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"The Trial and Triumph of the King of Pop" fits the bill for die-hard fans but lacks broad appeal



The timing is certainly questionable on this posthumous Michael Jackson DVD release *The Trial and Triumph of the King of Pop* (RockCity Entertainment/Elbow Grease Productions/MVD Visual), though it appears this documentary was actually in progress prior to his passing. The primary focus of this project is to chronicle the child molestation trial the King of Pop faced, tracing a variety of news coverage surrounding the courtroom circus. In other words, those hoping for music video or concert clips are bound to be disappointed, but the title and artwork is more than fair in its explanation and is bound to still pique the curiosity of die-hard fans.

As for what they'll find inside, it's loads of footage from the drama, including shots of MJ himself amidst the madness, flocks of fans (and even a few protesters) being interviewed outside and a massive summary of headlines. The producers definitely did their homework when it comes to chronicling the case, including interviews with attorney Tom Mesereau and several of the music industry's heavy hitters. Kanye West, Fantasia, ZZ Top's Billy Gibbons, producer Terry Lewis, comedian Mo'Nique and even big brother Jermaine are amongst the many name-checked who lend their support for the superstar, even if they don't share that much light on the man outside of somewhat generic reflections and well wishes.

Though mildly interesting, the true prize for collectors is the entire press conference announcing what would have been Jackson's July 2009 comeback concert residency at London's O2 Arena. His speech may only be a few minutes, but the audience gathered is truly ecstatic to be in the company of this legend (who looks relatively healthy and enthusiastic at the time). It's a shame his life ended before those shows were ever realized, but at least he went to the grave cleared of these disturbing charges, which is this DVD's primary thesis for the concentrated niche of viewers who actually care.

-Andy Argyrakis

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