

# MICHAEL JACKSON

## THE IMMORTAL

### WORLD TOUR™

#### CIRQUE DU SOLEIL®

## COSTUMES

Few stage performers have created iconic looks that are directly related to specific songs. Say “Billie Jean,” and the black sequin jacket, black white-striped tuxedo pants and fedora hat immediately come to mind. As for “Thriller,” one unmistakably sees the red leather jacket with the two black diagonal stripes. In THE IMMORTAL World Tour, there are references galore to Michael Jackson’s legendary outfits.

“Michael is our narrator, leading us on a journey through his lyrics, his poetry, his visuals, his moves and, of course, how he dressed,” explains Director Jamie King. Michael’s world was the wellspring of Costume Designer Zaldy Goco’s creativity. “My approach has been to draw upon and respect Michael’s iconic style while creating something new and fresh. I placed subtle references throughout the costumes in the show,” says Zaldy, who was also Michael Jackson’s exclusive designer for the THIS IS IT concert series.

### Keeping Michael’s legacy alive

For Zaldy, playing a role in *THE IMMORTAL World Tour* had a special emotional resonance. “The prospect of working on this show,” he points out, “was not so much a second chance with regard to THIS IS IT as much as an opportunity to honor Michael and keep his legacy alive with new ideas.”

### Flights of fancy

The color palette in THE IMMORTAL is rich and lively. Michael loved gold and all things ornate and shiny. He was fond of Swarovski crystals – aurora borealis in particular. The show’s costumes are a rainbow of colors and called for innovative materials and techniques. “In particular, we explored techniques such as 3D printing and LED, pushing the limits just as Michael would,” says Zaldy.

The production brims with imaginative costumes and outfits. Gangster types have surreal guns that seem to be tucked in their pockets but are only shapes; when they pull the trigger built into their “gun gloves”, streams of pyro shoot out. The ghoulish *Thriller* characters wear pure white, shiny outfits; the bloody innards that show behind the wrappings reflect Michael’s love for horror movies. The straps duo artists appear as magnificent swans; covered in Swarovski crystals, their costumes are corseted and laced in reference to Michael’s corseted wrist in his *Black or White* video.

## Costumes close-ups

- The bat costumes are made of ultra lightweight paper used for shipping parcels. The huge, lifelike gold wings create a stunning effect.
- The “fanatics” in the *Shake Your Body Down to the Ground* act wear gold, glittery cartoon-inspired costumes and don the legendary white socks and penny loafers.
- The “welders” copper-colored costumes with zippers in *Dancing Machine* directly reference Michael’s red, silver-meshed, zipper-clad jacket in *Beat It*.
- The soldiers’ costumes in *They Don’t Care About Us* are essentially made of mytex (foil transfer) on a polyester frame with padding.
- The shoulder pads on the gangster costumes are made using 3D printing.
- Each costume in the Celestial/Human Nature scene is equipped with 275 blinking LED lights specially designed for the show. They change color during the song to evoke constellations.
- When Director Jamie King asked Zaldy Goco to design “non-choir choir robes” for the *Will You Be There* number, the costume designer decided to create shirts inspired by those Michael loved and would wear on the cherry picker during his concerts with the wind blasting from underneath.
- There are a total of 252 costumes in the show.