

The Jacksons: Will they quit?

The Jacksons have completed what could be their last tour, according to Michael. Following the Detroit concert Michael said he would like to try other things.

"I think it's important to grow and I've been doing this for so long. I sometimes feel like I should be 70 by now. We've been around the world twice, performed before kings and ambassadors. It's time to move on. I still want to make records. That's how I want to spend my time the next few years."

The tour—completely sold out—drew an estimated 600,000 persons and grossed \$5.5 million.

Because Michael is considered to be the Jackson's chief attraction, his decision will have an impact on his brothers' careers. Jackie, 30, is interested in film scoring; Tito, 27 would like to study for his masters degree in music; Marlon, 24 is interested in acting; Randy, 19, plans to work on a solo album. The question is: When these projects are completed will the groups come back together?

The Jacksons' touring history goes back eleven years when the five brothers and two sisters toured in a VW van, then returned in the early morning hours to attend school that morning.

The groups started as a trio—Jackie, Tito and Jermaine—singing country-Western. By the time Michael and Marlon were old enough to join them they were concentrating on the Top 40 hits, especially Motown tunes. They won several regional competitions and appeared on the Ed Sullivan show before their first Motown hit.

Soon the Jacksons were dominating the charts. They toured regularly in the early '70s, appeared in Las Vegas and had their own TV series. Then they began to rebel against the Motown system of having other



The Jacksons: Michael, Tito, Randy, Jackie, Marlon.

people write and produce their records. They dreamed of writing and recording their own songs.

The Jacksons broke with Motown in 1976, switching to Epic Records, where they gained control over their recordings. However, Jermaine, whose wife is the daughter of Motown's Berry Gordy, left the group over the switch.

Another setback was in 1980 when Randy was seriously injured in an auto accident and was not expected to walk again. Randy took it in stride and through hard work was soon back on the stage.

If he does decide to give up touring, Michael, who played the scarecrow in "The Wiz," will try films. He will begin work in February with producer Quincy Jones on his next LP so he will be free this summer to concentrate on acting.

"I'd like to do heavy drama—something with depth, something so full of emotion that people get aroused the way they do in concert."

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