



---

## 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.

---

### 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** //,ɒvər'sɪmplə,fəɪz// (verb): makes something seem simpler than it is

### Comprehension Questions



---

## 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

### Vocabulary quizzes



---

**Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )**

1. What is the main function of a panel in a discussion?

- Option: To provide entertainment
- Option: To offer expert opinions
- Option: To increase cynicism
- Option: To simplify complex issues

2. Which of the following best describes cynicism?

- Option: Optimism about the future
- Option: Skepticism toward human motives
- Option: A strong belief in fairness
- Option: A positive outlook on life

3. What is the primary purpose of a documentary film?

- Option: To entertain
- Option: To provide a fictional story
- Option: To inform or document real events
- Option: To promote a product

4. Allegations often refer to:

- Option: Confirmed facts
- Option: Rumors or claims without proof
- Option: Scientific evidence
- Option: Witness testimonies

5. When a complex issue is explained too simply, it:

- Option: Enhances understanding
- Option: Accounts for every detail
- Option: Oversimplifies the subject
- Option: Encourages deeper analysis

6. What does nuance refer to in a discussion?

- Option: A lack of detail
- Option: Subtle differences or variations
- Option: A single perspective
- Option: An extreme opinion

7. What does the term legacy most often refer to?

- Option: An individual's past achievements
- Option: A future promise
- Option: Current trends



---

Option: A temporary situation

8. What is the main goal of an investigation?

Option: To entertain

Option: To find the truth or gather information

Option: To confuse others

Option: To promote an agenda

9. A scientific breakthrough often leads to:

Option: More confusion

Option: New discoveries and advancements

Option: A return to older methods

Option: Delayed results

10. What does the term deceased mean?

Option: Alive

Option: Lost

Option: To have passed away

Option: To be forgotten

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. Different perspectives can provide more \_\_\_\_\_ on a complex issue.

12. The contemporary art movement focuses on \_\_\_\_\_ themes and social issues.

13. The dynamics of group behavior can often affect \_\_\_\_\_ outcomes.

14. Increased engagement in the community can lead to \_\_\_\_\_ changes.

15. The project was abandoned due to a lack of \_\_\_\_\_.

16. Effective interventions can help individuals who are \_\_\_\_\_ to substances.

17. There has been a significant shift in \_\_\_\_\_ regarding environmental issues.

18. The voter turnout was much higher than \_\_\_\_\_ in the last election.

19. The new product was unveiled at the \_\_\_\_\_.

20. The policy changes were incorporated into the organization's \_\_\_\_\_.



**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. Omissions in the report can lead to misunderstandings.
22. The depictions of historical events in the film were both accurate and engaging.
23. The documentary navigates through complex social issues with sensitivity.
24. Several prominent figures were interviewed for the documentary.
25. The scientist made a breakthrough in cancer research that changed treatment paradigms.
26. The investigation revealed critical information about the case.
27. Recent shifts in policy are expected to affect many communities.
28. Many deceased artists are still honored for their contributions to culture.
29. Oversimplifies in media reporting can mislead the audience.
30. Targeted interventions can significantly improve outcomes for patients.

**Answer**

**Multiple Choice:** 1. To offer expert opinions 2. Skepticism toward human motives 3. To inform or document real events 4. Rumors or claims without proof 5. Oversimplifies the subject 6. Subtle differences or variations 7. An individual's past achievements 8. To find the truth or gather information 9. New discoveries and advancements 10. To have passed away

**Gap-Fill:** 11. insight 12. current 13. decision 14. positive 15. funding 16. addicted 17. attitudes 18. anticipated 19. launch event 20. strategy

**Matching sentence:** 1. omissions 2. depictions 3. navigates 4. prominent 5. breakthrough 6. investigation 7. shifts 8. deceased 9. oversimplifies 10. interventions

**CATEGORY**

1. Entertainment - LEVEL5

**POST TAG**

1. biopic
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. fails



5. L5
6. michael jackson

**Tags**

1. biopic
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. fails
5. L5
6. michael jackson

**Date Created**

2026/04/28

**Author**

aimeeyoung99

ESL-NEWS.COM