

= Michael Jackson 's This Is It ( album ) =

Michael Jackson 's This Is It ( or simply This Is It ) is a posthumous two @-@ disc soundtrack album by American singer Michael Jackson . Released by MJJ Music on October 26 , 2009 , This Is It features previously released music , as well as six previously unreleased recordings by Michael Jackson . This Is It was released to coincide with the theatrical release of Michael Jackson 's This Is It , a concert film documenting Michael Jackson 's rehearsals for the This Is It concert series at London 's O2 Arena . This Is It is the sixth album to be released by Sony and Motown / Universal since Michael Jackson 's death in June 2009 .

This Is It debuted at number one in fourteen countries , including the United States , Canada , Japan , Italy and France . This Is It also peaked within the top 10 of the charts in several other nations . This Is It has been certified Gold , Platinum , and twice @-@ Platinum in multiple countries . This Is It was the twelfth best @-@ selling album of 2009 in the United States and the third best @-@ selling album of 2009 based on worldwide sales . The title track from the album , " This Is It " , earned Michael Jackson a Grammy Nomination in 2011 for Best Male Pop Vocal Performance at the 53rd Annual Grammy Awards .

= = Background and concept = =

Michael Jackson died at the age of 50 on June 25 , 2009 from cardiac arrest ( it would later be determined that Jackson died of " acute propofol intoxication " with the additional factor of " benzodiazepine effect " ) . Prior to his death , the singer was planning on performing 50 concerts for his sold out This Is It dates in the United Kingdom from 2009 to 2010 . Shortly after his death , on September 23 , 2009 , Sony Music Entertainment announced that they were to release a two @-@ disc compilation " soundtrack " for Jackson 's concert documentary film , Michael Jackson 's This Is It . In the announcement it was confirmed that This Is It would be released on October 26 , 2009 , one day before the film 's theatrical release . This Is It is the sixth posthumous album to be released by Sony and Motown / Universal since Jackson 's death in June 2009 . The previous five albums are The Collection , Hello World : The Motown Solo Collection , The Stripped Mixes , The Definitive Collection , and The Remix Suite . This Is It was released on Sony Music 's Epic Records , though , in certain countries , This Is It is listed under Sony Music Entertainment ( see release history ) . The album was made available for pre @-@ order ? on Amazon.com as a compact disc and on the iTunes Store as a digital download . As planned , This Is It was released on October 26 , 2009 in the US and worldwide on October 27 and 28 .

= = Music = =

The press release announcing the two @-@ disc album describes it as a " stand @-@ alone companion " to the motion picture . This Is It was released as a two @-@ disc compilation album . The first disc consists of sixteen tracks , fourteen of which were already released on Jackson 's previous studio albums : Thriller ( 1982 ) , Bad ( 1987 ) , Dangerous ( 1991 ) and HIStory : Past , Present and Future , Book I ( 1995 ) , and one from The Jacksons ' album Destiny ( 1978 ) . Fourteen of the already released tracks were arranged in order of how they would have appeared on the This Is It setlist and how they appeared in the concert film . On September 23 , 2009 , Sony Music Entertainment announced that it would release the song " This Is It " as a single to promote both the album and film . However , shortly after " This Is It " ' s digital debut on MichaelJackson.com , it was confirmed that the single 's planned physical release was cancelled .

This Is It contains previously unreleased music by Michael Jackson , which consists of demos and instrumental versions of his songs . The first disc contains " This Is It " , which was written by Michael Jackson and Paul Anka in 1983 ; the song had originally been planned as a duet between the two for Anka 's Walk a Fine Line album . After Michael Jackson 's death , his brothers found a demo of Michael Jackson 's version of the song , described as a " bare bone " recording . They added their voices and instruments into the background of the track . Two versions of " This Is It "

were added to the album ; the original and an orchestra version that is over one minute longer . The second disc consists of four unreleased versions of Michael Jackson 's classic hits . The disc contains three demo versions of Michael Jackson 's " She 's Out of My Life " ( 1979 ) , " Wanna Be Startin ' Somethin ' " ( 1982 ) and " Beat It " ( 1982 ) . The disc 's fourth track is a spoken word poem by Jackson , entitled " Planet Earth " , which was already published in the liner notes of Michael Jackson 's 1991 album Dangerous .

= = Reception = =

= = = Commercial performance = = =

This Is It debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 , selling 373 @, @ 000 copies in its first week according to Nielsen SoundScan . The album had the fifth @-@ best sales week for an album in the United States in 2009 . This Is It , which also debuted at number one on Billboards Soundtrack chart , marked Jackson 's sixth number one entry on the chart . This Is It slightly outsold Jackson 's first @-@ week sales of his previous album Invincible which sold 366 @, @ 300 units in 2001 . This Is It 's chart performance tied Jackson with several other artists for the most number @-@ one albums on the Billboard 200 chart ; among the solo male artists , Jackson currently is tied with Garth Brooks for second place with 51 entries . Jackson 's This Is It album was the twelfth best @-@ selling of 2009 , having sold an estimated 1 @. @ 29 million units in nine weeks . It has sold a total of 1 @, @ 735 @, @ 000 copies in the US as of August 2013 . Its video is also being sold as USB flash drive by Kingston Company , first time ever in the company 's history , according to a deal done with Sony Music , published as Limited Edition .

