehearsed. Day and night Michael Jackson has been together with a lot of people but obviously nobody noticed his condition – welcome to 'Hollywood'!

Together with Prince Walid Ibn Talal Abd el Asis of Saudi Arabia Michael founds 'Kingdom Entertainment', a company which wants to care for the 'family-entertainment' in the world: amusement-parks are planed, hotels, movie- and TV-productions, restaurants, children-books, Music-recordings etc. Again Michael travels the world

to visit hospitals and help charity-organisations.

During the tour Michael travels from one country to another nearly all two days. Although his days are stressful, the shows exhausting and the timezones different, he still finds the time to visit children-hospitals in many, many cities to bring them some gifts and joy.

The birth of his own children Michael describes as the happiest experiences in his entire life — even regarding the fact that it's not easy to deal with the fact that press-helicopters fly over the hospitals hunting for pictures all the time. Finally the lonely artist has his own family. Day and night Michael looks after his children. More and more he retreats from the public. Yes, his children are more important to Michael than his own life. He uses all his energies to protect them — and so we hope you understand that we only show pictures of them which are officially released by Michael. He says:

Barbara Walters-Interview, 1997:

About the pictures of Prince which Michael made public after his birth:
 "There were some illegal pictures out there; They're forcing me to get his pictures. There were helicopters flying above us; flying over my house; flying over the hospital; machines and satellites all over. Even the hospital said, "Michael, we've had every kind of celebrity here; but we've never had it like this. This is unbelievable." And, so, I said, "Here; take it." And I gave the money to charity. (.) and now they want to do it again; and I don't want; maybe I don't want to show him to the world like that. I want him to have some space; where he can go to school. I don't want him to be called "Wacko Jacko". That's not nice. They call the father that. That isn't nice; right? (.) Did they ever think that I would have a child one day; that I have a heart? It's hurting my heart. Why pass it on to him?”

Living with Michael Jackson 2003:

"I look them (my children) in the eyes everyday - in the eyes - saying "I love you very much"; (.) I, I love them ! I would die for them”
 1999 - 2001 in public:

Again Michael works on a new studioalbum.

Nevertheless he wants to also do something else before the millennium. So he organizes "What more can I give": two big charity-concerts take place, the first one on June 25th 1999 in Korea, the second on 27th in Munich. Each time more than 40 superstars perform. The incomes are donated to the "HTW"-organisation, the "Red Cross" and the "Nelson Mandela Fond". During the Munich-show an accident takes place when a bridge with Michael on it has a technical defect and falls down more than 7 metres with hardly any cushion Michael can talk of luck that he isn't hurt worse.

At the "World Music Awards" in Moncao Prince Albert personally hands Michael the "Artist of the Millennium Award" over. The "World Music Awards" only deal with hard facts — Michael Jackson is the artist who worldwide sold most records in the last millennium. During the next 1 000 years nobody will be able to break this record. Rumours: For a short moment the press seems to forget that Michael is supposed to get kicked in the ass at every opportunity. "Brave Jacko!”, say the headlines "despite his pain he keeps the show going.” But the idea itself gets no attention: Michael invited all these stars only for one reason: to make them look ridiculous comparative to his own performance, and that the concert didn't raise any money. But well, the nose is mentioned really seldom… Behind the scenes:

Like he does so often Michael quietly and without any public attention visits sick children in different countries (here in 2000 in a hospital in London). He says:

Dismaying quotation from an interview that Michael gives the English paper "Daily Mirror";
in 1999:

"If it wasn't for children I'd throw the towel and kill myself."

And also on other occasions Michael says similar things in 1999, in the TV-Guide-Interview he is asked if he honestly meant these words.
Michael: "I always have. Cause I would feel I have nothing to live for."

Question: "Not even for yourself and your own creativity?"
Michael: "I wouldn't care. Everything I create is inspired by that kind of innocence. And nature, it's everything. It has to be. I mean, that's it."

Yet he seems to be very optimistic concerning his upcoming album which will be released in autumn 2001:
"You ain't seen nothing yet! The best is yet to come..."

In public:

In spring 2001 Michael speaks in New York and then at the Oxford university for his new organisation "Heal the Kids"; which was founded within the "Heal the World"; projects. Rumours

The rumours never die. The magazines report that "Jacko's" nose finally falls off and that he will be closed away in a mental hospital in the next time. He's look like a monster and you have to protect your children from him, a pedophile who even dares to appear in public to tell good parents how to handle and raise their children.

The world media heavily criticize him for his appearance and looks (hobbling on crutches because of a broken foot). The superstar is finished and he belongs into a psychiatric clinic because he just talks nonsense. Hardly a report cares about the great messages of his speech.

Diverse, mostly English tabloids yell at Michael as a child-molester who dares to come back with this very issue into public. And the next night he does "God knows what"; with McCauley Caulkin, the meanwhile - unfortunately - adult child-star.

