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# Michael Jackson Biopic Falls Short of Expectations

## Description

Earlier this month, director Dan Reed reflected on his four-hour documentary, *Leaving Neverland*, which covers allegations by Wade Robson and James Safechuck that Michael Jackson sexually assaulted them as children. Reed bluntly stated, "I learned Michael Jackson abused boys."

This comment comes amid ongoing discussions about Jackson's musical legacy versus the allegations against him. Reed's stark conclusion contrasts with *Michael*, a new film that omits these darker aspects. This film concludes in 1988, well before the allegations came to light. Its original plan included scenes of a 1993 police raid on Jackson's Neverland Ranch, showcasing a troubling moment for the singer. However, financial settlements have restricted such depictions.

While some argue there is no need for *Michael* to address these allegations, given its focus on a specific period, the choice of this timeframe has raised questions. The film ends with Jackson distancing himself from family and fellow performers, missing the complexity of his life.

Despite its focus on Jackson's early career, *Michael* neglects significant details and oversimplifies events, often feeling misleading. Although it attempts to portray him as a unique genius, the film's portrayal lacks nuance and omits personal insights. Critics highlight a failure to explore Jackson's private life, suggesting the film prioritises the artist's brand over the man.

This leaves a profound gap, as *Michael* neglects to examine the contradictions in Jackson's life, limiting the audience's understanding of his legacy.

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **allegations** //,æli'geɪfənz// (noun): statements saying someone did something wrong
2. **documentary** //,dɒkjə'mentəri// (noun): a film that gives facts about real things
3. **legacy** //'legəsi// (noun): what someone is remembered for after death
4. **depictions** //dɪ'pɪkʃənz// (noun): ways that something or someone is shown
5. **nuance** //'nu:əns// (noun): a small difference in meaning or feeling
6. **oversimplifies** //,oʊvər'sɪmplə,fəɪz// (verb): makes something seem simpler than it is

## Comprehension Questions



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## Multiple Choice

1. What does the documentary 'Leaving Neverland' cover?
  - Option: Wade Robson and James Safechuck's friendship
  - Option: Michael Jackson's musical career
  - Option: Allegations against Michael Jackson
  - Option: The history of Neverland Ranch
  
2. What year does the film 'Michael' conclude in?
  - Option: 1990
  - Option: 1988
  - Option: 1993
  - Option: 2000
  
3. What was omitted from the film 'Michael'?
  - Option: Allegations against Michael Jackson
  - Option: Details of his childhood
  - Option: Collaborations with other artists
  - Option: The police raid on Neverland Ranch
  
4. According to Dan Reed, what did he learn about Michael Jackson?
  - Option: He was a great musician
  - Option: He was innocent of all charges
  - Option: He abused boys
  - Option: He had a difficult childhood
  
5. Critics argue that 'Michael' prioritizes what over an accurate portrayal?
  - Option: The artist's private life
  - Option: The artist's brand
  - Option: The family's reputation
  - Option: The industry's demands
  
6. What aspect of Jackson's life does 'Michael' neglect according to critics?
  - Option: His creativity
  - Option: His family life
  - Option: His controversies
  - Option: His musical collaborations



### True-False

7. 'Leaving Neverland' is a four-hour documentary.
8. The film 'Michael' includes scenes from the 1993 police raid on Jackson's Neverland Ranch.
9. Dan Reed directed the film 'Michael'.
10. The documentary suggests that Jackson's legacy is not overshadowed by allegations.
11. 'Michael' portrays Jackson's life with great complexity and nuance.
12. The film 'Michael' attempts to showcase Jackson as a unique genius.

### Gap-Fill

13. Dan Reed stated, 'I learned Michael Jackson \_\_\_\_\_ boys.'
14. The film 'Michael' concludes in \_\_\_\_\_ 1988.
15. Critics believe 'Michael' omits significant \_\_\_\_\_ details.
16. 'Leaving Neverland' discusses allegations that emerged \_\_\_\_\_ Jackson's career.
17. The film highlights Jackson \_\_\_\_\_ from family and fellow performers.
18. The portrayal of Jackson in 'Michael' lacks \_\_\_\_\_ and insight.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Allegations against Michael Jackson 2. 1988 4. He abused boys 5. The artist's brand 6. His controversies

**True-False:** 7. True 8. False 9. False 10. False 11. False 12. True

**Gap-Fill:** 13. abused 14. the year 15. personal 16. during 17. distancing himself 18. nuance

### CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL5

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