

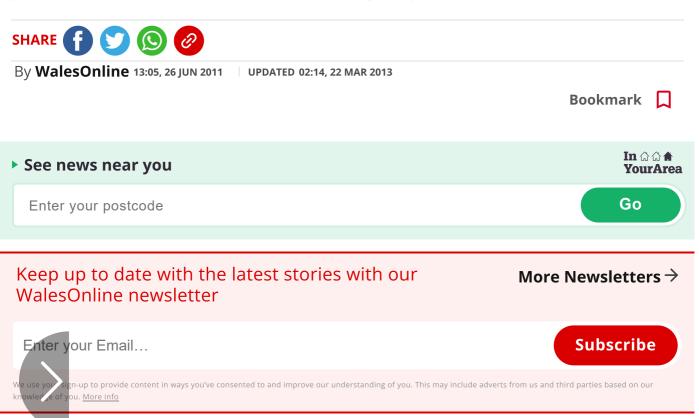




BUY A PAPER FUNERAL NOTICES JOBS VOUCHER CODES DIRECTORY ADVERTISE WITH US BOOK AN

# Looking back at when Michael Jackson brought his world tours to Cardiff

As a global Michael Jackson tribute concert is announced at the Millennium Stadium in October this year, David Owens looks back at the reviews of the King of Pop's visits to Cardiff in 1988 and 1992.



As a global Michael Jackson tribute concert is announced for the Millennium Stadium in October this year, David Owens looks back at the reviews of the King of Pop's visits to Cardiff in 1988 and 1992.

Michael Jackson: Bad World Tour, Cardiff Arms Park, July 26, 1988. Review by David Cornock, Western Mail







BUY A PAPER FUNERAL NOTICES JOBS VOUCHER CODES DIRECTORY ADVERTISE WITH US BOOK AN



The circus came to town yesterday. No tightrope walkers, few jugglers, and the only animals were guard dogs, but circus seems the only word suitable for the day Michael Jackson came to Cardiff.

Hundreds of police officers, ticket touts, security men and 55,000 adoring fans turned the capital city into the big top for one of the greatest thrillers it has seen.

All were there on account of a singer from Gary, Indiana - a man said to sleep in an oxygen tent and change his face like the rest of us change our socks.

Many residents of nearby flats in Westgate Street began a mass exodus early yesterday, fearful of the likely decibel levels.

People from another planet could have been forgiven for thinking it was the fans, and not their idol, who was wacko.

Certainly, those who had queued for more than a day might find their sanity called into question.

But for anyone privileged to see the legend in action, their anticipation was understandable.





His 31 hours was nothing compared to the three days he camped outside Wembley

BUY A PAPER FUNERAL NOTICES JOBS VOUCHER CODES DIRECTORY ADVERTISE WITH US BOOK AN

Jacko fever took over the city yesterday, and few were immune.

His hits blared out from countless stores as a carnival atmosphere took hold.

Art students John Duffy and Leon Palmer usually leave an impression of Mona Lisa or local scenes on the city's pavements.

But yesterday there was only one man the two 20-year-olds could draw - and a full collecting tray showed the value of their efforts.

"I can't stand him," said Leon, aged 20, from Bynea, Llanelli.

"We're not going to the concert - we're only doing this for enterprise."

Their spirits. like those of the thousands waiting to hear their hero, were undampened by intermittent showers that threatened to wash away their work of art.

Head of South Wales CID Detective Chief Superintendent John Williams, said the day was a family occasion. He should know.

One son and two daughters from the Williams household had managed to obtain tickets for the concert, even if their father admits to being less than a Jackson fantastic.

"It isn't my idea of pure entertainment, but nevertheless, who can decry other people's tastes?" he said.

"He certainly appeals to the younger element."

If the sun didn't shine, there were plenty of happy faces to make the rain disappear.

"It is a middle-of-the-road crowd, all good-natured, good humoured, talking to the uniformed bobbies," said South Wales's top detectives.

"We have a good presence of uniformed and plain-clothes men out there, because of the hanger-on element' that will arrive here to prey on the unsuspecting public."

But, despite earlier fears, police found no forgeries among the tickets in circulation as the crowds built up, "The indications are that, apart from the weather, which is s bit inbetween, the event will go well," said Mr Williams.