Uri Geller and Rabbi Shmuley Boteach get interviewed with obvious cynicism: a man who himself has been accused to have abused a child, why does he of all try to stand in for their rights?

Shmuley Boteach: "Those of us who sort of work with him are very protective of him because we see, you know, all these people shooting hours at him and he doesn't know how to put the defences on because he's too innocent, too gentle because he feels that he wants to retain the child within because that's the source of his imagination, creativity, transparency."

And the students in Oxford are enthusiastic. Even if most of them actually came to have something to laugh, they finally left the room moved and pensive. Behind the scenes:

Together with Rabbi Boteach he founds "Heal the Kids". Although Michael has to look after his own children and his new album, he uses every free minute to work on this project - the world's children still are very close to his heart and no rumours, no scandal and no accusations will ever change that.

He who doesn't like to talk very much still decides to hold the speech in Oxford. And despite a broken foot and suffering great pains he keeps his word. His audience, very critical students who have hoped to get something to laugh about, afterwards thank Michael with standing ovations.

"It was very moving, very emotional, very heartfelt."
"I was quite impressed actually. I expected it to be a lot more brief and less content, more like Michael Jackson making an appearance."
"He was very, very baldy chased and it's time for it to stop." He says:

Extract from the speech:

“But now I am a father myself, and one day I was thinking about my own children, Prince and Paris and how I wanted them to think of me when they grow up. To be sure, I would like them to remember how I always wanted them with me wherever I went, how I always tried to put them before everything else. But there are also challenges in their lives. Because my kids are stalked by paparazzi, they can’t always go to a park or a movie with me. So what if they grow older and resent me, and how my choices impacted their youth? Why weren’t we given an average childhood like all the other kids, they might ask?

And at that moment I pray that my children will give me the benefit of the doubt. That they will say to themselves: “Our daddy did the best he could, given the unique circumstances that he faced. He may not have been perfect, but he was a warm and decent man, who tried to give us all the love in the world.”

I hope that they will always focus on the positive things, on the sacrifices I willingly made for them, and not criticise the things they had to give up, or the errors I’ve made, and will certainly continue to make, in raising them. For we have all been someone’s child, and we know that despite the very best of plans and efforts, mistakes will always occur. That’s just being human.

And when I think about this, of how I hope that my children will not judge me unkindly, and will forgive my shortcomings, I am forced to think of my own father and despite my earlier denials, I am forced to admit that he must have loved me. He did love me, and I know that…”

On September 7th and 10th two big concerts take place in New York. Michael celebrates his 30th anniversary as a soloartist.

At the end of October his new album “Invincible” is released. In the first week it enters in the US and many other charts at number 1.

In November Michael shows up in a music-store at the Time Square where he gives autographs — this is the first time in his career that he does an event like this.

The Time Square is crowded with people who want to see the “King of Pop”. Rumours:

The sellings of the album keep the media-world in action. In the morning when the first single “You Rock My World” is in the top ten, Michael and his work are celebrated in high tones: “A best-seller like Michael Jackson has always been!” — In the afternoon when they hear that the song gave in some places Michael gets criticized badly: “He is finished!” People find always something to say…

The album “Invincible” is a masterpiece. Nevertheless the critics are very bad. It can happen that you read the Sony-commercial for the album in a magazine and on the next page you can find comments like “Eunuch-pop and pork-rock” — and this from one of the world’s most noted music-magazines. Actually embarrassing for them.

And we have also rumours that this has finally been the last album at Sony-music. Because Michael wants to leave them anyway Sony does not care that much about a comeback of the “King of Pop”. If he was great, they’d be stupid to let him go!!

And really, worldwide there are unacceptable states in the promotion - let’s face it, hardly any promotion! Michael seems to be very angry about that but somehow he can’t change anything. Besides he may have been urged to release singles which he actually didn’t want to release…

Behind the scenes:

During the video-take of “You Rock My World” Michael can talk of luck that he can avoid a bigger accident when suddenly a fire breaks out. But he can react fast enough and jump away from the flames.

Rumours about health problems of the singer overshadow the anniversary-concerts in New York.

On september 11th, the day of the terror attacks in America, Michael is in Manhattan. But he can be brought out of the city and stays at a friend’s house in New Jersey for the next days.

Just having recovered from the shock he returns to work. Michael re-records his song “What More Can I Give” with a couple of famous singers to help the families of the victims with it.

And finally in November - in this moment everybody asks why it took so long to finish the project - Michael and his friends sing it at a benefiz-show in Washington DC. He says: In an interview via telephone in november Michael talks about the disaster in New York:

NoW: "Do you think the Afghanistan crisis could result in World War III?"

Michael: "I think a lot of what is going on is biblically prophesied. But God promises he will not let man destroy the earth. That man will try, but he will not let them do it."

NoW: "How much do you think America changed after the terrorist attack on September 11?"

