



BIOGRAPHY — FULL

Michael Israel

Michael Israel is a live performance artist, entertainer, and humanitarian whose Art in Concert® experience has electrified audiences around the world for five decades.

He began at fourteen — no formal training, no connections — painting at festivals and selling pieces for a few dollars to cover rent, supplies, and karate tournament entry fees. To make it work, he had to paint faster: multiple easels, music turned up, and a martial artist's discipline turning every brushstroke into part of a performance. Crowds gathered. People began bringing him photographs of their families and their lives, and the paintings stopped being pictures — they became stories.

That energy carried him to stages around the world: Fortune 500 corporate events, presidential performances, celebrity galas, and arenas. In a Michael Israel performance the music builds, the lights shift, and a massive original painting comes to life in front of the audience in minutes — a moment guests stand up for, film, and remember long after the night ends. The experience has been described as “Cirque du Soleil meets Picasso.” His painting *HERO*, a 9/11 tribute, has moved millions of viewers online.

For charities, Michael brings the same full-scale production he brings to corporate and presidential stages. Through his Works4Charity™ Performance Grant, the performance is donated to qualified nonprofits and the artwork created live on stage is auctioned that same night as the centerpiece of the evening's fundraising. At one recent gala the artwork alone brought in \$147,000; at Harrah's in Kansas City, artwork brought in \$400,000 for Teammates for Kids. Across his career, Michael's artwork has brought in more than \$10 million for over 100 nonprofits.

Beyond the canvas, the ripples matter most to him: a young burn survivor who found her purpose, a Special Olympics opening that shook the stands with pride, audiences that walk out different than they walked in. Asked why he still travels and performs after decades on stage, his answer is simple: "Because I can."