

= Is It Scary =

" Is It Scary " is a song by American recording artist Michael Jackson . The song was originally written to have been featured in the 1993 film Addams Family Values , but the plans were canceled after contract conflicts . The song was recorded for Jackson 's 1997 remix album , Blood on the Dance Floor : HIStory in the Mix . " Is It Scary " was written and produced by Jackson , Jimmy Jam (James Harris III) and Terry Lewis .

" Is It Scary " received mixed reviews from contemporary music critics . Musically , the song was viewed by music critics as showing a " darker side " of Jackson , and compared the song 's composition to the music of Marilyn Manson . In November 1997 , a radio edit version of the song was released as a promotional single in the Netherlands , while promo singles containing remixes were released in the United States and the United Kingdom .

= = Background = =

" Is It Scary " was originally written by Michael Jackson , James Harris III and Terry Lewis for the 1993 film Addams Family Values . Paramount Pictures had signed Jackson to record a horror @-@ themed song for the film (which became " Is It Scary ") and to promote it with a video , but the song was dropped from the soundtrack due to contractual difficulties . The song was among those considered for inclusion on Jackson 's 1995 double album , HIStory : Past , Present and Future , Book I , but it was not chosen as it did not complement the other tracks on the album . Jackson subsequently wrote the song into his 1997 short film , Ghosts . Jackson reused lyrics from " Is It Scary " for the film 's title track , which is also included on his Blood on the Dance Floor album . Jackson , Harris and Lewis were given producing credit for the song on Blood on the Dance Floor .

A remix of " Is It Scary " , called " DJ Greek 's Scary Mix " , was included on a three @-@ track ' minimax ' CD single that was released as part of the Ghosts Deluxe Collector Box Set . Remixes of " Is It Scary " were also included on Jackson 's canceled single , " Smile " . The radio edit for " Is It Scary " was later included on the third disc of the deluxe edition of Jackson 's greatest hits album King of Pop in 2008 in the United Kingdom . " Is It Scary " was also featured on the deluxe edition of King of Pop in France . Samples of " Is It Scary " and " Threatened " (from Jackson 's tenth studio album Invincible) are featured in the " Thriller " segment of the concert documentary film , Michael Jackson 's This Is It (2009) . Tommy D. also produced a remix of the song , but this mix was never officially released . However , this mix leaked in the internet in November 2010 .

= = Composition = =

Is It Scary clocks in at 5 : 35 and is sorted into the categories of goth rock , soul , operatic pop , and funk rock . The song is performed in alternating keys of Ab and A major , at a tempo of 109 beats per minute . Jackson 's vocal range on the song is Ab3 @-@ A5 .

= = Promotion = =

" Is It Scary " was never lifted as a commercial single , but it was given out to radio stations and dance clubs to promote Blood on the Dance Floor : HIStory in the Mix . Promo CD singles containing a radio edit and 12 " promos containing three remixes of the song were released to the Netherlands . The United States and the United Kingdom received 12 " promo singles containing remixes of the song by Deep Dish , while the UK also received 12 " promos with remixes of the song by Eddie Arroyo known as " Eddie 's Love Mixes " . Due to lack of a full release , " Is It Scary " did not enter any music charts .

= = Critical reception = =

" Is It Scary " generally received positive to mixed reviews from contemporary music critics . Jim

Farber , writer for the New York Daily News , commented that " Is It Scary ' boasts a few innovative sounds but no real melodies " . Roger Catlin of The Hartford Courant stated that " the most intriguing pairing " was " Ghosts " and " Is It Scary " because Jackson " asks those who 've only read about him in tabloids if he seems monstrous " . Anthony Violanti , a writer for The Buffalo News , remarked that Blood on the Dance Floor : HIStory in the Mix 's songs " Superfly Sister " , " Ghosts " and " Is It Scary " were " programmed plastic soul that makes you wonder how someone as talented as Jackson can churn out such tracks " .

Jae @-@ Ha Kim , a writer for Chicago Sun @-@ Times , noted , that " Is It Scary " shows a " darker side of Jackson than even the tabloids would have you believe " . Neil Strauss , a writer for The New York Times , described " Is It Scary " as " sounding more like the ghoulish rocker Marilyn Manson than the Motown prodigy that he is . " A longtime commentator on Jackson 's public life , J. Randy Taraborrelli , gave a retrospective analysis on Blood on the Dance Floor : HIStory in the Mix 's critical reviews in the biography , The Magic & the Madness (2004) . Taraborrelli argued that certain sections of the world took interest in tabloid stories about Jackson 's personal life over his musical career .

= = Track listings and formats = =

= = Official Remixes = =

Album Version - 5 : 35

Radio Edit - 4 : 11

Deep Dish Dark & Scary Remix - 12 : 07

Deep Dish Dark & Scary Remix (Radio Edit) - 4 : 38

Deep Dish Double O @-@ Jazz Dub - 8 : 35

Eddie 's Love Mix - 8 : 00

Eddie 's Love Mix (Radio Edit) - 3 : 50

Eddie 's Rub @-@ A @-@ Dub Mix - 4 : 33

Downtempo Groove Mix - 4 : 32 (Incorrectly given as 4 : 50 on sleeve)

DJ Greek Scary Remix - 7 : 11

Tommy D 's Death Row Mix (Unreleased) - 4 : 15

" Is It Scary " / " Threatened " (Immortal version) - 5 : 03

= = Personnel = =

Written and composed by Michael Jackson , James Harris III and Terry Lewis

Produced by Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis , and Michael Jackson

Arranged by Michael Jackson , and Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis

Recorded and mixed by Steve Hodge

Solo and background vocals , vocal arrangement by Michael Jackson

Keyboard programming by Andrew Scheps

Drum programming by Jeff Taylor

Additional programming by Rob Hoffman

All instruments performed by Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis

Assistant engineers by Brad Yost , Xavier Smith , Ryan Arnold , Steve Baughman and Steve Durkee