Michael: "People have never been so close in this country. Everybody has flags up everywhere. They speak again to each other. They say hello. They're hugging. It's like we've gone back to the 1930s or something."

NoW: "How did you feel when the terrorists attacked New York?"

Michael: "I felt my world end. I felt such grief. I cried and I cried."

2002 In public:

At the beginning of the year 2002 it suddenly gets quiet around Michael's music. Michael Jackson appears at the "American Music Awards", to receive another "Artist Of The Millennium"-award.

Besides he performs at the "American Bandstands" and in the "Apollo Theater" where he supports a promotion-campaign of Bill Clinton and his party. In spring Michael presents his new movie-project: "Neverland Pictures" and is supposed to work together with other big film-companies in the future to create great movies. Michael wants to be part of the productions in front of as well as behind the camera. Rumours: Just the ordinary ones.

Behind the scenes:

In March Michael is best man on Liza Minnelli's wedding. Liza met her new husband the year before at Michael's concert which David Guest had organized. Since quite some time Michael struggles with Sony-music. How it already happened several times with other big artists like George Michael and Mariah Carey the label doesn't support Michael enough any more. The promotion of "Invincible" is a bad joke, they don't make the money available which Michael needs for the videos and so on. Mottola tries to slow Michael down because he wants the "King of Pop" to sell him the second half of the famous "ATV-music-copyrights" (including the Beatles' and other big songs) and which brings several million Dollars to its owner each year. You can even see – physically – that Michael has a hard time. He hardly smiles and looks pale and frail. He says:-

In public:

"Invincible" seems to stagnate. Already the second video "Cry" – which is indeed the last one in the end – is shot without any appearance of Michael himself in it.

In early summer Michael's fans start demonstrating against Sony-music worldwide. They claim that Tommy Mottola sabotages their idol's album.

The two biggest demonstrations take place in June/July in London and New York. Michael himself joins them, obviously proud and happy about his fans' support. He even visits the fan-parties afterwards to thank his friends personally.

And Michael talks openly about the deplorable states concerning the equality of black and white artists in the music-business. Rumours:

At first Michael seems to be the clear loser of the year: KING OF FLOP !!!

Interesting the fact that the media talks of "Invincible" being flopped although its sales figures would make any other artist being green of envy. But they're right: compared with himself Michael Jackson indeed seems to have landed a flop.

But slowly the media gets wind of the fact that Michael Jackson has problems with his music-label Sony. Unfortunately they cannot decide whom to support in this matter – who ever wants to be solidly behind "Wacko

Jacko’?

When Michael at his birthday is surprised with a cake at the ‘MTV-Awards’, he dutifully thanks for the ‘award’. Unfortunately it was a misunderstanding and he didn’t get one. And he even abuts against a scenery. The laughters for the next days are supplied.

In autumn some pictures appear which are surprisingly ignored (or not recognized?) by the bulk of the press. Here it seems you see definite wounds around Michael’s nose — assumption: that looks like it hurts. And that someone could feel sympathy with ‘Jacko’ nobody wants to risk…Behind the scenes:

Michael is endlessly angry with Tommy Mottola. Against all his good manners he calls him a ‘devil’ and an ‘evil man’. Within other things Mottola is against the release of the song ‘What More Can I Give’ which like formerly ‘We Are the World’ could rise millions of dollars for the families of September 11th victims. Michael Jackson has got the feeling that he’s nothing more than a plaything of the money-maker and as a black artist only used by them. He wants to stop Mottola.

To not forget it: several month later Tommy Mottola leaves Sony-music and two years later the ‘What More Can I Give’-project finally gets going… Nobody should try to stop the ‘King of Pop’!

The misunderstanding on Michael’s birthday takes place not because he’s completely stupid but because he was told to receive an award. And nobody actually knows what stress Michael has to be able to participate on the show: he can only show up in the very beginning, then he has to hurry to the airplane to return to LA where he has to give evidence in a court case the next day. He says:

London speech, 2002:

“The tradition of great performers from Sammy Davis Junior, to James Brown, to Jackie Wilson, to Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly. The story is usually the same though. These guys worked really hard at their craft, for the story ends the same. They are usually broken, torn and usually just sad, because the companies take advantage of them, they really do.

And… Sony… Being the artist that I am, at Sony I’ve generated several billion dollars for Sony, several billion. They really thought that my mind is always on music and dancing. It usually is, but they never thought that this performer — myself — would outthink them.

So, we can’t let them get away with what they’re trying to do, because now I’m a free agent…. I just owe Sony one more album. It’s just a box set, really, with two new songs which I’ve written ages ago. Because for every album that I record, I write — literally, I’m telling you the truth — I write at least 120 songs every album I do. So I can do the box set, just giving them any two songs.

So I’m leaving Sony, a free agent… owning half of Sony! I own half of Sony’s publishing. I’m leaving them, and they’re very angry at me, because I just did good business, you know.

So the way they get revenge is to try and destroy my album! But I’ve always said, you know, art — good art — never dies.