Gates were opened an hour early to deal with the rush, the responsibility for the fans then passing to private internal security staff inside the National Stadium.

Two would-be entrepreneurs found their day's business curtailed earlier then expected, when the boys in blue took exception to their counterfeit wares.







The police operation dwarfed last year's equivalent for U2 and David Bowie, yesterday's

BUY A PAPER FUNERAL NOTICES JOBS VOUCHER CODES DIRECTORY ADVERTISE WITH US BOOK AN

"Certainly there is a large presence of detectives here, the crowds are very large, larger than for an international," said John Williams.

For him it was a long, if enjoyable day, even if the music is not exactly his cup of tea.

He said, "I always enjoy things like this. I like the people in the crowds. I always get a terrific interest out of just watching their general behaviour."

And yesterday that behaviour was rarely less than excellent, aided, believes the police chief, by the ban on alcohol inside the ground.

Few will disagree abut the day Cardiff became Jackson City, South Wales.

For whatever else he may be, this Mr Jackson ain't Bad.

#### Summer ecstasy for Jacko's fans: next page

Michael Jackson: Bad World Tour, Cardiff Arms Park, July 26, 1988 Review by Mike Smith, Western Mail





Armed with some of the world's biggest hit singles, a larger than life image and a cult

#### BUY A PAPER FUNERAL NOTICES JOBS VOUCHER CODES DIRECTORY ADVERTISE WITH US BOOK AN

You could be excused for thinking nothing could live up to the hype of recent months that dominated Jackson's arrival in South Wales.

The first set opened with Wanna Be Startin Something and that moment Cardiff had been conquered.

After just a couple of dance numbers came the great Jackson ballad She's Out of My Life and the duet I Just Can't Stop Loving You.

For one girl plucked from the audience the night turned into a dream as she hugged and kissed her idol.

Jackson doesn't just sing a ballad, he lives it, interrupting the song to wander around the stage, face buried in a hand, wringing out the emotions, and returning to complete it.

The next Jackson offering was a medley of snatches from "the old songs in the old fashioned way" including I Want You Back and I'll Be There."

From the 1979 Off The Wall album came the smash hit Rock With You.

But, the evening came to its first climax with a powerful Dirty Diana, currently riding high in the charts, and the Arms Park erupted.

Throughout the first set Jackson moved through a secession of costume changes, mainly carried out in a white tent on stage, culminating in what everybody had been waiting for - Werewolf mask and baseball jacket - Thriller.

Complete with four superb vombie-dancers, the first set was brought to an incredible conclusion leaving the crowd desperate for more.

After a 15 minute-break, during which the band was given free reign, to display their skills, Jackson reappeared and ripped through Day and Night.

If the first set was great the second was absolutely stunning.

As night fell Jackson went into overdrive with the smash hit Beat It, driving the fans wild when he loomed over the sea of arms on a boom, returning to the stage to bring to life the dance routines that made Jackson the master of the music video.

Straight on to Billie Jean. Another eruption of cheers hailed the "moondance" known by millions from the Bille Jean video and a frantic scramble when Jackson threw that equally famous trilby into the audience.

And "BAD", "Who's BAD" flashing at the back of the stage in white lights heralded the last amazing number and the final climax to a show full of climaxes.





leading them into the wings.

BUY A PAPER FUNERAL NOTICES JOBS VOUCHER CODES DIRECTORY ADVERTISE WITH US BOOK AN

that brought theatre and dance to the rock concert.

That unique Jackson style, the gaudy buckles and straps covered clothes, the inimitable but much imitated movements, the most distinctive of voices, had to be seen to be believed.

Jim Wilde - who will be forever in Michael Jackson's debt for giving her career the biggest boost since the Apollo programme - kept the masses of Jackolites happily entertained with a sing-a-long routine of hits, including the current hit YouCame and Kids In America, View From A Bridge and KeepMe Hanging On.

But this was the tantalising appetiser - the main course was a magnificent, weird and wonderful feast, that more than satisfied 55,000 hungry Cardiff appetites.

