

arts

'Thriller' video:

Michael Jackson's new short film introduces a new dimension in video

By RON SKLAR
Collegian Staff Writer

Among other things, 1983 will be remembered as the year of the music video. These high-energy, quick-edited, vastly creative promotional clips from the record companies proved that sight will sell a record as well as sound. The most innovative accomplishment of this infant industry to date premiered this past weekend on MTV: Michael Jackson's 15-minute "Thriller" video.

video review

All things considered, Michael Jackson, that routine-totin' stringbean of a blithe spirit, was probably the music news of 1983. While MTV was criticized for not

playing videos by black artists, Jackson's video clips "Billie Jean" and "Beat It" were consistently on video playlists. Jackson wowed everyone, regardless of their musical taste. His video clip "Beat It" won the first-ever "Best Video Clip" award and he has succeeded in crossing over, or being accepted by white as well as black audiences.

Now, with the "Thriller" video, Jackson introduces a new dimension in music videos: dialogue and storyline, while the music takes a back seat. This was seen to some extent in the Paul McCartney-Michael Jackson mega-collaboration "Say Say Say," but the technique was polished and defined in "Thriller."

"Thriller" is every Vincent Price movie you've ever seen, with a bit of John Carpenter and Tony Perkins thrown in just for the heck of it. It's filled with wonderful, campy fun—that Saturday matinee tongue-in-cheek horror that is so obviously lacking from today's slash-em-ups. The twist here is the addition of Michael's song, complete with a wicked beat and his incredible dancing.



Directed by John Landis ("American Werewolf in London," "Animal House"), "Thriller" is the first video clip to be longer than the average three to five minutes, but the video is so fast-paced and action-packed that you wonder where the time went. Without giving too much away, Jackson turns into an American werewolf in video.

land, and this video even has credits rolling at the end. MTV broadcast "Thriller" every three hours throughout the past weekend, but this video will be around for a long time to come, possibly even in your neighborhood theater as a short subject. In all probability, "Thriller" will be nominated for an Oscar ("Best Short Subject").

Lionel Richie finds greener grass without Commodores

By MARY CAMPBELL
AP Newsfeatures Writer

Lionel Richie's solo career, he says, "puts a tingle in my life." He says, "It is not oh, yeah. It is like YEAH!"

"When I go on stage now, I get a little jitter," Richie said. "I like that. After 15 years with the Commodores, I forgot what that word nervous was about. I was a little bit jaded, almost bored, because of the routine. Now I find myself thinking before I go on stage, what it is I'm supposed to do."

In the late summer of 1983, the top 10 best-selling pop records charts included "Lady, You Bring Me Up" by the Commodores, Lionel Richie lead singer, writer and co-producer; "I Don't Need You" by Kenny Rogers, produced by Lionel Richie; and "Endless Love" by Diana Ross and Richie, written and produced by Lionel Richie as the title song of the movie of the same name.

Richie said he told his manager, Ken Kragen, to make him a legend. Then he thought that the legends are all dead and maybe he'd better pull back from his flurry of activity. After a 1982 U.S. tour with the Commodores, during which Motown released his first solo album, "Lionel Richie," Richie separated

and sometimes they still don't get over," he said. "I've been lucky."

This year Richie won a Grammy for best male pop vocal performance for "Truly," his third solo single. In 1981, he was nominated for five Grammys and in 1980 for two. He thought he might win that year as the writer of "Lady" for Kenny Rogers, but Christopher Cross swept the field. "Lady" is the biggest seller Richie has written.

He has the most success composing when he isn't really trying, Richie said. On the Today Show in New York, noodling at the piano, he came up with a new tune. He wrote "Three Times a Lady" while musing about a Frank Sinatra-type song. Romantic ballads come easiest, he said. His first solo album was mellow. There's more variety on the new one. "All Night Long" has a calypso beat.

Richie called his successes overwhelming. "There's a difference between a dream and a blessing," he added. "This is beyond my wildest dream now. If I weren't religious by now, this would make me believe."