… And Tommy Mottola is a devil! … He’s a horrible human being. And we have to continue our drive until he is terminated. We can’t allow him to do this to great artists, we just can’t.”

In public:

In November Michael visits Germany! He gets an ‘Bambi-Award’ — the art-award. Several hundred fans welcome Michael in Berlin where he stays for almost a week.

Boris Becker presents the price to an obviously moved Michael who makes a really great speech.

Additionally in this year Michael receives the ‘World Art Award’ and a ‘Billboard Award’. Rumours:

SCANDAL: In Berlin ‘Jacko’ nearly throws his son off the balcony! And even more than that — additionally the poor child’s face is covered by a scarf! The world is appalled once more. And then he goes into the zoo — in the middle of the biggest fan- and press-chaos and with his wretched children. Paris only wears a skirt, clearly too cold for

that season.

UNNATURAL FATHER! Child protectors of the world are roused: "Wacko-Jacko - can we take the children away from him?"
Just Germany's "BILD"-paper seems to think a bit differently.
On the day of Michael Jackson's departure they write almost embarrassed: "Good morning, Jacko! Have fun in Sanssouci, a good flight back home; and come back one day; and"

Just a few weeks later the next scandal. The "King of Pop" appears with in a court case with a plaster on his nose and then even on crutches. Now it finally happened: "THE NOSE FALLS OFF!!!"
The official explanation for the crutches: a spiderbite. But the true reason is - of course - that he wants to get attention and shirk court. Behind the scenes:

In Berlin among other things Michael Jackson meets a family which became victims of the flood-catastrophe in spring. Family Wolf gets not only the privilege to see the "King of Pop" here but they're also invited to meet him in Las Vegas and to one week holidays at "Neverland".

With his appearance at the "Bambi"-Awards Michael supports a project for homeless children in Germany. When his positive appearance turns into a scandal because of the "balcony-incident" Michael is deeply dismayed. In a public statement he appologizes for his unwise behavior. He only wanted to let the fans see his children and was not aware of any danger for his kids because he held his son strong and tight.

The zoo Michael wanted to visit in secret and he's not informed that it wasn't closed down. When he and his family get molested by the press (which interceptet the police-radio!) and fans he immediately leaves. Some days later they once more return - by night.

It's not sure if Michael was bitten by the toxic spider already before his Berlin-stay or afterwards, but it's true. Those bites are hardly visible at first but can get extremely painful, in worst cases even life-threatening. In the week Michael has to appear in court several times he suffers a lot from the wounds (at his hand and leg). Finally he even has to postpone one date to a later day. The opposing party asks for an examination if the singer is really sick. The official result: "Michael Jackson is not in the shape to be disposed at the moment." He says:

Bambi Speech, 2002:

"September 11th has changed our world. And long ago the Berlin wall came down, but recently new walls were built. In 1989 people in Germany said: "Wir sind ein Volk".

We are Germans, we are Armenians, French, Italians, Russians, Americans, Asians, Africans and many other nationalities. We're Christians, Jewish, Muslims, Hindus. We're black, we're white. We are a community of so many differences. So complex, and yet so simple.

We do not need to have war; and"

Michael Jackson, "Living with Michael Jackson" and "The Footage You Were Never Meant To See", 2003

"I love my children. I was holding my son tight. Why would I throw a baby off the balcony - that's the dumbest, stupidest story I ever heard. I love them and two mins before they saw the baby, Prince did exactly the same thing. I had him in my arms."

"They told us this [the zoo] would be closed down but they didn't. They let the gates open and fans and people started poring in. (and...) I wouldn't want to go on the day, especially I have a problem with the sun. I never knew we had the proposal [to visit the zoo at night]!"

2003 In public:

In February a new 'Michael Jackson-special' gets premiered in England and then aired in the rest of the world. It's a 90 minute long interview with Michael. But in difference to his few former interviews Michael this time had let Martin Bashir following him for nine month and documenting his life. Despite the hopes that it would be a positive and fair report about Michael Jackson's life and his personality, the special becomes the next 'scandal': Michael Jackson again says that from time to time he shares his bed with children. In addition his third child is from a surrogate mother and Michael Jackson doesn't want to admit more than two 'nose jobs';.

Only about two weeks later Michael's answer follows: 'The Footage You Were Never Meant To See' shows parts of the interview (for Michael quite positive) which were not shown in the original but which are still very interesting and show Bashir's methods to get his interview partner talking. The reporter flatters Michael, praises him for what he does for the world's children and what a great dad he is…

And as if Michael suddenly can not get enough in showing the world his true face, it doesn't take long until the next 90-minutes film gets aired, the 'Private Home Movies'. This time Michael leads through the special himself and shows old and new private videotapes from his life. Rumours:

Very interesting: the special 'Living With Michael Jackson' is aired in England for the first time. Germany and many other countries wait. Just as it gets clear that this definitely is the next 'Jacko-scandal'; the fight for the rights for the special start. Now every TV-station wants to be the first and only to show it.