Swingin' in the rain: next page

Michael Jackson: Dangerous World Tour, Cardiff Arms Park, August 5, 1992 Review by Steve Duffy, South Wales Echo



They might call him Macko Jacko after last night's rain-affected Cardiff Arms Park show.

Privacy



Weathermen had given a Bad forecast, and when the drizzle blew into the stage it was

BUY A PAPER FUNERAL NOTICES JOBS VOUCHER CODES DIRECTORY ADVERTISE WITH US BOOK AN

Jackson had been giving everyone the slip since his arrival in Britain last week, but on-one was prepared to see that happen literally.

There were almost farcical scenes as Jackson and signer Siedah Garrett moved closer for the just I Just Can't Stop Loving You.

Stage hands on their heads and knees furiously mopped around them with towels, as umbrellas were hoisted among the 48,000crowd on the pitch.

At one point, Jackson actually stood on a towel to keep his balance.

In fairness, such as the stunning speed and intricacy of the dance routines, a wet surface would soon have had everyone sliding into Jackson "moonwalks" involuntarily.

An announcement was mae that the concert would stop until the rain eased off, "It's pretty slippy back here," boomed a voice.

Tom Jones, watching from a private box, would have sympathised - remembering his last visit here to the rain-ravaged World Choir event.

Still with all the expensive state-of-the-art gimmicks and gadgetry, there was glaring lack of contingencies for the weather.

There's nothing like the British in a downpour, and so the Wimbledon spirit took over for 15 minutes. First a Mexican wave - the Arms Park equivalent of I-Spy for passing the time.

The Luge Jackson band - now glad to be sheltered almost out-of-sight at the back of the stage - struck up, and got the crowd dancing again.

But soon Jackson bounced back - and rewarded his fans for their patience.

It had been one of those days for the superstar.

Earlier in London outside the Dorchester Hotel, a dan was injured after being run over by a limousine carrying his minders.

The 16-year-old girl suffered bruising as she fell under the Mercedes, as 200 screaming fans crowded around Jacko's own car.

The superstar left for Cardiff under police escort, before sneaking into the city's Marriott Hotel (for former Holiday Inn), at 4pm - this face hidden by a mask and his famous Fedora.

Huge crowds had gathered outside the stadium by early afternoon - 15-deep queues in some places, with a crescendo of whistles as gates opened at 4.30pm.





Blink and you'd have missed the trick!

BUY A PAPER FUNERAL NOTICES JOBS VOUCHER CODES DIRECTORY ADVERTISE WITH US BOOK AN

opened especially for him!

The fans gave their verdict, John and Maureen Rimron from Gabalfa, Cardiff, thought the show was better than Bad in 1988, Nine-year-old Laura said: "I loved it all. It was all one big highlight."

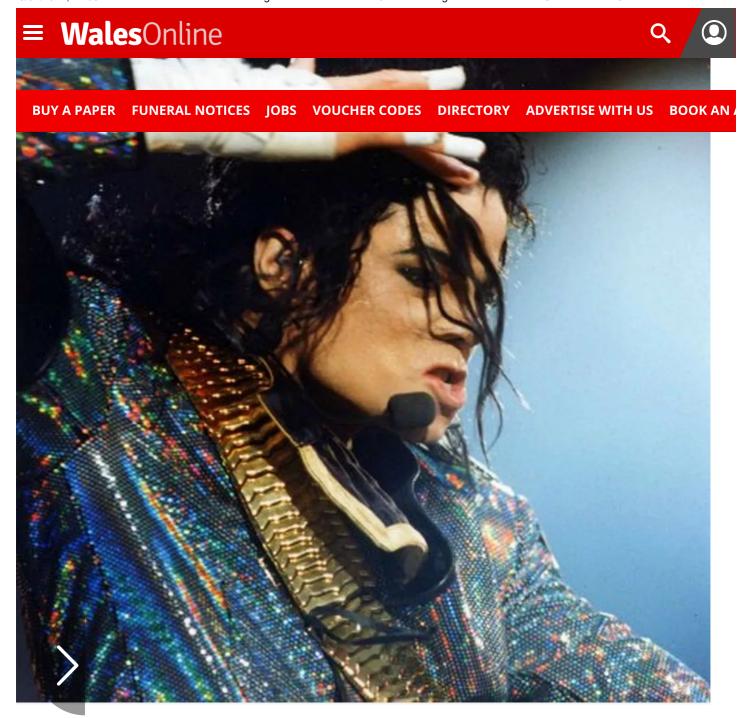
Luke Dummett brought his family, three others and 12 children from Merthyr. "The weather spoilt it a bit but the special effects kept you on the edge all the time."

