

# Michael Jackson; a music man

by Ridma Perera

**V**ersatility, bravery, courage, innovation and talent, Michael Jackson, had all of the above and more.

He was never scared to be who he truly was, which is hard enough as it is, without the pressures of being a performer.

As an entertainer, Michael changed the industry as we knew it. He added heavy bass lines, wore one glove, and created dance moves that will be remembered decades to come.

But besides his unprecedented and extraordinary career, he was one of the world's most giving humanitarians. Michael was trying to solve world hunger before any association had come about. He wanted to eradicate child poverty and poor living conditions all over the world before people knew those were even issues.

One of the greatest things about Michael was how much he taught us, in so little time.

He taught us how to moonwalk, to thrill, how to let go of the one we love, our ABC's, what falling in love felt like, that one per-



son can make a difference, and that difference starts within ourselves.

He challenged his listeners to look beyond the color of his skin, and the media coverage and see the depths of his gifts to us; gifts that are singularly timeless.

His music will never be forgotten, nor will his dance moves and good. He was one of the few whose reputation did not out grow himself, as a person. Michael outperformed every expectation any audience anywhere had ever held up to him.

On stage, he had no limits, no rules. He was able to defy anything that was set

before him, and overcome it.

He believed that the world could be a better place and spent the majority of his life trying to make it so. He made us believe this as well, and got people to listen to him and the message he stood for.

**You're my idol**

Michael knew that everyone had goodness in their hearts, and through his music, he sought to bring that goodness out because that was the key to peace.

He wanted peace more than anything. He was



never concerned about how much he made, or how well he was known, or what people said about him.

He knew that none of that mattered, and that too, he taught us. That none of it matters.

Michael saw the big picture, and because of that, he wasn't afraid to be himself, to go out there and be different, to make change.

For someone who was so talented, and so selfless, society had a poor way of repaying him by attempting to scar his reputation and mocking him.

In spite of all this, Michael continued to move forward and flourish. But

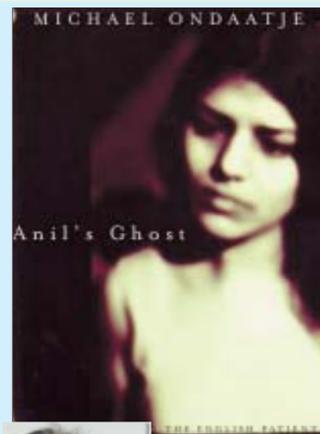
on June 25th, we lost this remarkable man.

Now, we are left with the lessons he taught us, and our memories of who he was, and how much he meant to us.

He will always be remembered in our hearts, and as such, I suppose we will never really lose him.

Michael Jackson continues to live through his music, and his works here with us.

*It's time you told about your idol to the entire world. Send us your writing and pictures of your idol to "youphoria.theisland@gmail.com".*



by Ethna Brave

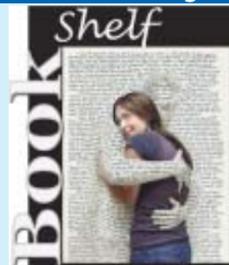
**E**very time I live in a different country, I like to read books by authors from that country. That is why

I was so pleasantly surprised to find out that Michael Ondaatje, author of Booker Prize winning novel *The English Patient*, was Sri Lankan. While perusing the shelves of Vijitha Yapa bookshop on Galle Road I came across *Anil's Ghost* the 2000 winner of the Irish Times International Fiction Prize, a fact that intrigued me greatly. My fellow countrymen must have had a very good reason to award this book a prize and I was about to find out why.

Michael Ondaatje was born in Sri Lanka in 1943. He moved to England in 1954 and on to Canada in 1962 where he became a Canadian citizen. His signature fictional style which was mastered in *The English Patient* is a narrative which explores many interconnected snapshots in minute detail. Although often considered a Canadian writer, Ondaatje travels back to his homeland for the setting of *Anil's Ghost* which is set during the struggle in Sri Lanka from the mid 1980's and the early 1990's.

## Anil's Ghost by Michael Ondaatje

Like the author, the main character Anil Tissera left her home country at a young



age to go and live in the West. Now a forensic anthropologist she returns to Sri Lanka in the midst of its merciless civil war as part of a Human Rights Investigation by the UN. Her return to her native country after such a long time is not easy. She struggles to identify her past life in Sri Lanka with her former life in America, something that prevails throughout the book.

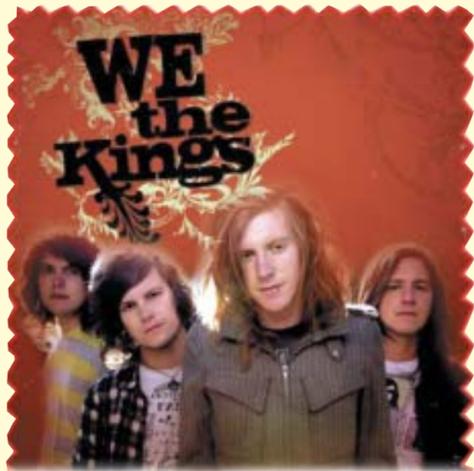
She is teamed with Sarath Diyasena, an archaeologist. Together they find a recently burned skeleton, which they nickname Sailor, in a government area which they try to identify and bring to justice for the nameless victims of the war. But they have to be careful as Anil learns very quickly. Trusting others can be perilous and obstacles are presented at every corner and bend in the road. As they work and spend more time together Anil becomes increasingly suspicious of Sarath and begins to question his motives.

