

Transcript of Louis Theroux's interview with Joe Jackson

(NB other people present are Majestik Magnificent and Will Yapp, director/producer)

Louis: I've been trying to understand the Jackson family a little bit. It started out as trying to understand Michael. Michael has said he's so nervous of you to this day that when he sees you or he's about to see you he regurgitates.

Majestik Magnificent: All the way to where Joe?

Joe Jackson: He regurgitates all the way to the bank. That's right

Louis: I'm not quite sure what you mean when you say that. Do you mean you don't really believe he does or you don't really care.

Joe Jackson: Do I really care? I really don't.

Louis: Michael's on record as saying that you beat him with switches and belts.

Joe Jackson: I never beat him. I whipped him with a switch and a belt. I never beat him. You beat someone with a stick.

Louis: It's also been written that you would tease Michael and call him big nose.

Joe Jackson: Did he say that? If he said that, I don't recall calling him big nose, if he did it's entirely a joking situation you know.

Louis: When you look at Michael now and particularly when you look at his nose. What do you think?

Joe Jackson: I don't think anything. If that's what he wants, that's what he did. It's up to him.

Louis: Do you think it looks good?

Joe Jackson: If it's good to him, it's good for him its good for me it's whatever he wants.

Majestik Magnificent (laughing): Louis, you're going for the jugular aren't you?

Joe Jackson: I will get up and walk out if I have to talk about Michael's nose on the BBC. I don't want to do that because he wouldn't like that.

Louis: It seems to me having researched Michael for almost a year now that he does need help of some sort. That he's remarkable, talented, kind, gentle, loving individual but also that he's troubled for reasons I don't fully understand.

Joe Jackson: I don't either, you say that he's troubled, I don't see that he's troubled.

Louis: What about the fact that he doesn't seem to have any real friends. He doesn't seem to have any real romantic relationships.

Joe Jackson: Michael has everything that he needs.

Louis: He only seems to relate to children he has no friends his own age.

Joe Jackson: Michael is a kid sort of, like, I mean, Michael is a kid himself he's never really grown up.

Louis: Have you ever wondered whether because he was successful at a young age that he came to feel he had to be cute, this cute little boy in order for people to love him and that stopped him ever from growing up.

Joe Jackson: No I don't see it that way. I don't see it that way at all.

Louis: Because in his physical appearance, he's given himself this tiny little nose, he's almost made himself look more childlike as an adult.

Joe Jackson: There we go with that nose thing again. Michael, if he wants an operation on his nose, plastic surgery, hey, he can do it. It's his right.

Louis: But why would he do it?

Joe Jackson: Other people get plastic surgery all the time.

Louis: Not to that extent.

Joe Jackson: I don't know what you mean to what extent.

Louis: As much as he's had it.

Joe Jackson: Well, whatever he's done, he's the only one who did it, he can do what he likes so hey. I wasn't there when he did it. I didn't know about it so and anyway I'm not going to talk about his nose anymore, he wouldn't like for me to do that.

Majestik Magnificent: Don't ask that question again.

Joe Jackson: You Can't.

Louis: I'm not questioning his right to do what he wants.

Joe Jackson: Yeah, but this is gonna be out and he will not like for me to talk about his nose.

Majestik Magnificent: I'm telling you, if you don't want the interview to end man, stay away from it, this interview is gonna end, can't you take a hint.

Louis: Why, why on that particular subject?

Joe Jackson: I'm not going to make him mad.

Majestik Magnificent: Full stop.

Joe Jackson: I'm not going to make him mad over something I'm sitting here talking to the BBC about. He don't want me to do that.

Louis: Well let me ask generally then do you think that maybe because he was a child star that he's...

Joe Jackson (interrupting): What I should be talking to you about is you all should stop calling him Jacko Wacko and all that stuff. You all started that.

Majestik Magnificent: You sure did.

Joe Jackson: You started that. In America when someone's wacko they think he's crazy. Jacko Wacko.