'JACKO ADMITS TO SLEEP WITH LITTLE BOYS!'

All of a sudden the world forgets the threatening war in Iraq — there is a new enemy! The old enemies still are the best, a point where the world's media and the American president have the same opinion.

And so Michael Jackson — the man who wants to help and heal the world — replaces Saddam Hussein and George W. Bush on the frontpages — two men who want to destroy one another.

The media-fight is unbelievable: each and every day experts debate. Friends, relatives, psychologists, parents and moderators discuss if Michael is pedophil, dangerous or just naive. In the end this seems to be something like an answer: he's not — urgently — pedophil but he really has to understand that you don't say something like that in public. If he can raise his children in a good way nobody can really answer — except for the people who know Michael personally and who all have the same opinion: 'Yes, he can. And he's the best father.' But who wants to hear that? This is what the press presses into the last line — in very small letters.

That Michael only admits two plastic surgeries is a scandal itself: he has mutilated himself now he can at least admit that! Well, Michael doesn't even think of that!

Having watched 'The Footage You Were Never Meant To See', at least celebrities know what to think of Bashir: he may not come them closer than 50 meters! Behind the scenes:

Martin Bashir has been introduced to Michael by Uri Geller. Because he already had interviewed Michael's close friend Princess Diana, Michael decides to trust him. Michael hopes that Bashir will show him as the person he really is. The reporter had promised a fair and objective report, but in the end the word that's used the most is 'disturbing'. 'Neverland', the children's paradise where sick and underprivileged children can have a happy time gets described as a 'dangerous place'. Besides Bashir shows Michael's children although he had promised him not to do so.

And then additionally there is Gavin who had been hopelessly sick only two years ago but is healthy today. He's convinced that it was his friendship to Michael that helped in his healing-process. To help —; this is what Michael Jackson wants to do.

After the interview has been on air Gavin gets mobbed by other children because of what they've seen and heard about his relation to Michael: "So, you are the one who sleeps with Michael Jackson!"

Michael is devastated. He wanted the truth and trusted the reporter but he got kicked in the face. He is so angry and dissappointed that he decides to fight back this time. So he plans a reply and the "Private Home Movies". He says: Statement of Michael Jackson to the interview:

"I trusted Martin Bashir to come into my life and that of my family because I wanted the truth to be told. Martin Bashir, persuaded me to trust him that his would be an honest and fair portrayal of my life and told me that he was "the man that turned Diana's life round" (referring to the late Diana, Princess of Wales). I am heartbroken that someone whom I treated as a friend could stoop so low.

Today I feel more betrayed than perhaps ever before; that someone, who had got to know my children, my staff and me, whom I let into my heart and told the truth, could then sacrifice the trust I placed in him and produce this terrible and unfair programme.

It breaks my heart that anyone could truly believe that I would do anything to harm or endanger my children: they are the most important thing in my life.

Everyone who knows me will know the truth which is that my children come first in my life and that I would never harm any child.

In public:

In June Michael wants to return to his hometown Gary in Indiana for the first time in 20 years. First reason is his testimony in a copyright-process that deals with the copy-rights of some Jackson5-songs. At this occasion Michael would get the key to the city. But then the court-date has to be re-scheduled because Michael Jackson does not feel well. He is brought to a hospital where he stays some hours and is treated for dehydration then he flies home to LA.

At the end of June Michael makes a surprising appearance at the "Black Entertainment Awards" where he —; obviously deeply moved - presents the "Lifetime Achievement Award" to his big idol James Brown. Rumours:

WOODOO-JACKO!

Two people even get really creative! Jack Gordon (Michael's former ex-brother-in-law and ex-manager of sister La Toya) and Ho Lee (Ex-businesspartner of Michael) have the story: Michael should have done some WooDoo to get rid off opponents like Steven Spielberg and David Geffen. For that he sacrificed animals and took baths in their blood.

—; Fortunately these "opponents" are still very good friends of Michael and we don't forget that we talk of the same Michael Jackson who starts to cry if the conversation only comes to issues like deer-huntings

From time to time Michael appears with his children —; always with masks on their faces —; in the public and causes little "scandals" with that.

And since in the field 'nose, children, apes' no more — new!
— rumours can be created, the press returns to the older stories: 'JACKO
IS RUINED!'”
Once again… And this time it's the fault of his dissolute life-style. Behind
the scenes:

You can hardly imagine how much stress the court cases mean to Michael. He hates them because
they have no use.

People only use them to get closer to him and therefore they have the craziest ideas
— they fob children off on him, accuse him to have stolen their songs, owe
them money or had run over their canary with his limousine… In his life Michael already had been
involved in 1 500 cases and had to give testimony 1 000 times! Just unbelievable
numbers. And Michael asks himself: 'How much others will come? Will it ever
stop?'”