Through their discovery the government is implicated in the death of Sailor and Anil is determined to come to the bottom of it. With Sarath's help she tries to build up a case with enough evidence to prove that Sailors death was not a mistake. Sarath instructs her to leave the country immediately she is done with gathering evidence. However, his actions in helping her have severe consequences.

*Anil's Ghost* is a gripping story and one that is hard to put down. Ondaatje's mastery of the pen is truly something extraordinary and an absolute pleasure to read. The story itself is fictional but it is based on a particular period of Sri Lankan history. What I really liked about the book on top of its superb narrative and fascinating story was the setting in Sri Lanka and reading names and places I knew and had been to, all this made it even more enjoyable for me.

**W**e the Kings, a power-pop alternative band from Bradenton, Florida, created a name for themselves and a spot on the Billboard charts after releasing their self-titled album, "We the Kings."

The album contains a wide variety of songs, from the slow ballad "This Is Our Town" to the catchy, high-energy "Check Yes Juliet (Run Baby Run)." The astounding vocals by lead singer Travis Clark and instrumentals by Danny Duncan (drums) and brothers Hunter and Drew Thomsen (guitar and bass, respectively) are sure



## We the Kings

to please.

Lyrics from all the songs are extremely powerful, and listeners will be hooked with the introduc-

### Albums

**We the Kings**  
[Deluxe Edition]  
**Heaven Can Wait**  
Premiered release date:  
November 17, 2009

### Fact box

Friends since childhood (the band's name refers to the name of their junior-high mascot), the four-some, singer and guitarist Travis Clark, guitarist Hunter Thomsen, his bassist brother Drew Thomsen, and drummer Danny Duncan, formed the band while still attending high school. In 2007, under the guidance of manager Bret Disend, the still teenaged quartet placed a number of tracks on the social networking site Purevolume to build online buzz; meanwhile, the band also pursued a deal with EMI's revived faux-indie imprint S-Curve Records (home to Joss Stone, Fountains of Wayne, and the Baha Men). Their self-titled debut album was produced by Sam Hollander and mixed by Lou Giordano, both of whom had done work with some of emo-pop's most marketable acts, and released in October 2007.

tory beats of the first track. The mix of instrumentals and vocals is perfect and could only be executed by an incredibly talented group of performers like We the Kings.

One example of We the Kings' mastery is "Skyway-Avenue." The song begins by greeting listeners with twangy acoustic guitar chords and then bursts into electric pop background music. This is

immediately softened by magnificent vocals. The song balances a fast-paced beat with meaningful and heartfelt lyrics.

The entire album is extremely well-produced and well-sung. The perfect harmony that "We the Kings" creates represents the work of a remarkable band. "We the Kings" is one album that's worth your time.

Gretta



**I**t seems that nothing has more power to elevate a mood than the impact of a genuine smile. Surprisingly enough, the benefits of a smile extend not only to the recipient of the warm gesture but also to the smile's originator. Yes, the old quotation may be true. "A smile is a little curve that sets a lot of things straight." Here are some of the many benefits of a smile...

### A healthier immune system

Various studies conducted over the years have shown that smiling and laughter can boost the functioning of the immune system. This may help to reduce your risk of developing everything from the common cold to chronic diseases such as cancer. Could there be a less expensive medicine than this?

### Helps relieve stress

Smiling and laughter helps to promote release of a "feel good" group of hormones called endorphins. These are the same group of hormones responsible for the runners high you hear so much about. If you don't have time to get to the gym for a hard run, try adding a smile and a bit of laughter to boost these natural, stress relieving hormones.

### A smile is beautiful

Why do teen girls spend many dollars on makeup and cosmetic procedures to look more attractive and then walk around with a scowl on their faces? The most beautiful face in the world will not be pleasing with down turned lips and a sour expression. In contrast, a plain face can be transformed by the power of a smile. If you want to look better, try adding a genuine smile.

### A smile inspires others

When you smile at friends, family, fellow students and even stranger



## The beauty of a smile

you not only boost your own health and beauty, you also send a positive message that can potentially change someone else's mood for the better.

The stranger you graced with your smile may go on to pass the kindness to someone else.

Who knows how far your original smile will travel?

### Smiling can increase your chances for success

When you smile, you appear confident and capable. Given the choice between two equally qualified job candidates, the smiling candidate is going to be perceived as being more of a team player and easier to work with. Who do you think is more likely to get the job offer?

The next time you're tempted to face the world with a frown, remember another old quotation. **"It takes seventeen muscles to smile and forty-three to frown".**



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