

In Memoriam Michael Jackson

Geschrieben von: Helmut Hetzel

Freitag, 26. Juni 2009 um 15:10 Uhr - Aktualisiert Samstag, 27. Juni 2009 um 08:04 Uhr



King of Pop died

The world mourns about Michael Jackson

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{youtube}cC1TTz2bMmM{/youtube}

Michael Jackson, der King of Pop, ist tot

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Aber seine Musik lebt

wie die von

Elvis Presley

Jimi Hendrix

Janis Joplin

Kurt Cobain

Jim Morrison

Freddy Mercury.

Michael Jackson

A Star Idolized and Haunted

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Michael Jackson Dies at 50

By Rusty Kennedy/Associated Press

Michael Jackson, whose quintessentially American tale of celebrity and excess took him from musical boy wonder to global pop superstar to sad figure haunted by lawsuits, paparazzi and failed plastic surgery, was pronounced dead on Thursday afternoon at U.C.L.A. Medical Center after arriving in a coma, a city official said. Mr. Jackson was 50, having spent 40 of those years in the public eye he loved.

The singer was rushed to the hospital, a six-minute drive from the rented Bel-Air home in which he was living, shortly after noon by paramedics for the Los Angeles Fire Department. A hospital spokesman would not confirm reports of cardiac arrest. **He was pronounced dead at 2:26 pm.**

As with Elvis Presley or the Beatles, it is impossible to calculate the full effect Mr. Jackson had on the world of music. At the height of his career, he was indisputably the biggest star in the world; he has sold more than **750 million albums**. Radio stations across the country reacted to his death with marathon sessions of his songs. MTV, which grew successful in part as a result of Mr. Jackson's groundbreaking videos, reprised its early days as a music channel by showing his biggest hits.

From his days as the youngest brother in the Jackson 5 to his solo career in the 1980s and early 1990s, Mr. Jackson was responsible for a string of hits like "I Want You Back," "I'll Be There" "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough" "Billie Jean" and "Black or White" that exploited his high voice, infectious energy and ear for irresistible hooks.

As a solo performer, Mr. Jackson ushered in the age of pop as a global product - not to mention an age of spectacle and pop culture celebrity. He became more character than singer: his sequined glove, his whitened face, his moonwalk dance move became embedded in the cultural

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firmament.

His entertainment career hit high-water marks with the release of "**Thriller**," from 1982, which has been certified 28 times platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America, and with the "Victory" world tour that reunited him with his brothers in 1984.

But soon afterward, his career started a bizarre disintegration. His darkest moment undoubtedly came in 2003, when he was indicted on child molesting charges. A young cancer patient claimed the singer had befriended him and then groped him at his Neverland estate near Santa Barbara, Calif., but Mr. Jackson was acquitted on all charges.

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