Also his testimony in Gary disturbs him. He's restless, doesn't eat,
drink and sleep. The day he has to appear in court he feels even worse and suffers
from an anxiety attack.

Nobody is unbreakable…He says:
—

In public:

On the day after his birthday, Michael appears on a party organised for him in LA.

Some days later he lets a couple of rich and prominent people into the 'Neverland'-Ranch to have a party.
The proceeds go to charity.

In autumn Michael gets the key to the city Las Vegas. At the 'Radio Music Awards' he gets the
'Humanitarian Award' and he presents his new projekt: 'What More Can I Give'.

www.whatmorecangive.com

Meanwhile Michael's new single 'One More Chance' (written by R. Kelly), is aired on radio. It
belongs to a best of album 'Number Ones'.

Rumours:

LOOSER!

The party in LA is supposed to be a flop — no prominent people wanted to come and 'Jacko'
— really furious — left even before midnight.

EXPLOITER!

The same with the 'Neverland'-party. According to the press nobody wanted to come. At the same time
it's clear that 'Jacko' only lets people in who pay 1 000 Dollars!

FRAUD!

Finally, after two years the song 'What More Can I Give' is released. Why not earlier? And now he even
cheats the other artists and give the raised money to Scientology!

KING OF FLOP!

'One More Chance' is no hit.

'Before Sony fires the 'ex-king of pop' they want to make money with his older songs once more.
That's why the 'Best of…'”. One new single belongs to it as well but who doesn't like
that one: just press 'skip'… !” Behind the scenes:

BENEFACTOR:

The party in LA is organized by Michael's fans. And he is so nice to even come himself! And Michael has a lot of
fun there.

Also the 'Neverland'-event is a success, and Michael enjoys himself very much. Unfortunately there are
some guests who don't know how to behave well and turn the fairyland into a mountain of rubbish.

And while the guests here have to pay for their entrance, Michael all the days before let his — poorer —
fans onto his ranch absolutely for free.

In Las Vegas Michael supports a children-charity-event.

After his longlasting struggle with his music-label, it's finally possible to release 'What More Can I Give'. Michael did not give up!

WINNER:

The 'Best of...' album is going to be Michael's last album for Sony-music. Then he's leaving them like he told us before. He says:

Michael Jackson speaks at the LA-party:

'I would like to thank my wonderful fans so very much for this event. I cannot believe what enormous effort you have put into this. Thank you for putting together this fabulous party and for travelling from over 30 countries. I am deeply moved and touched by your love. I want you to know that I appreciate my fans not just on occasions like this but every day of my life. It is your presence, your faith and your loyalty that has given me great strength during difficult times, and it was you who inspired me to work hard and deliver, I owe you.

Over the years we became a family. You are all my family. My children are your children and all children of the world are our children and our responsibility';

Michael Jackson at the 'Radio Music Awards':

'It's been two years, a very long time, but with over 100 people participating and donating their per records, this project together finally arrived. It couldn't have happened without you all. 'Two years ago we survived a terrorist attack that not only changed our country, but the entire world. We will never forget that terrible tragedy that brought us together and finally brought this project together. Producing this song was a miracle in itself. 'I hope that once again we can set out on a mission to lead the world on a path of harmony by asking ourselves every day 'What More Can I Give?'

In public: November 18th 2003 turns Michael's life around like probably noone would ever have guessed. Neverland gets searched by a bunch of policemen and Michael Jackson is officially charged with sexual child-molestation. Michael is lucky that he is not at home, otherwise he would have been arrested at once. DA Tom Sneddon can't refrain from grinning on his press conference as he invites the singer to come to Santa Barbara 'to check in'.

Three days later the Jet that brings Michael to his arrest, lands. He doesn't resist when they put him in handcuffs and take him away. About one hour later Michael leaves the police-station free on bail - which is 3Mio Dollar. His passport is withheld. Michael Jackson isn't allowed to leave the States.

On December 12th Michael gives an Interview to CBS talking about his feelings for the first time. He says he could never see Neverland as his home again. The destruction of his privacy had hurt him too much. Additionally he accuses the police for gross ill-treatment. The too tight handcuffs had caused him pain and injuries, Michael complains. And they locked him up in a dirty restroom for quite a while. Now he can hardly move, his shoulder and back are still hurting.

The authorities fight hard against those allegations of misconduct of their part. They even use a video- and audiotape in order to prove their innocence in that case. But they never charge Michael with false accusation as they in the beginning threatened him. Rumours:

Well, actually there are no rumors needed to feed the headlines. Michael Jackson in handcuffs!! Child-abuse!! That's really enough.

But then it starts again. 'Jacko' is about to flee the country! He's supposed to have tried to get the pilot on his arrest-flight to change the route to South-America. 'Jacko' is said to have cried, screamed and threatened to kill himself.

