King of pop moonwalks back to movie screens



PHOTO | ALI_CAT

Michael Jackson tribute collage, featuring photos from different eras of his career.

By Solé Scott
Editor-in-Chief

The Michael Jackson biopic is coming to theaters soon and honestly, I am ready for his story to be told the correct way.

The king of pop has a new biographical movie coming this year that will finally be an official release from his family that is involved.

The film was first announced in January 2023 and will be produced by Lionsgate. The release date was originally in April but has been moved to Oct. 3.

Nia Long, Coleman Domingo, Larenz Tate, Kat Graham, Derek Luke, Laura Harrier, Miles Teller and Jackson's nephew Jaafar Jackson have been casted.

The king of pop has been dead now for almost 16 years and we still do not have his full life story as much as everyone thinks we do.

In this film I hope we can dive more into the child molestation allegations that ultimately ended his career or at least damaged it for the rest of his life.

I know a documentary called "Leaving Neverland" premiered in 2019 on HBO and received immense backlash around the world.

This story was one sided and credibility was questioned when one of the accusers in the documentary, Wade Robson, was known to testify in court in 2005 that Michael had not done anything inappropriate with him. In fact, for years Robson stood up for Jackson until 2013 when he sued the Jackson estate for sexual abuse.

The case was dismissed in 2017 but was reopened in 2019 after the documentary aired because a new law gave children of sexual abuse more time to file. As of 2024, the lawsuit is still in effect and will be heading to trial.

Honestly, this situation would have never happened if Jackson had set boundaries with adults and children.

Let's be real, a grown man sharing a bed with a child who they are not related to is weird and inappropriate and he did not make this issue any better after he paid off the first accuser, Jordan Chandler.

Now, Jordan Chandler and his father Evan Chandler is a whirlwind of a story that kicked off a serious of molestation accusations for the future.

In 1993, Evan accused Jackson of molesting his 13-year-old son and filed a civil lawsuit worth $30 million.

Due to this allegation, Jackson was forced to undergo a strip search because Jordan drew a picture of his full body. The drawing did not match the descriptive photos of Jackson.

Evan set up Jackson in an attempt to extort millions from him, which was revealed in excerpts from telephone conversations with Jordan's stepfather, David Schwartz.

"Once I make that phone call, this guy's just going to destroy everybody in site in any devious, nasty, cruel way that he can do it. And I've given him full authority to do that. ... If I go through with this, I win big time. There's no way that I lose. ... I will get everything I want, and they will be totally—they will be destroyed forever. ... Michael's career will be over. ... This man is gonna be humiliated beyond belief. ... He will not believe what's going to happen to him. Beyond his worst nightmares. He will not sell one more record," Swhartz said.

Lastly, I hope we will get a more in-depth picture of how Michael died because his death has always been so eerie and unexpected.

We all know Doctor Conrad Murray was responsible for his death due to gross negligence, but Micahel's death was in the works for decades due to enablers and hopefully they will be exposed.

Tariff changes will impact fashion brands

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

The fashion industry faces both challenges and opportunities with changes to international tariffs.

In 2025, many countries are changing their trade rules and shifts in tariffs can affect everything from production costs to market access.

Fashion brands depend on global supply chains, so these tariff changes will impact things like raw material prices, final product costs and availability of goods in international markets.

One of the biggest effects of tariff changes will be on production costs.

Many fashion brands get raw materials, like cotton, wool, leather and synthetic fibers, from countries where it is cheaper to make them.

For example, India and China are big suppliers of textiles and fabrics and Southeast Asian countries often provide cheap labor to keep prices low. If tariffs on these materials go up, production costs will rise, which could mean higher prices for consumers.

Fashion brands that rely on global supply chains might have to rethink where they get their materials if tariffs change.

For instance, if the U.S. raises tariffs on Chinese goods, fashion companies that use Chinese-made textiles or garments could face much higher costs. These brands might have to absorb these higher costs, which would lower their profits or raise their prices, which could reduce demand.

Tariff changes could also impact trade relationships, affecting the availability of certain materials.

If tariffs make raw materials or finished goods more expensive, companies might look for new sources.

This could lead to new markets, but it could also disrupt existing, low-cost supply chains, like Shein.

Another important impact of tariff changes will be on retail prices.

Fashion brands, which depend on affordable pricing to attract customers, could face problems if they have to raise prices because of higher production costs. Consumers might change their buying habits if clothes and accessories become more expensive.

In times of economic uncertainty or inflation, people may be more careful with their money, which could hurt sales for both luxury and fast fashion brands.

