

What a Thriller!

THRILLER LIVE

Last night at the Regent

JUST occasionally as a reviewer you get to experience a show that is so impressive that it becomes the standard against which all other shows must be measured.

Thriller Live is just such a show. This tribute to Michael Jackson is a full-bodied, red-blooded feast of music, dance and light that came out blazing and never dropped pace or quality.

Conceived by Adrian Grant, who has worked with the man himself, as the ultimate tribute to an artist who has won more music awards than anyone else in the industry, this production sets out to remind you of what a talented musician and performer Jackson is and to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the world's biggest-selling album of all time.

On an impressive two level set lit by a stunning backdrop of lighting and video effects, an amazing cast of six main singers - plus a supporting team of 12 dancers and six musicians - covered the story of Jackson's career from the emergence of the Jackson Five through his million-selling albums *Bad*, *Thriller* and *History*.

Most of the best songs were covered, sometimes replicating Michael's performance and sometimes with the singers giving their own interpretation.

There were impressive copies of the original Jackson Five dance routines with 14-year-old Dominic Smith as the young Michael showing off an incredible range and versatility.

There were high octane performances from all the dancers, but especially memorable were the covers of *Smooth Criminal*, *Shake Your body*, *Blame it on The Boogie* and *Earth Song*.

Of course, the best was left till the end with spectacular renditions of *Billy Jean* and *Thriller* finally getting the audience on their feet and rounding off a fabulous evening.

SUSAN HAWKES



BLAME IT ON THE BOOGIE: Steven Andrews and Chris Brown don Jackson-style hats for last night's show

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