



Return of the Thriller

Hopkins Middle School Theatre and Dance 2011-2012
Monday, October 31st, 2011

Thriller

- Budget: (US) \$500,000
- Sales: 9 million units + sold
- ***Michael Jackson's Thriller*** is a 14-minute music video for the song of the same name released on December 2, 1983 and directed by John Landis, who also co-wrote the screenplay with Jackson.



Thriller

- Often referred to as the greatest music video ever and has also been voted the most influential pop music video of all time,^[2] *Thriller* proved to have a profound effect on popular culture,^{[3][4]} and was named "a watershed moment for the [music] industry"^[2] for its unprecedented merging of filmmaking and music.

Thriller

- *Guinness World Records* listed it in 2006 as the "most successful music video", selling over 9 million units.
- In 2009, the video was inducted into the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress, the first music video to ever receive this honor, for being "culturally, historically or aesthetically" significant.

Awards

- **Grammy Award**
 - 1985, Thriller, Category: Best Video, Long Form
 - 1984, Making Michael Jackson's Thriller, Category: Best Video Album
- **MTV Award**
 - 1999, 100 Greatest Music Videos of all Time
 - 1984, Best Overall Performance in a Video
 - 1984, Best Choreography (Michael Peters)
 - 1984 Viewers Choice Award

Thriller

Thriller was the biggest selling album of all time!

This "monstrous" masterpiece is the ultimate "music movie."



The Library of Congress has digitized 25 one-reel newsreels, including the 1980 music video for 4544 produced by 4544 Productions, "Thriller" by 4544 Productions, and other newsreels from the 1950s and 1960s. For more information, visit the Library of Congress website.

Thriller

- Co-starring with Jackson was the famous model Ola Ray.
- The video was choreographed by Michael Peters (who had worked with the singer on his prior hit "Beat It"), and Michael Jackson.
- The video also contains incidental music by film music composer Elmer Bernstein, who had previously worked with Landis on An American Werewolf in London.

Thriller

- The video (like the song) contains a spoken word performance by horror film veteran Vincent Price.
- Rick Baker assisted in prosthetics and makeup for the production.
- The red jacket that Jackson wore was designed by John Landis' wife Deborah Landis to make him appear more "virile".

Behind the scenes

- In an interview that aired December 11, 1999, for MTV's *100 Greatest Videos Ever Made*, Jackson spoke about the making of the video:
- "My idea was to make this short film with conversation ... in the beginning - I like having a beginning and a middle and an ending, which would follow a story. I'm very much involved in complete making and creating of the piece. It has to be, you know, my soul. Usually, you know, it's an interpretation of the music."

Behind the scenes



- "It was a delicate thing to work on because I remember my original approach was, 'How do you make zombies and monsters dance without it being comical?' So I said, 'We have to do just the right kind of movement so it doesn't become something that you laugh at.' But it just has to take it to another level. So I got in a room with [choreographer] Michael Peters, and he and I together kind of imagined how these zombies move by making faces in the mirror. I used to come to rehearsal sometimes with monster makeup on, and I loved doing that. So he and I collaborated and we both choreographed the piece and I thought it should start like that kind of thing and go into this jazzy kind of step, you know. Kind of gruesome things like that, not too much ballet or whatever."

—Michael Jackson