And then he even alledges officials to have manhandled him. What a farce! Probably that's just his fishing for compassion; And then the pictures showing his arms with thick swellings - those injuries may have been faked by his brilliant stylist. Behind the

scenes:

Michael is in Las Vegas shooting the video to his new song "One More Chance"; then the most horrible news of all strikes him down. At once he retreats to his parents and decides to cooperate with authorities. "First he cried and was devastated", a source tells, "then he looked up and said: this time I'm gonna fight!"

Karen Faye, Michael's make-up-artist, heavily fights back the allegations that she has made the bruises on his arms. Insiders, the accusers and those who simply pay close attention know that they did mishandle Michael Jackson simply in putting handcuffs on him. This is because he suffers another disease making him even more vulnerable than most people would imagine.

But on Christmas he still does what he's supposed to do: inviting children from poor LA-families to Neverland. There they can spend a great, easygoing day. And Michael even welcomes them personally in a several-minutes appearance. He says:

60 minutes-Interview mit Ed Bradley, 2003:

About the arrest:

Michael: "They were supposed to go in, and just check fingerprints, and do the whole thing that they do when they take somebody in. They manhandled me very roughly. My shoulder is dislocated, literally. It's hurting me very badly. I'm in pain all the time."

About Neverland after the warrant:

Michael: "My room is a complete wreck. My workers told me. They said, 'Michael, don't go in your room.' They were crying on the phone, my employees. They said, 'If you saw your room, you would cry.' I have stairs that go up to my bed. And they said, 'You can't even get up the stairs. The room is totally trashed.' And they had 80 policemen in this room, 80 policemen in one bedroom. That's really overdoing it. They took knives, and cut open my mattresses with knives — just cut everything open."

About the child-accuser:

Bradley: "[…] you don't think this comes from him?"
Michael: "No… This is not him. No. I know his heart." 2004In public:

The new year begins with Michael pleading "not guilty" in January. Then the case goes before a Grand Jury which finally decides that there's gonna be a trial. The trial shall begin in late summer but then gets postponed because the parties can't agree on certain things.

Quickly judge Melville imposes a "gag order" which prohibits both sides to talk about their case.

In spring Michael visits Washington to get an award which honors his engagement for women in Africa and against AIDS.

In August and September Michael even shows up in court if he doesn't have to: at the testimonies of DA Sneddon and the accuser's mother Janet Arvizo. Both have to give their testimony in the forefront of the trial because of doubts in the case.

At the end of the year, Neverland gets searched again. Rumours: Of course it's a time where you can find rumours a dime a dozen. Again and again it's talked about "other victims". Will the allegations even be expanded?

Allegedly there's this boy in Germany who knows Michael for many years. When the family is asked if they defend their friend the answer is "no comment" — very suspicious! And then two men show up who claim to have been sadistically (sexually and physically) abused by Michael Jackson and his team 18 years ago. One of them would have been 3 years old then, the other one 18. For many years they couldn't remember the incidents but with the new accusations against Jackson they suddenly gain their memory again…

Moreover Jody Chandler — the 1993 accuser — would testify against Michael if that was necessary to get him behind bars. And other so-called friends like MacCauley Culkin won't defend him in court, although the defense had asked them to.

When Michael visits Aspen it's said that he wants to detox from painkillers and other medication.

Oh, and of course ex-wife Debbie Rowe wants to take the kids away from him. Now since he's hit rock bottom he can't take care for them any more. And Debbie also disagrees with his connection to the NOI which is a radical islamistic group and maybe more than just Michael's security? Behind the scenes:

Here everybody pulls no punches. At the year's beginning Michael changes attorneys. Mark Geragos who still is very much involved into a death penalty case gets replaced by Tom Mesereau. Michael wants an attorney who is fully there for hi

The defense tries to face certain inequities but often fails. The bail which is higher than those imposed on a mass-murderer doesn't get lowered; the prosecution doesn't handle all the evidence over to the defense - but they get away with everything. To prove that Michael wasn't maltreated, authorities release a video- and audiotape of parts of his arrest. Their examination is done without even asking Michael Jackson for his position. While Michael gets reprimanded by the judge becoaus he maintains his innocence, incriminating papers possessed by the prosecution are made public in the internet. But noone cares.

Michael leaves Neverland because since the search he doesn't feel safe there any more. He retreats into a mansion in Beverly Hills where he's visited by the child-welfare-institutions. They again examine the fact if he's able to care or is a danger for his own children. Would they even take the children away from him?

In February Michael and his kids visit Aspen, in May Hawaii.

When he in summer shows up in court with his whole family and all wholely in white, he gets accompagnied by several death threats. In front of the court house a car passes by with the driver screaming out of the window: "Hang him! Hang him!"

Michael is lucky to again be not at home when Neverland gets searched the second time in approximately one year. Now he's forced to handle over a saliva-sample for DNA-tests to authorities. Normally this is reached by an ordinary court order and not by a body search warrant - as it was done in Michael Jackson's case…

On Christmas Michael does what he is used to do: he invites inner city children to Neverland to enjoy a great and easygoing day. And he even greets the kids and talks to them for a short while.

