

**V = Voice-over**      **A = Actor**

**VO:** This is the story of a superstar, a sculptor, a painter, an architect who strides the history of art like a Colossus. He was a tempestuous genius who would let nothing stand in the way of his quest for eternal fame and riches untold.

**A:** He doesn't know perfection when he sees it.

**VO:** He was an outsider who created works so big and so beautiful that nobody believed they were produced by a mere mortal.

**A:** I've just created a giant.

**VO:** He claimed he was divinely inspired ...

**A:** Heaven's own art.

**VO:** ... yet stole from Popes, fought his rivals, and struggled with his own demons.

His name was Michelangelo.

500 years ago, Michelangelo created three of the wonders of the world: the David, the most famous sculpture in history; the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, the most awe-inspiring painting; and the dome of St Peters, the jewel in the crown on the Roman skyline.

But what sort of man was capable of these incredible feats?

**A:** What do you think I am? An ordinary labourer? You think I'm the honest, simple stone-cutter who makes a living with his hands? Well look at that. What simple artisan could create something like that? Her face will live forever, not just from this century to the next, but on and on and on and on and on. Heaven's own art. Not mortal, but divine.

**VO:** Within a month of Michelangelo's birth, his family moved to Florence. He had an unhappy childhood. His mother died when he was six, leaving his father Ludovico with five sons to bring up. Money was always tight. Ludovico was a lowly paid local official with aspirations of grandeur. He was appalled by the young Michelangelo's love of the arts.

**A:** Moreover, he thought I would bring disgrace on the family. Of course this distressed me. But I would not turn back.

**VO:** But for all his father's opposition, Michelangelo persevered and produced works which showed an extraordinary talent. From the dome to the David, from the Pietà to the Sistine Chapel, Michelangelo had created a unique vision of heaven on earth.