#### Stunning success: next page

Michael Jackson: Dangerous World Tour, Cardiff Arms Park, August 5, 1992 South Wales Echo







YOU can't take your eyes off Michael Jackson - and that's his secret.

For all the lasers, lights, tricks and treats, it's the superstar who takes the spot-light for two hours, and holds his audience in rapt attention.

There's strangely no contact with his band, bar a sexy brush with a backing singer - he's out on his own.

You can argue about the voice.

He rattled through Wanna Be Startin' Somethin' at a furious pace.

With his workrate you can appreciate his breathless style.

He's moved from Motown soul, through disco to self-styled King Of Pop.







the stage like James Brown.

BUY A PAPER FUNERAL NOTICES JOBS VOUCHER CODES DIRECTORY ADVERTISE WITH US BOOK AN

The dance routines - especially considering the conditions - were spectacular.

Smooth Criminal was a net gangster routine - Jacko in panama and white jacket - ending in a quick-fire shoot-out.

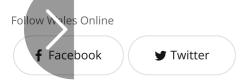
Thriller was strangely low key, and seemed a shorter version than at Wembley last week, but Bille Jean was stunning, Jackson in glittering black suit and fedora (soon on its way to a fan in Ely) and some feet!

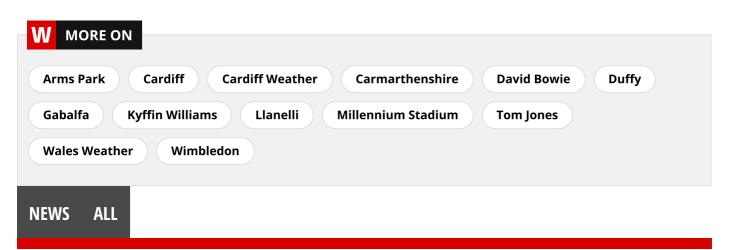
There are a few quibbles - an over-reliance on video excerpts, strange lulls with nothing happening between some songs, and an annoying tendency for false endings to be applied to nearly every song, leaving them in suspended animation.

And if Heal The World at least allowed a group of Cardiff schoolchildren to be close to their hero, the song itself is nauseating schmaltz in the extreme.

Jacko is at least putting his money where his mouth is, donating "considerable" sums from the tour to young people's causes. We can only hope some of the cash from the £10 tour "brochures" are sent to Bosnia immediately.

But before that Black Or White summed up Jackson - the lyrics have a certain irony coming from the man, but it's a brilliant song, from Jennifer Batten's guitar riff on, and immaculately staged.











BUY A PAPER FUNERAL NOTICES JOBS VOUCHER CODES DIRECTORY ADVERTISE WITH US BOOK AN



TRAFFIC AND TRAVEL



Welsh tourist dies after falling from kayak in Thailand

**PEOPLE** 



Gavin & Stacey's Neil the Baby star opens up about return rumours





BBC Escape to the Country couple plan move to English county before unique Welsh home turns their heads

**ESCAPE TO THE COUNTRY** 





**FUNERAL NOTICES JOBS VOUCHER CODES** DIRECTORY **ADVERTISE WITH US BOOK AN** 



**ALEX JONES (TV PRESENTER)** 



City centre bar to double in size in latest Canal Quarter development

WHAT'S ON NEWS



Safety checks cause train delays and cancellations during rush hour on main Welsh line





Jonathan Davies: Wales' main problem, the star who impressed me and why Scotland have to get over it

**WALES RUGBY TEAM** 







BUY A PAPER FUNERAL NOTICES JOBS VOUCHER CODES DIRECTORY ADVERTISE WITH US BOOK AN



CARDIFF



Pedestrian, 84, dies after alleged hit and run

**NEWPORT** 



Cardiff Rugby pulls out of leisure centre plans after uproar



The unique home of a Welsh music and theatre legend is for sale

**AMAZING HOMES** 



