





The Making Of Michael Jackson's **THRILLER**
4 Days/1984

Photographs by Douglas Kirkland
Text by Nancy Griffin



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FOREWORD

Thriller Lyrics by Songwriter
Rod Temperton

It's close to midnight and something evil's lurking in the dark
Under the moonlight, you see a sight that almost stops your heart
You try to scream but terror takes the sound before you make it
You start to freeze as horror looks you right between the eyes
You're paralyzed

'Cause this is thriller, thriller night
And no one's gonna save you from the beast about strike
You know it's thriller, thriller night
You're fighting for your life inside a killer, thriller tonight

You hear the door slam and realize there's nowhere left to run
You feel the cold hand and wonder if you'll ever see the sun
You close your eyes and hope that this is just imagination, girl!
But all the while you hear the creature creeping up behind
You're out of time

'Cause this is thriller, thriller night
There ain't no second chance against the thing with forty eyes, girl
Thriller, thriller night
You're fighting for your life inside a killer, thriller tonight

Night creatures calling, the dead start to walk in their masquerade
There's no escaping the jaws of the alien this time
(They're open wide)
This is the end of your life

They're out to get you, there's demons closing in on every side
They will possess you unless you change that number on your dial
Now is the time for you and I to cuddle close together, yeah
All through the night I'll save you from the terror on the screen
I'll make you see

That this is thriller, thriller night
'Cause I can thrill you more than any ghost would ever dare try
Thriller, thriller night
So let me hold you tight and share a
Killer, diller, chiller, thriller here tonight

'Cause this is thriller, thriller night
Girl, I can thrill you more than any ghost would ever dare try
Thriller, thriller night
So let me hold you tight and share a killer, thriller, ow!

(I'm gonna thrill ya tonight)
Darkness falls across the land
The midnight hour is close at hand
Creatures crawl in search of blood
To terrorize y'all's neighborhood

I'm gonna thrill ya tonight, ooh baby
I'm gonna thrill ya tonight, oh darlin'
Thriller night, baby, ooh!

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INTRODUCTION

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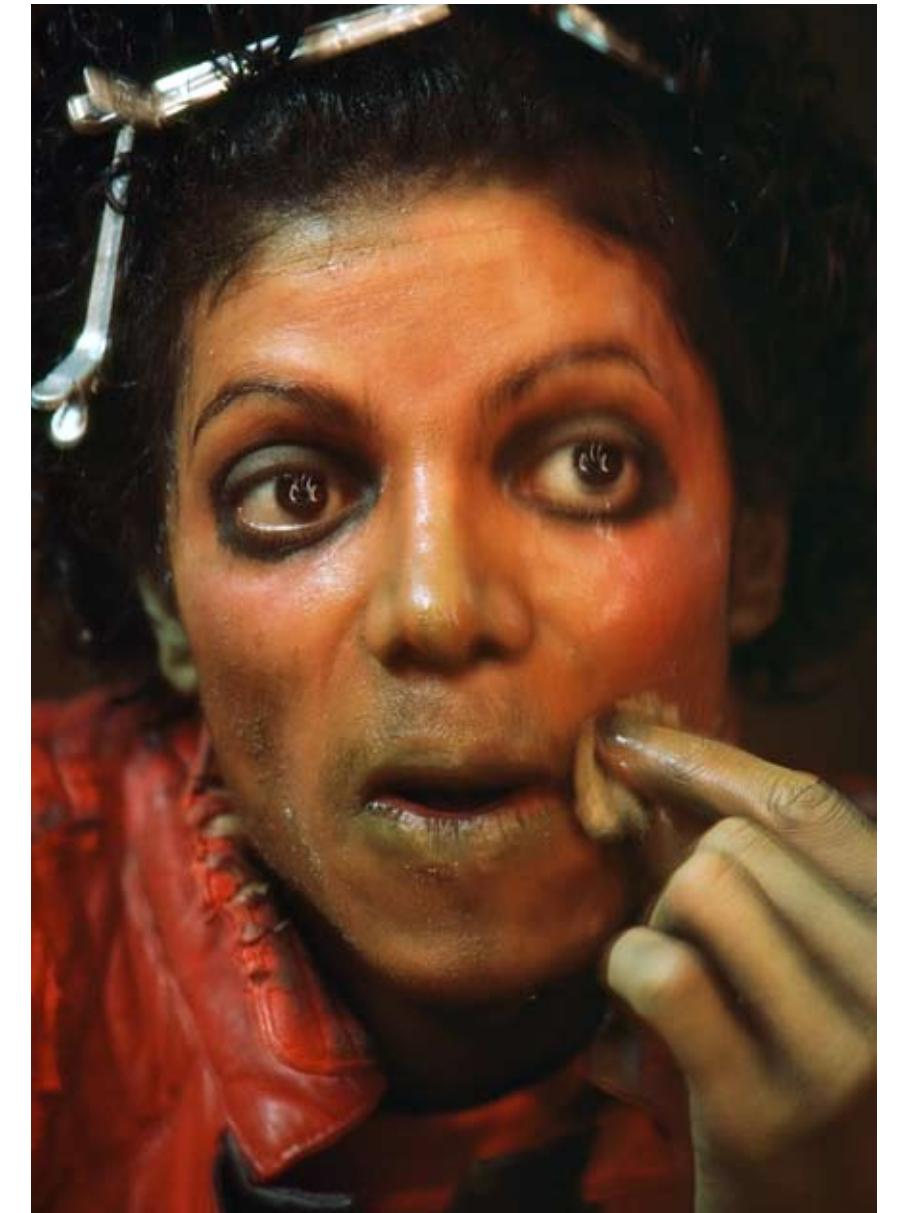
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About Douglas Kirkland

Born in Toronto, Canada, Douglas Kirkland spent much of his career in New York City before moving to Los Angeles in the 1970s. Kirkland apprenticed to Irving Penn and began his independent career at "Look" and "Life" magazines during the golden age of photojournalism in the 1960s and 1970s. Kirkland catapulted to fame when he first photographed Marilyn Monroe. He has also photographed behind-the-scenes on the sets of more than one hundred motion pictures, many of which are compiled in his book, *Freeze Frame* (2007). He is also the author of *Coco Chanel/Three Weeks/1962* (2009). Named "Photographer of the Year" by The Photomaging, Manufacturers, and Distributing Association (PMDA), he lives in Los Angeles with his wife and business partner, Françoise.

About Nancy Griffin

Nancy Griffin was the only journalist on the set of the Thriller shoot with Douglas Kirkland. She is the co-author of *The New York Times* bestseller, *Hit and Run: How Jon Peters and Peter Guber took Sony for a Ride in Hollywood*, and previously worked as a producer, journalist and author. She is the former west coast editor of "AARP, The Magazine," "Premiere" magazine, and "Talk" magazine. She has written extensively about the movie industry in publications including "The New Yorker," *The New York Times*, "Esquire," "GQ," "Newsweek" and "Time" magazines. Griffin lives in Venice, California, with her husband, architect Steven Ehrlich.

About the Vellum Inserts

At left, an illustration of a vellum insert pulled back to reveal the layering of masks over Michael Jackson's face. The remarkable transformations achieved by special effects make-up in Thriller are cataloged through this vellum treatment into a time-lapse study.



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