

REVIEW: *The Elasticated Sound System*

The Elasticated Sound System is the newest show to come out of the 20 Stories High team, this beautifully performed piece of theatre was written and directed by Keith Saha and Julia Samuels. The Elasticated Sound System deals with modern everyday troubles of Liverpool's youth, including subjects on: racism, anxiety and family troubles all handled in an extremely mature fashion. However this is no ordinary piece of theatre, techniques are used in abundance to support and strengthen the professionalism of this piece: song, dance, rap, puppetry and much more, ensures this piece is a good fit for everyone and will please all of the viewers.

The original handwritten music performed in this play is no short of wonderful; each note is hit with extreme precision. The vocalists are truly magnificent and each individual song tells a story and fits the play perfectly, the young guitarist: Josh Enakpoma plays a score that would bring a tear to a glass eye, each note is played with care and each chord is hit with great power. However, not only is there singing and guitar playing in this play, there is also beat boxing which brings a real modern twist to this emotive story! This piece of theatre really does show Liverpool all of the talents that the future generation has to offer.

Music isn't the only positive about this production; the acting is also extremely strong! Each of the actors takes their role and harnesses every little thing about their character, allowing the audience to believe in that the actor is -in fact- their character! In "The Elasticated Sound System" there are a few exceptionally emotive scenes focussing on family life of a young adopted girl, all of the actors during these scenes are dedicated and believable, the use of puppetry during one of the family scenes enforces and strengthens the emotional vibe of that particular story arch. Another set of scenes chooses to focus on the pressures of "sexting" that are held against young people, once more the acting during these scenes is also as believable!

It wouldn't be "The Elasticated Sound System" without elastics and they look impeccable, the strings of elastic that are stretched across the theatre, down the back and pulled out of the sides, make for a unique and mesmerising set, the lights used on the elastics really does make this set a beautiful thing to look at! During a particular scene Becky Smith dances in the elastics and it is an extremely relaxing yet brilliant thing to look at!

Overall, "The Elasticated Sound System" is a brilliant show and is a credit to 20 Stories High, the professionalism and dedication of each of the actors and musicians is displayed during every second of every scene! The hard work of all of the production team is completely evident and is visible to all that watch the show. Congratulations to all of the members of 20 Stories High for putting on a fabulous show!

By Charlie