

So Long, Michael

Written by BCPires
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For all those super-keen BC Raw cryptic crossword solvers who're still fretting over yesterday's blog, the "Island where to shoot duck? (6)" was, of course, "Tobago": To-bag-o; To-shoot-duck.

Not that anyone not in shell shock over the murder in the police driveway of Camille Daniel is thinking about anything other than the now late Michael Jackson. Wait for the hypocrites of Los Angeles who abandoned him in his trials (criminal & civil) to swarm over his corpse now for the photo-ops.

Like everyone else, including my pardner Russ from T-Dot, who started this ball rolling this morning with an email of his 12 favourite MJ songs, I've been listening to and thinking about Michael Jackson all morning; (or all the free moments of it, that is, which are never many nowadays).

For what it's worth, and because I have them in Ctrl V, ready to paste in to this text, here are my own dozen favourite MJ songs I sent to Russ.

Bad

Man in the Mirror

Black or White

Smooth Criminal

Billie Jean

Will You Be There?

Beat It

Wanna Be Starting Something

Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough

You Are Not Alone

Heal the World (Yes, syrupy as it is, the production and harmonies are perfect)

Remember the Time/Dirty Diana

and I'd throw in a lanyap of *Ben* because it's my son's own name; and because of the innocence in the vocal.

And here's the great thing about Michael Jackson as a songwriter: there are 14 songs squeezed into my 12 best list – and you're already muttering, "Nah, I can't believe he didn't put in *Human Nature/ Thriller/ PYT*

" etc.... What can I tell you, The List Is Mine, mine-mine and you have to Give In To Me or Leave Me Alone or I'll Scream.

And so on, but there won't be any new song titles to play with now....