Internationally , This Is It had similar commercial reception . The album was released worldwide on October 26 and October 27 , 2009 and debuted at number one in fourteen countries . The fourteen countries include Italy , France , Sweden and the Netherlands , the album stayed at number one in the Netherlands for two consecutive weeks . Other countries where This Is It didn 't debut or peak at number one were , placing at number two , Denmark , Australia and Switzerland , placing at number three , Norway and the United Kingdom , placing at four in Germany and sixth in Ireland . In the album 's second week of release its chart positions saw both an increase and decrease . This Is It increased from four to three in Germany and sixth to fifth in Ireland while it held onto its second and third positions in Switzerland and Norway respectively . By its third week of release , the album went on to peak at number three in Ireland . This Is It sold 78 @, @ 000 units in its first week of release in the United Kingdom .

This Is It has received multiple certifications since its release from different countries worldwide ; although sales per certificate vary per country . Four days after This Is It 's release in the United Kingdom , it was certified gold for 100 @, @ 000 units sold on October 30 , and platinum for 300 @, @ 000 units sold on November 27 , 2009 . The album was certified 2x platinum by Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) on December 4 , 2009 . This Is It was certified Platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association for the shipment of over 70 @, @ 000 units in Australia . The album was also certified Gold by the Canadian Recording Industry Association for the sales of over 40 @, @ 000 units in Canada and was certified 3 × Platinum by the Federation of the Italian Music Industry for the sales of over 210 @, @ 000 units in Italy , as well as 2 × Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand for the sales of over 30 @, @ 000 units in New Zealand . It was the third best @-@ selling album of 2009 based on worldwide sales .

= = = Critical response = = =

Upon its release , This Is It received mixed to positive reviews from music critics . Simon Vozick @-@ Levinson of Entertainment Weekly , praised the album and gave it an overall rating of a B + . Vozick @-@ Levinson described the album 's track " This Is It " as being an " uplifting ballad " and felt that " if you 're feeling generous " you can " count the minimally distinguishable " orchestra

version of " This Is It " having thought of it as being a " decent if slight addition to Jackson 's songbook . " Vozick @-@ Levinson stated that while the album 's second disc only contains four tracks that were unreleased , that included a " fairly unremarkable " spoken @-@ word poem , after hearing Jackson " work out the vocal harmonies " for " Beat It , " he in particular , felt that This Is It was " well worth the price of admission ( or at least a healthy chunk of it ) . " Brian Linder of IGN described This Is It as a " freshly designed " release of a greatest hits album , and that the album 's tracks of an all @-@ vocal arrangement of " Beat It " was " particularly awesome " and the acoustic version of " She 's Out of My Life " allows Jackson 's " vocals to shine without the distraction of dated ' 70s musical underpinnings . " Linder did note that he felt that the album was both a " fitting tribute " to Jackson and a " crass , commercial double @-@ dip . "

Will Hines of Consequence of Sound gave This Is It a rating of four and a half out of five stars . Hines commented that : " On one level [ of the album ] , it 's an attempt to focus and draw attention to what Michael Jackson lived for , and not what he did . On a more superficial level , this is Sony milking his legacy . Any true MJ fan will already own 90 % of the songs that make up this two @-@ disc set . It is , however , that 10 % which justifies this album 's existence . "

Negative reviews from critics were mainly centered around them feeling that the album was released only for profit . Stephen Thomas Erlewine of AllMusic gave This Is It two and a half out of five stars . Erlewine commented that , " an important thing to remember when considering the soundtrack to This Is It : this entire film and CD project was never supposed to happen " . He noted that Jackson 's death had " created considerable demand " for his final rehearsal footage and that This Is It was an " accompaniment " to the film . Andy Gill of The Independent strongly criticized This Is It describing it as being a " shoddy apology for an album " and felt that it was made just for a profit , commenting ,

As a cash @-@ in attempt to scrape as much money from fans ' memories with as little outlay as possible , however , it rivals RCA 's ruthless ( and still ongoing ) reconfigurations of Elvis Presley 's back catalogue . But then , what should one expect from Jackson 's executors ? His own father 's immediate reaction to Michael 's death seemed to involve the promotion of his own label , while his brothers quickly grabbed the opportunity to scour through a box of tapes and find a tepid old track not previously deemed worthy of release and add their own vocals to it ( before taking the trouble to find out it was co @-@ written by Paul Anka , who understandably sought remuneration for his work ) . Who , exactly , stands to gain from this ? Not the fans , that 's for sure . In the four months since his death , Sony and Motown / Universal between them have issued no fewer than five posthumous album packages : The Collection , Hello World , The Stripped Mixes , The Remix Suite , and now This Is It . That 's a busy promotion schedule for a dead man . At some point , presumably , he will be left to rest in peace .

== Awards ==

The title track , " This Is It " , earned Michael Jackson a Grammy Nomination in 2011 for Best Male Pop Vocal Performance at the 53rd Annual Grammy Awards .

== Track listing ==

#### Notes

The two versions of " This Is It " along with the second disc contents are available separately as the digital @-@ only EP Selections from Michael Jackson 's This Is It .

" Smooth Criminal " is excluded from the China release .

Despite that a sticker on the album claims all songs on the album are in their original full @-@ length album versions , " Shake Your Body ( Down to the Ground ) " is included in its 7 " edit version .

An eco @-@ friendly version sold only at Walmart includes only the first disc .

== Charts , certifications and sales ==

= = Release history = =