

## Theatre Review

# Markus the Sadist

Bloomsbury Theatre, 19 October 2009

This epic Hip-opera Jonzi D Production, followed the journey of a talented and lyrically blessed wordsmith named Markus The Sadist played by Ashley Thomas aka Bashy the emcee who victoriously battles his way to the top of the underground scene to take the title of MC Battle Champ! Though, with stardom in his eyes this innocent emcee blindly follows the vision of a flash mainstream A&R who promises him the world. A world of super stardom that comes at the cost of his own voice and soulful truth.

The entire script was written in rhyme and still the cast managed to effortlessly embody the essence, the life and reality of each character. From the futuristic matrix like effects to the tightly crafted choreography, this rap-opera had my eyes peeled open anticipating the creativity of every next scene, next word and move Jonzi D and the cast had fit together. Like the Mona Lisa of modern theatre, each part uniquely shaped but worked together like a true master piece.

The performance enthused with emotion and humour. The audience were a bit stiff to participate at first, but Bashy's dedicated fans and little groups of cheer leaders situated around the audience were certainly far from hesitant to get involved in a bit of 'when I say, you say' action.

As we were shown how the music industry exploits the value of the products it OWNS, known to us as the artist, we see how Markus is manipulated like a puppet on strings of material 'bling bling' all in the name of corporate profit but at the expense of everything he is known for and stands for. Its rollercoaster of lessons, hidden truth and strong moral.

Given that the show started before watershed, I'd say that, stuck to all the leaflets posters and tickets should have been a large black and white 'parental guidance, explicit lyrics' sticker!

It's a shame more people didn't hear about it. It toured over 10 dates three of those being in London, and with the likes of the renowned Bashy, (Ashley Thomas) starring in it, I'm surprised the whole world didn't know about it! Despite that, Bloomsbury Theatre was still jam packed with people standing up and sitting down making themselves cosy in their jackets and scarf's on some small areas of floor sipping on a cool and classy plastic bottle of J2o.

But For £12.50, a good seat up in the circle and a night of good vibes, entertainment and an after-show chance for all to meet the humble and talented cast, I'd say it was worth every shilling m8!