Louis: Well a lot of people think Michael is crazy.

Joe Jackson: I don't think so, he's very smart.

Louis: I mean Michael is widely regarded as probably the most eccentric person on the planet. That can't be news to you – is it?

Joe Jackson: Well, whatever.

Louis: Would you like to see Michael settled down with a partner?

Joe Jackson: Now what's a partner?

Louis: A loved one.

Majestik Magnificent: What are you trying... a wife, you saying?

Louis: A boyfriend or a girlfriend.

Majestik Magnificent: A what? What did you say?

Louis: A boyfriend or girlfriend.

Majestik Magnificent: What are you trying to say, that Michael's gay now? What if Michael said I would, what would you just. Stop. Turn the camera off, now, turn the camera off, turn the camera, turn the camera, turn the camera off, turn the camera off, or else there gonna be when I let you turn it on and continue... turn the camera off.

Louis: Why? (over Majestik protesting) this isn't your interview Majestik it's Joe's.

Majestik: I don't care that's why I'm here.

Louis: What do you say Joe?

Majestik Magnificent: Hey Hey Hey Louis Louis.

Joe Jackson: You're asking me asking the wrong questions.

Majestik Magnificent: Louis, Louis we have to talk about this Louis.

Will: That's a conversation we can have Majestik.

Joe Jackson: If I had known this was going to be talking about Michael, you know what I'm saying, I would never have given you the chance to do this, never.

Majestik Magnificent: Exactly, exactly. This is Michael's father and you're going to sit there and say has he got a boyfriend, how much more disrespectful can you be.

Louis: Or a girlfriend.

Majestik Magnificent: You should just say a girlfriend or a wife. That's an insult to Mr Jackson to let you come in...

Louis: Why is that insult?

Joe Jackson: Because we don't believe in gays. I can't stand them.

Majestik Magnificent: Me neither.

Joe Jackson: And you're trying to say that Michael should have a boyfriend.

Majestik Magnificent: That's an insult, I'm so glad Kate (Michael's mother) ain't here.

Joe Jackson: Katherine would really get on to you about that.

Majestik Magnificent: You sit there and say Michael have a boyfriend to his father, you don't think that's an insult.

Louis: or a girlfriend.

Joe Jackson: You said a boyfriend.

Louis: I said a boyfriend or a girlfriend.

Joe Jackson: What does he need a boyfriend for. Are you saying having a boyfriend as a girlfriend?

Louis: No. I don't know what Michael's romantic interests are, I don't know which way he goes.

Joe Jackson: Certainly I'm sitting here saying right now, he's not with no boys, ok, it's not that. Anyway Majestik I'm going have to end this.

Majestik Magnificent: See. I told you.

Joe Jackson: Because you know I'm not going to make Michael mad at me by talking about...

Majestik Magnificent: I understand (to Louis) I tried to warn you...

Louis: Let's talk about something else...

Majestik Magnificent: I tried to warn you and you wouldn't stop, you just wouldn't stop, I tried to tell you it's over.

Louis: The only reason I said boyfriend or girlfriend is because I said partner and Joe said what do you mean by partner and I was explaining what that means.

Joe Jackson: I don't understand.

Louis: Let me rephrase it. Would you like to see Michael in a steady relationship?

Joe Jackson: If you're referring to as a wife, with a wife, a lady wife, that's up to him what he wants to do. If he's happy like he is that's fine; if he wants to be with a lady woman that's fine with me. Whatever he wants is fine with me.

Louis: Well, except a boyfriend apparently.

Joe Jackson: That ain't on... that ain't going happen.

Majestik Magnificent: Michael's not gay, so you have to be gay to have a boyfriend and I'm telling you Michael is not gay.

Joe Jackson: That is not going to happen

Joe: We're through, you asked questions for twenty minutes, we're through.

Majestik Magnificent: Yeah we're through, that's it.

Louis: I just want to understand Michael.