

There's no doubt that the story of Michael Jackson's career is a very tragic one. What started as a beloved pop star with an accusation of racism in 1992 due to something he had no control over quickly spiraled into a mess of allegations, police reports, and lawsuits as the years went on. All of the objects presented in this museum hold a significant amount of exposition in showing how Michael's career became the snowball of negative reception it was. The objects show this "progression" of sorts into how Michael became a fiend in the eyes of the public and the media. While Michael took the blunt majority of these negative attacks, I believe that there's a bigger culprit behind why his career took the turn it did. I believe that the media played an important factor in this downward spiral of events. The media never really liked Michael from the start, from constantly pressing him about his love life to accusing him of being gay ever since the 1970s (7.) The media often coined the term "Wacko Jacko" when slandering him and these stains on his public image gave his critics a lot of ammunition against him. That isn't to say all of the blame falls on the media however, I believe that Jackson still had a lot of responsibility in his own downfall. When the allegations of his sexual abuse were still rising, his music style became very aggressive and cynical. In an interview with Midge Ure after Jackson's records were continuing to decline, he stated that Jackson is "surrounded by the wrong people in his strange, secluded world, and so a bit out of touch with today's music" (8.) I think that all of these factors are important factors in understanding how the downfall of Michael Jackson happened the way it did. Even after his death, the allegations against Michael Jackson haven't been put to rest. A documentary titled "Leaving Neverland" was made in 2019 as an attempt to shed more light on two supposed victims of Jackson, but the documentary was concluded to be a hoax and there is still no definite evidence of Jackson's sexual abuse allegations being confirmed as true (9.) I believe that all of the objects and articles for this museum highlight an important lesson in the pop culture industry. The media can hold a powerful influence over you and your image, so it's important to not let them get a grasp on you.

Notes

1. Michael Jackson: A Quarter-Century Of Sexual Abuse Allegations
2. Michael Jackson: beyond the pale
3. Michael Jackson in a corner
4. Peter Pan grows up to be Captain Hook
5. Has the king of pop finally gone too far?
6. Self-styled King of Pop is shunned by younger stars
7. Michael Jackson has been dehumanized for over three decades. It's time to take the narrative back
8. Self-styled King of Pop is shunned by younger stars
9. Lies of Leaving Neverland

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