

MICHAEL JACKSON

THE IMMORTAL

WORLD TOUR™

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL®

MUSIC

Hard-wired into Michael Jackson's inspirational music and lyrics, THE IMMORTAL World Tour conjures up the extraordinary power and emotional intensity of Jackson's unforgettable concert performances.

"It starts with the music," says Director Jamie King. "Michael's voice is what drives the show. I have the opportunity to carry on Michael's legacy, to take all that energy – all that he was and was going to be – and build it into this production."

Looking forward

To weave together the all-important musical components of the show, Jamie King called upon Musical Designer Kevin Antunes, who was given unprecedented access to the master recordings, and Musical Director Greg Phillinganes, who has worked with Michael for more than 25 years, providing an unparalleled depth of knowledge of his music and live performances. "Our goal is not to simply cover Michael, but to take his music to a whole new level," King explains. The Director wanted to integrate as many songs into the 100-minute production as possible, so this meant mash-ups, remixes and new arrangements. It also meant moving them forward emotionally, weaving songs together in new ways so that the music feels new and fresh all the while respecting Michael's essence and his voice.

Michael's voice – The driving force behind the show

To say Michael's voice drives the show is somewhat of an understatement. "In some of his songs," Antunes says, "Michael would let the grooves breathe and he would tuck his voice underneath the music. In this show, the world is going to hear Michael's voice like they've never heard it before."

Banding together to keep Michael's spirit alive

To showcase Michael's voice and support the huge cast, Musical Director Greg Phillinganes has rounded up a stellar group of musicians, including Jonathan "Sugarfoot" Moffett, who played drums for Michael for 30 years. "I wanted to handpick everybody on the band," he explains. "I knew exactly whom I wanted. We have a full band, including horns and an electric cello. I wanted to have as many players as possible with a direct, personal history with Michael Jackson. We are all doing this because of the love we have for Michael. His spirit will live in this show."

Music close-ups

- THE IMMORTAL World Tour features 32 of Michael's songs, in addition to numerous bits and pieces of songs that have been used for the soundscapes and transitions.
- Musical Designer Kevin Antunes has created a very intimate experience. The audience can even hear Michael snap his fingers or stomp his feet in some audio segments.
- For the song *Ben* a sonic rainforest was created with all kinds of animal sounds and Asian instruments such as Taiko drums that provides a transition to introduce the song.
- During *Dancing Machine* scene, cinematic sound effects were added to blend the music with the acrobatic performance.
- Instead of hearing the string section in *Childhood* in normal stereo, the whole orchestra spreads out and the audience will experience this song in a new light.
- Michael's phrase "Cause we're all the same!" from *Can You Feel It* was added in between the choruses of *Black or White*.
- *They Don't Care About Us* features a previously unreleased choir that Michael recorded.
- The Jackson 5 song *ABC* features a never-heard-before outtake call and response that Michael recorded when he was young.
- The voice of Naomi Campbell and elements of the song *In the Closet* were blended into the intro to the *Dangerous* scene.
- In the "Scary" section the creepy voice-over segment during the Book of Tales segment was performed by Kevin Antunes.
- The song *Ease on Down the Road* from the movie *The Wiz* was added as traveling music for one of the Fanatic characters' numbers.