He says:

"As I have repeatedly said, I am completely innocent of these false charges, and I am ready to fight for my innocence. I have complete confidence in my defense team, and believe that at the end of these legal proceedings, I will be fully exonerated by a jury of my peers."

Statement, April 30th, 2004 2005In public:

In the meantime the indictment was extended.

On January 31st the trial starts with building the jury. The selections are going on fast, because Judge Melville insists on a near end of the case.

The procedure is interrupted only two times: one time, because Mr. Mesereau's sister had died on cancer, the second time because Michael was brought to hospital because of influenza.

In the end twelve white inhabitants of the conservative Santa Maria will decide about Michael Jackson's fate…

The interview that Michael gives to Geraldo Rivera has to be allowed by judge Melville. Concerning the trial, Michael is approved just to read one statement.

At the beginning of March the prosecution start with their side of the case. Once more Michael claims to have serious health-troubles. During the time of the trial he is often treated in hospitals and looks quite bad.

The testimonies aren't that dramatic: there are just the - most of the time very - weird statements of the accuser's family and the funny fact, that every prosecution witness turns into a defense witness when it comes to the stand: No one really has seen, heard or has known anything… At the beginning of May the defence starts to present their case. There are not many witnesses - but good witnesses and within a month Mesereau and his team have shown their side of the case.

At the beginning of June the Jury deliberations begin.

They will find a verdict on June 13th

Not guilty on all counts, including the minor

counts! Michael Jackson is free - and seems to

have disappeared immediately after the acquittal.

In June, the world gets to know, that he is guest of a sheik in Bahrain.

On October 7th he suddenly appears again in London — to record a new song…Rumours:

Besides all the things the fans and ‘neutral’ observers tell, the press is bad: They are sure that he won’t get away with it this time, and he will go to jail between 20 and 80 years — provided that he will survive the trial.

As Meserau’s sister gets ill and the negotiation is resting for a week. The speculations run wild. “It’s just a tactic” the press titles. But then she dies.

Michael’s health provides rumours and speculation, too. But everybody - observers, fans and press - agree on one thing: the singer is losing weight rapidly, looks weaker and weaker from day to day. Will he get through the trial? And what if not?

Will he be allowed to wear make-up in jail - or a wig?

Will he be castrated if he will be in jail?

The press features pictures of Michael Jackson’s penis, allegedly drawn by the ‘first victim’ in 1993.

‘Gag-order’ or not, the press knows how to satisfy the needs of the audience. After all there are 3 000 reporters in front of the court house…Behind the scenes:

It seems there is no free space for the family members of the defendant during the jury selections — even Michael’s mother Katherine has to stay outside.

Michael tries his best to keep his dignity and countenance. At home, he tries to be the best father for his children and keep them away from his worries. After the negotiations he spends time with them, in the evening he has meetings with his lawyers, which last for hours. A few hours sleep have to be enough: he has to get up at 04.00 a.m. to be at the court house in time.

Every day the accused is the only one who is forced to get into the court room via the main entrance and to face the 3 000 journalists and their cameras — no one cares if he feels right or sick.

As he is in hospital one day (acute back-problems), the judge forces him to immediately come to the court house — otherwise he will be booked. Michael suffers great pain — but no one seems to mind. The trial goes on.

Fans from all parts of the world found their way to Santa Maria to be at his side. Every single day they are there, especially at the beginning and in the end. His fans, his kids and the faith in his innocence are the reasons why Michael continues the fight. But from day to day he gets weaker. His eyes are swollen from the tiredness and full of tears. Even when he arrives at court, his hand is closed tightly around a crumpled tissue — besides his mother his most loyal accompanist. Michael has lost much weight, in the end he has not more than about 90 pounds. After the verdict Michael travels to Barhein and Dubai, to relax and get his strength back. On the day of his birthday he makes a present to his fans and friends: new pictures of him find their way to the internet and around the world.

And then New Orleans is destroyed by the hurrican Katherina — and Michael’s heart is bleeding. He feels he must do something “to heal the world” and returns to the headlines again: He reaches out to many artists (Mariah Carey, James Brown etc.) to record a new song, called ‘From the Bottom of My Heart’. He wants to collect money for the victims of Katherina like he did with ‘We Are the World’ in 1989 for the starving people in Africa and ‘What More Can I Give’ 2001 for the victims of September 11th.

And with this plan he travels London at the beginning of October, where many, many fans already are waiting for him…

He says:

“Without God, my children, my family and you, my fans, I could not have made it through. Your love, support and loyalty made it all possible.

You were there when I really needed you. I will never forget you. Your ever-present love held me, dried my tears, and carried me through.

I will treasure your devotion and support forever. You are my inspiration.

Love, Michael Jackson” Statement, June 27th, 2005