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Michael Jackson FAQ

All That's Left to Know About the King of Pop

by Kit O'Toole

MONTCLAIR, N.J. – Michael Jackson was the undisputed King of Pop, but his influence extends much further. From his childhood years with the Jackson 5 through his astonishing solo career, he consistently broke sales records, pioneered the modern music video, and infused dance into rock and pop.

In *Michael Jackson FAQ* (November 2015, Backbeat Books, \$19.99) Kit O'Toole takes a fresh look at Jackson's four-decade career, covering his work in three acts – the Jackson 5, the Jacksons, and his solo years. Along the way, O'Toole reveals details such as Michael's earliest musical influences; the Jackson 5's start on the Steeltown label; the key players truly involved in the group's discovery; Michael's transformation into a prolific songwriter; his explorations of genres, from soul to disco to pop and hip hop; the tours, videos, and notable television appearances; his best-selling albums (*Off the Wall*, *Thriller*, *Bad*, *Dangerous*); outtakes and obscure tracks; and more.

Michael Jackson FAQ also takes a long look at Michael's work in films (*The Wiz*, *Captain EO*); his guest vocal appearances; and his collaborations with such music makers as Quincy Jones, Bruce Swedien, Stevie Wonder, Paul McCartney, and Diana Ross.

And there's more! O'Toole covers the tumultuous, but successful, *Victory* album and tour of 1984; Michael's major dance influences, including Bob Fosse, Gene Kelly, and Fred Astaire; the recurrent themes in Michael's songs; and the posthumous releases through 2015, including Michael Jackson's *This Is It* (2009) and *Xscape* (2014).

Finally, *Michael Jackson FAQ* celebrates Michael's legacy – his influence on countless artists from New Edition to Justin Timberlake, as well as his widespread impact on artistry across many media, from music to choreography to videography to fashion.

Packed with detail and keen insight, *Michael Jackson FAQ* is essential reading for devoted fans and pop culture buffs alike.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

KIT O'TOOLE is a freelance writer who has written about rock, jazz, and R&B for more than 20 years. Her work has appeared in print publications including *Showcase Chicago* and *Goldmine*, and she is a contributing editor for *Beatlefan* magazine. As a blogger, O'Toole writes for *Something Else Reviews*, *Blinded by Sound*, and *Cinema Sentries*, and previously served as a music editor for *Blogcritics*. She lives in Chicago.

November 10, 2015 \$19.99 Paperback Original 6" x 9" 464 pages
B/W images throughout 9781480371064
Backbeat Books, an imprint of Hal Leonard Performing Arts Publishing Group
<http://onstageandbackstage.wordpress.com> | www.backbeatbooks.com
michaeljacksonfaq.halleonardbooks.com

Kit O'Toole is available for interviews.