

## Thriller Live - Edinburgh Playhouse, Edinburgh



The Public Reviews Rating:



To fall in love with *Thriller Live* is as easy as ABC. Adrian Grant in association with Flying Music presents a concert dedicated to the undisputed King of Pop. It's clear why *Thriller Live*, after three successful UK Tours, acclaimed performances throughout Europe and the recent celebration of its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Lyric Theatre in London, is yet again touring the country. Michael Jackson's career was born with the Jackson 5 in 1967 with their debut single 'I Want You Back' and spanned until his tragic death in 2009. With a career spanning 40 years, 13 number one hit singles and 750 million records sold, Michael Jackson's discography is unrivalled. *Thriller Live* pays tribute to his legacy and famous performances by comprising of an immensely talented cast. The show includes; Thriller, Smooth Criminal and Billie Jean - to name but a few.

Vocally this show was outstanding, there were several strong leads none more notably than Michael Duke. Duke's performance as a vocalist and lead dancer was jaw dropping; every move he makes is executed with real passion and each note is flawlessly performed, he is clearly a born entertainer. Credit must go to the truly lovely, Torann Opara who plays a young Michael in the Jackson 5. He has the daunting task of opening the show but this does this clearly doesn't faze him. Instead he seems to really relish the opportunity. *Thriller Live* marks Deborah Dada's professional stage debut. Despite this, her role as part of the chorus cannot hide her gift. Dada is a phenomenal dancer and you can certainly identify Dada throughout the whole show - she is remarkable talent. There seems to be a really bright future ahead of her.

The use of original and iconic choreography is excellently fused together by Gary Lloyd. A real energy is exhumed by the dancers - they certainly know how to captivate an audience. Similarly the costumes, created by Shooting Flowers, help to recreate the bygone eras of the '70s, '80s, '90s and '00s. Jonathan Park's use of special effects and digital screens is really effective, especially when the digital disco ball is lowered. These elements help to create a variety of atmospheres and assists with the depiction of various eras. It is especially striking considering the set itself is rather minimal - it certainly was cleverly created.

This show is a real show stopper; it contains the greatest of Michael Jackson's music and will certainly have you dancing in your seat. Don't blame yourself - Blame it on the Boogie.