



UAPRESENTS STUDENT CRITIC PROGRAM

T.S. Monk: “Monk on Monk”

Review by Raymond Gallardo

This performance was to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, which was created in honor of the legendary Thelonious Monk. Although Thelonious has passed away, he left a legacy-- his ability to teach youth to play jazz at a very high level of musicianship. Thelonious' son, named T.S., wanted to fulfill his father's legacy to teach. T.S. was so interactive with the audience that he made us feel as though we are a part of the history and meaning behind the songs.

There's still a lot that I would like to learn more about jazz, but I know for one thing for sure: This group brings life to the audience! The way this music is structured is very difficult to read and play. Additionally, it requires a great deal of heart and soul to put meaning into the music and touch the audience. From the first note to the very last note you can tell the band played these songs with passion. It was evident that T.S. played with his father constantly on his mind.

T.S. Monk plays worldwide in places such as Europe, South America, the Middle East, and of course, the United States. The music that he plays is important, because his father had written most of it; however, T.S. did not shy away from playing some of his own music too. T.S. played a lot of songs that his dad originally wrote for his family and friends. For instance, “Little Rootie Tootie” was written for T.S. himself. Other songs dedicated to loved ones included, “Boo Boo's Birthday” and “Crepescul for Nellie”.

This show demonstrated the great history of Thelonious Monk's songs. The interactive nature of the show proved that Thelonious Monk is still alive within his son, T.S. Monk.