Inside the 'Michael' Trailer

Where power meets family and success comes at a cost

By ANTHONY ANGELILLO
Copy Editor

The official trailer for "Michael" debuted on Feb. 2 and it did not slide into the conversation quietly.

Every single Michael Jackson fan "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'," that includes dancing in the streets, putting on a "Thriller" for the whole world to see.

The casting feels perfect, and the trailer makes it hard to "Beat It" from the conversation.

Michael's nephew, Jaafar Jackson, plays the king of pop, and let me just say he is Michael Jackson. I mean, whoever the makeup artists are for this movie should get a standing ovation because they have no business making anyone look that close to the man himself.

Like it couldn't get any better, they cast Colman Domingo as Michael's father, Joe Jackson and Nia Long as Michael's mother, Katherine Jackson.

The trailer leans into the family tension, especially the relationship between Michael and Joe.

A line that really gave me "Butterflies" was when Joe answered a moment of independence with, "I told you what to think."

That one sentence left me in a "State of Shock" because I really hope we get more of his family life addressed in this movie. Jackson's story has been corrupted by his father's influence, making his fame feel "Dangerous." I want the portrayal to read more like a genuine biography than a polished tribute.

I also love that the trailer hints at the machinery behind the scenes. Miles Teller plays Jackson's lawyer, John Branca and Laura Harrier plays Suzanne de Passe, who, at the time, was the President of Motown Productions and played a major role in getting the Jackson 5 started.

"Can You Feel It?"

The movie hits you with even more history from Jackson's Motown days. Diana Ross shows up in the cast, played by Kat Graham and Berry Gordy shows up too, played by Larenz Tate.

Quincy Jones also sits in the lineup, played by Kendrick Sampson, and that kind of casting can turn a biopic from cool to credible. Quincy is the bridge to the era where Jackson went "Bad" then built the kind of dominance that made "Thriller" feel less like an album and more like a cultural event.

When the film places those relationships as a "Man in the Mirror," the story stops being "Michael vs. the world" and becomes "Michael's system that made him bigger, faster and lonelier."

The best part is that the scenes look so real and show that "Workin' All Day and Night" can produce this masterpiece in the making.

That is why the movie feels like "Human Nature." It wants the audience to understand why those moments hit so hard in the first place, and as a fan, I want those moments to feel "Off the Wall" electric, like a "Smooth Criminal" sliding across the floor.

Jackson did not build greatness by accident, and the trailer illustrates the creative obsession that even someone as detail-oriented as Jackson would approve of.

When the movie comes out on April 24, you've "Got to Be There." A story this famous carries real weight, and the film has already drawn attention for the amount of material it has and for how carefully the studio has shaped it.

Even the rollout plays like an event. The film is set for an international premiere in Berlin on April 10, right before the theatrical release, and the studio is pushing the movie as a full-scale moment, including IMAX. Jackson never did



ILLUSTRATION BY KATERINA PARIZKOVA

small, and the movie shouldn't either.

I keep coming back to how, "The Way You Make Me Feel" about this movie is already set for such a high standard that any less may be super disappointing.

If you want me and millions of Jackson fans to "Remember the Time" we saw this biopic, it should make us "Scream" in excitement, so we "Don't Stop 'til You Get Enough."

The trailer hints at a story about talent, control, ambition and the cost of being the center of attention.

If the final film strikes the right balance, it would feel like an invitation to "Enjoy Yourself," knowing the best performers make it seem effortless, while secretly bearing the weight of expectations that are "Black or White."

By the time "Michael" reaches theaters on April 24, I expect the online noise to get loud, fast. I just want the movie to keep its own rhythm, tell the story with enough honesty to hold up after the first wave of hype.

The trailer already promises that "I'll Be There" in a front-row seat.

The only question now is, "Will You Be There?"

The 'Devil Wears Prada 2' trailer promises a lot, but can the movie live up to the hype?

By ALEXANDRA MARTINAKOVA
Editor-in-Chief

Forget the Super Bowl, forget Punxsutawney Phil, forget the Grammys; the most important thing in February already happened on Feb. 2; the trailer for "Devil Wears Prada 2" dropped.

And boy is it promising a lot. It's been 20 years since the first movie released and the sequel has more than enough to live up to.

All of the main cast is making their return in the beloved characters of Miranda Priestley (Meryl Streep), Andrea Sachs (Anne Hathaway), Emily (Emily Blunt) and Nigel (Stanley Tucci), but this time the dynamics of the group seem to be a little more interesting.

It was also insane seeing them all presented as either Academy Award-winners or Academy Award-nominees; when the first movie came out only Streep held that title.

To be frank, as an avid "Devil Wears Prada" fan, I was skeptical when they originally announced the sequel. It's been two decades — and even though the cast are all clearly vampires because they look like they barely aged five days since then — there are a lot of expectations that come with trying to follow up a classic.

The one thing that kept my hopes up was the return of Streep, who infamously avoids sequels, so clearly she saw something in the script that made her want to return as the Editor-in-Chief of Runway.



ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY KATZ

But then I saw the trailer — or more like ran to YouTube as soon as the announcement dropped at the Grammys.

And oh my God, was it everything.

I was worried they were going to go down a cliche road, but from what I've seen so far, the plot seems pretty realistic. I audibly laughed when Miranda did not recognize Andrea (whether she was faking it or not is still up for debate) and it was interesting to see Andrea come back to her roots, so to say, becoming an editor at Runway.

It will be cool to see whether any real life events will be reflected in the plot. Miranda was ultimately based on Anna Wintour, the previous editor of Vogue, who no longer holds that position, while Miranda seems to be thriving even though they tried getting rid of her in the first movie.

Aside from the core four, Tracie Thoms (Andrea's friend, Lily) and Tibor Feldman (Irv Ravitz) seem to be the only ones returning from the first movie, but the rest of the new cast is nothing to frown upon.

From the list that was already made public, Australian actor Patrick Brammall is set to play Andrea's new love interest — and thank God cause I couldn't be the only one who did not like her college boyfriend — and I was pleased to see actress Simone Ashley's name, even though we don't know who she will play just yet. Personally, I wouldn't mind if they somehow brought Kate Bridgeton to the modern era is all I'm saying.

Actress Sydney Sweeney is definitely someone I did not expect to see on the list, especially after the backlash the actress received after her ad with American Eagle, but I also see it. No matter the role, Sweeney fits into the world that "Devil Wears Prada" paints, but I am still wondering how big of a role she will end up having.

The real nice surprises were in the form of fashion designer Donatella Versace and singer Lady Gaga. While both of them will most likely only have small appearances as themselves, I still like that this movie is coming for the same wow factor that the first one had.

There are exactly 80 days til this movie hits the theaters, which also means 80 days til I will be sitting in the front row for what will be my first watch of probably the next thousand of this movie, and there's still a lot unknown. While the trailer gave us some insight into the characters, we don't know what the main plot and problem will be, and it's kind of fun to try guessing.

And because I saw all of the leaked clips on TikTok from people in New York City (really it had to be so nice to live in a day and age where social media didn't spoil everything) I know there is another great iconic fashion montage coming. And that's enough to keep me going for the next two and a half months.