

## Jackson DVDs Already in the Pipeline Before His Death

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For Don Spielvogel, director of DVD sales for Allegro Media Group, the timing of Michael Jackson's death was "good in terms for our home video business, and horrible for humanity."

The distributor had its *Michael Jackson: Live in Japan* for July 23 release, and preorders already had been good before the King of Pop died June 25. But Jackson's death prompted the distributor to move up the release of the never-before-seen 1985 concert.

"We've had great response so far," Spielvogel said.

Allegro isn't the only one that had Jackson DVDs in the pipeline before his death.

E1 Entertainment has *Michael Jackson: Never Surrender* lined up for a Sept. 15 release. The 70-minute documentary follows Jackson from his entry into show business at age 4 to his career shortly before his death. It includes interviews, never-before-seen footage, news reports, location shoots and more. Bonuses include a Jackson interactive challenge and a digital discography.

MVD Visual and Rock City Entertainment will release the 76-minute documentary *The Trial and Triumph of The King of Pop* Aug. 11. The DVD goes behind the scenes of Jackson's 2005 child molestation trial.

"Michael Jackson was the greatest entertainer of all time. We want to help preserve his legacy of love and kindness that is evident in his music," said Wilson Ebiye, president and CEO of Rock City Entertainment. "Our goal with [the DVD] was to clearly establish the fact that Michael was found not guilty of child molestation in a court of law. The King of Pop will continue to live through his music."

The DVD will include interviews with Jackson's family members, Kanye West, Jon Voight, Mo'Nique, Aphrodite Jones, Linda Deutsch and others. ??

"We have always believed the world deserves to know the true facts in the cases against Michael Jackson ... that mission will continue," said Pearl Jr., director of the film.

There also were reports from the online Hollywood blog site TheWrap.com that AEG Live, the concert promotion company filming Jackson's final rehearsals for his London concert tour, was planning on releasing a DVD of the rehearsals.

An AEG Live spokeswoman said the company had no comment on the report.

Six days after his death, eight of the top 25 top DVD sellers at Amazon.com, including the top four, are about or include Jackson, from *The Wiz* to *Michael Jackson: Video Greatest Hits — HIStory*.

For music, sales of Jackson CDs and MP3s at Amazon.com increased 721 times overnight after his death, according to Amazon spokesman Drew Herdener.

"If you look at our bestsellers list in music, you can see that Michael Jackson albums now occupy the top 10 spots, which is remarkable," he said.

All of the top 10 music videos at iTunes were also from Jackson.

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