"This is a business," he said. "That's well and clear. This is my first solo tour, but I've been in the business a long time and New York has been good to me."

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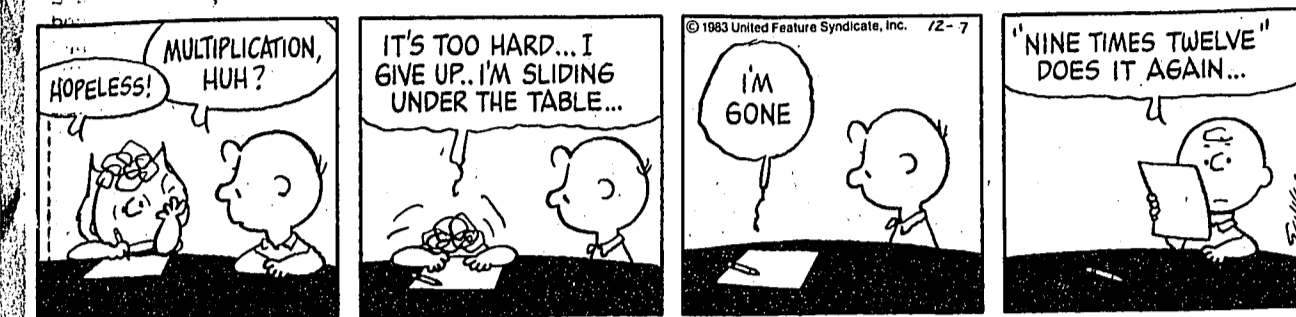
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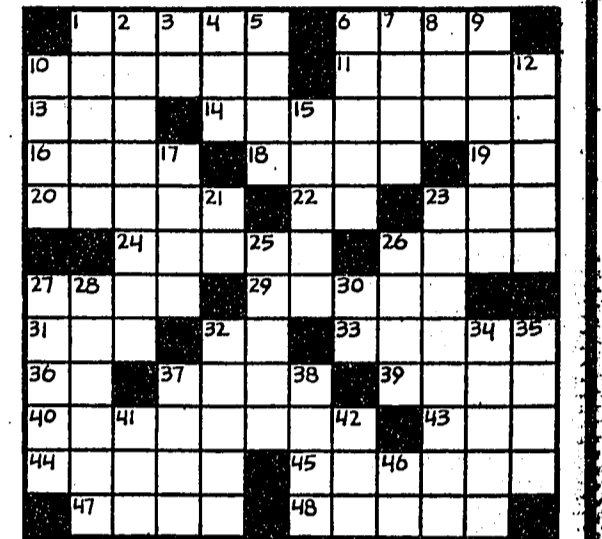
- 1 Wipes up
- 8 Sabot
- 10 Former premier of the USSR
- 11 Sheeplike
- 13 Flower
- 14 Minister
- 16 Firefall
- 19 Fence
- 19 Suit
- 20 Grumble
- 22 Cobb
- 23 Chess pieces
- 24 Candid
- 26 Western football team
- 27 Clemency
- 28 Nape of the neck
- 31 Some
- 32 Monieur
- 33 Nonsense
- 36 That thing
- 37 Theater box
- 39 Inferior rubber
- 40 Hookworm
- 43 Wolfenite
- 44 Sketch
- 45 Adops
- 47 Russian veto
- 48 Cheers

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- 1 Infamy
- 2 Whi
- 3 Indian madder
- 4 Tender
- 5 Notch
- 6 Ges
- 7 City of revelry
- 8 Dickens character
- 9 Fillet
- 10 Convulsive cries
- 12 Collars
- 15 Eucharistic plate
- 17 Wagon
- 21 Chinese unit of distance
- 23 Pertaining to madness
- 25 Sign of the zodiac
- 26 Sport
- 27 Fresno
- 28 Hospital's resident doctor
- 30 Showy yellow moth
- 32 Choral composition
- 34 Volcanic turf
- 35 Fair
- 37 Malines
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- 46 Railway

Crossword

(answers in Thursday's classified)



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