

# Searching For an Idol

- Jack Krivit

I was ten when I found out that Michael Jackson had passed away. He didn't mean much to me before that day, but I still knew that it was a big deal. I had listened to "Thriller" and some of his Jackson 5 songs before, but I didn't idolize him in the same way that so many other people did. Despite this, I spent the following months listening to nothing but Michael, almost as if I was trying to make up for the decades of worship I had missed. For me, it wasn't so much about the music he made, but the fact that so many other people loved him. I think I wanted to understand where those feelings came from, and to be able to feel that same way about someone.

I knew more about Prince when I heard the news that he had passed away, but still, I wasn't as avid a fan as so many other people around the world. Prince was cool. When I was younger, I would listen to his album *Around the World in a Day* every time I felt like dancing around my room. The very first 45 record that I had was a copy of "Raspberry Beret."

So Prince's death made me sad. Not necessarily because I knew all of his songs, which I didn't, but because I knew that thousands of people around the world had lost their idol, the person who taught and encouraged them to be who they are, to be different or expressive. And following so closely the death of David Bowie, the loss of Prince made me realize that I don't have someone speaking for my generation.

Hopefully those reading this don't think "Ugh, here's another Prince story. I've heard so many over the past week," because trust me, traveling by car over break, that's the only thing I heard on the radio. But there's so much about Prince to hear because there's so much for people to tell. People like Prince are really hard to find, and that's why he holds such a special place in so many people's hearts.

Now that I'm older and I've figured myself out a bit more, I'm not going to go through the same phase with Prince that I did with Michael. But I do feel the same respect and longing that I did when I was ten. I only wish that there was some musician today that I could really connect with, someone who understands the difficulties that I'm going through, and isn't trying to connect to me because of some contract for producing music, but because they really believe in what they have to say.