



UAPRESENTS STUDENT CRITIC PROGRAM

T.S. Monk: "Monk on Monk"

Review by Andrea Cadena

As I prepared to attend the show, I researched Thelonious' career and found very interesting facts about his work and legacy which made me look forward to the upcoming show. I was also impressed by the number of students who were familiar with his music. When I discovered that Thelonious Monk had passed away several years ago, I understood the meaning of the title "Monk on Monk". The fact that I was going to witness a show "retold" by his own son was just extraordinary. Once the show started, I sat and watched attentively at what was to come.

Not many musicians can say that their child has followed in their footsteps. I was very grateful for the opportunity to attend this great concert featuring Thelonious Monk's son: it was just phenomenal! At the beginning of the show T.S. Monk introduced us to the band members; I instantly enjoyed his energetic personality that was booming through the stage microphone. The band started off with "Skippy" which is one of the rare examples of what is said to be an up-tempo composition. This song was voluminous and brought a great vibe like no other ordinary jazz song. After every other song, Thelonious would begin talking a little bit about how his father and his music affected him. He also described when he recorded the songs and to whom they were dedicated, which helped us relate to them. The king of jazz would express his feelings through his music; "Monk's Mood" is said to be one of them.

Throughout the entire concert, I could feel the love T.S. put into playing every single note under his father's name. He seemed to be reviving him onstage and it was almost as if he were standing right by him in Centennial Hall. Many people in the audience were quite familiar with the compositions and were very pleased to have the Thelonious' great work replayed by someone who grew up learning and playing around him. I really liked that the background and history were presented to us. This concert was a unique and unforgettable experience!