On the other hand, some parts of the fashion industry could benefit from tariff changes.

For example, local manufacturers might gain an advantage if tariffs make imported goods more expensive. This could lead to higher demand for locally made products, especially if consumers start choosing quality or sustainability over price.

Some fashion brands may even decide to bring their production back home or closer to where most of their customers live.

This trend, called reshoring, has already started as companies try to reduce reliance on overseas production, especially in countries with unstable trade relations or rising labor costs.

If tariffs continue to affect costs, reshoring could become more popular, especially in the U.S., where domestic clothing production might increase.

However, reshoring has its challenges, like higher labor costs in developed countries and the need for new facilities, which may not be practical for smaller or local fashion brands.

Tariff changes could also cause big disruptions in global supply chains.

Fashion brands, which often rely on complex and just-in-time supply systems, could face delays or higher costs if trade rules change suddenly.

Stricter customs rules or surprise tariff hikes could slow down shipments of materials or finished goods.

Brands with operations in many countries may need to invest in better logistics or change to more flexible supply models to deal with these challenges.

Finally, tariff changes could affect the push for sustainability and ethical production in the fashion industry.

As trade rules change, brands may face more pressure to be transparent and sustainable in their supply chains. High tariffs could encourage companies to adopt more eco-friendly production methods or even push them toward systems where clothes are reused or repurposed.

Consumers are also increasingly demanding sustainably made products, which may push brands to focus on eco-friendly practices, regardless of tariffs.

The fashion industry could find itself at a crossroads: balancing the higher costs of tariffs with the demand for more ethical production.

Rapper Lelo is up next

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

Detroit's rap scene is often defined by gritty drum patterns, sharp piano chords and nostalgic samples flipped into rapid-fire rhythms. But there is a new voice pushing its boundaries: Lelo.

Lelo is a Detroit native, who merges the city's iconic sound with a flavor influenced by alternative rap artists like Lucki, Earl Sweatshirt and Tony Shhnow. With a solo catalog that has already garnered tens of millions of streams, he is carving a lane that blends legacy with innovation.

At the heart of Lelo's movement is the idea of "New Detroit." While the phrase typically evokes images of displacement and gentrification, he reimagines it as a cultural reclamation.

His sound serves as homage to his roots and a reinvention of what Detroit rap can sound like. It is less about replacing tradition and more about building upon it with personal perspective and musical dexterity.

One of his latest tracks, "Kudos," lays bare his frustration with inauthenticity, all wrapped in a blend of Detroit's signature snare-heavy production and the synth-forward influences of Atlanta. There is a raw edge to his delivery that places him in a league of his own.

Lelo's journey began in his teenage years, rooted in a household steeped in musical history. A grandfather with a broad taste, a father who rapped and a mother who leaned into R&B all played a part in shaping his eclectic style.

This foundation makes it easy to understand the layered approach he takes with his music which is experimental yet deeply connected to his heritage.

There is an intangible quality often found in those from Detroit. Beyond the accent and the Buffs, there is a distinct confidence, a natural sense of belonging. Lelo embodies that spirit.

Rather than molding himself to fit into a space, he expresses a quiet self-assurance that he belonged in it from the start in his lyrics.

Creatively, his process resists structure. In interviews, he has said some songs form in a matter of days, others in a single burst of inspiration.

Sharing space with house music producers has expanded his sonic palette, inspiring a more fluid and open-ended approach to composition. Conversations, especially those with his grandfather, often spark lyrics.

In 2024, Lelo hit a turning point, performing alongside Bktherula, YhapoJJ and Skaiwater in Detroit. Not long after, he connected in the studio with Earl Sweatshirt and Pi'erre Bourne.

Yet, much of his artistic depth remains intentionally under wraps. There is a sense that what the world has heard so far is just a fraction of what is to come.

Fashion also plays a central role in his expression. Whether it is subtle references in his lyrics or trips to Paris Fashion Week, there is a seamless connection between his sense of style and his music.

He approaches both with the mindset of a curator, assembling sounds the way a designer assembles a collection.

There is no slowing down on Lelo's horizon. He seems to be committed to continuing Detroit's musical legacy while redefining his own voice across genres and platforms. The mission remains clear: elevate the city that shaped him, amplify the stories that inspired him and bring the vision of "New Detroit" to a global stage.

More than just a genre or aesthetic, "New Detroit" is Lelo's tribute—a sonic love letter to the culture that raised him and a bold claim to where it is headed next.

These are the opinions of the Southern News Editoral Staff

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Issues printed by: Valley Publishing, Derby, CT
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