

Leeds, England (Destiny World Tour)

Terry George interview date confirmed in the interview itself ("The date is the 19th of February, 1979")

Michael Jackson, Terry George interview with the Jacksons

Terry George: Here I am in the Dragonara Hotel, Leeds, and in the Jackson 5's room. And I've just asked him for an interview, just asked Michael, and he says it's ok, for a few minutes. [One of the Jacksons laughs in the background] Just to prove it is him, I'll start off asking his name, and the date is the 19th of February, 1979. [phone rings, one of the Jacksons picks it up and say "Here you go..."] What is your name?

Michael Jackson: Michael Jackson.

George: And what is your job?

Michael: I'm a singer.

George: Who thought of the name "Jackson 5"?

Michael: A little, fat, wobbly lady who lived in the neighborhood. She liked us a lot, and we were trying to think of a name for the group, she said, "Hey how 'bout the 'Jackson 5"?"

George: What [are] your favorite bands?

Michael: "Earth, Wind, and Fire". Some of the old-- I like "Wings"... Waaangs [One of the Jacksons mirrors Michael, "Waaangs"] Waaangs n' thaaangs [Michael starts singing] "Band on the run--"

George: Do you love the "Bee Gees"?

Michael: Oh yeah, I forgot about them, I like the "Bee Gees". [Michael starts singing] "Oh, you can tell by the way I use my walk, I'm a woman's man, no time to talk-" [Michael starts singing without words]

George: You got them [unintelligible]? [laughs]

Michael: Yes sir.

George: What do you like most? Things that you like?

Michael: I like kids a lot, I have a lot of nephews and nieces. I like fish--
[Tape cuts]

Michael: Ok Terry, tell your brothers and sisters, "Hi"

[One of the Jacksons says, "Yes, me too."]

Chris Cadman, "Michael Jackson the Maestro"

A teenager by the name of Terry George, who was a celebrity follower from Leeds, got a once in the lifetime chance to interview Michael in his hotel room in Leeds in February, 1979. There was no security around when George approached Michael's hotel room and asked him for an interview, which surprised Michael a little, but he did agree to do it.

George interviewed both Michael and his brother Randy. George said he got on very well with Michael, who he described as "Very, very friendly." They swapped telephone numbers after the interview and Michael did contact him the day after. Their telephone conversations continued for some time, until George ran up a telephone bill of £ 300 one month and was banned from the telephone by his parents.