

"Bad Tour" Rehearsals (Pensacola, Florida)

Date range confirmed in [Pensacola News Journal](#) ("From January 22 to February 18 in 1988, Michael Jackson rented out the Pensacola Civic Center for rehearsal of his 'Bad' tour.")

Mary Hart, "Entertainment Tonight" presenter, Chris Cadman's "Michael Jackson the Maestro"

I've talked to him before, and I knew him to be very shy and not an easy conversationalist. I found a somewhat different person in Pensacola. He was absolutely charming, very polite... It's a pretty awesome experience to watch him rehearse. He knows exactly what he wants and how to get it. For the first time, Michael is making all the decisions. He's very much in charge.

"TV Squad" (May 20, 2011) ([archived](#))

"TV Squad": I know it's hard to pick, but do you have a favorite interview of all time?

Mary Hart: It's so tough! I mean, it comes down to the same handful of interviews, but I have to say my time with Michael Jackson was so special, it was so unique, because nobody got that time. Yes, Oprah did that sit-down interview at Neverland Ranch with him, but you know what? Years before that, I had been in Pensacola, Florida with Michael, watching him rehearse for his Bad Tour. I was there with him on stage for two days, watching him be the masterful leader of every move, every note, every intonation of what he did, and it was remarkable.

And then when I was with him in Kansas City and walked him out on the stage, he held my hand through the tunnel, right out to the edge of the stage, then let go and transformed himself from this shy person that he was into this magnificent genius performer. It was the most remarkable thing I'd ever seen. It really was mind-blowing.