



## UAPRESENTS STUDENT CRITIC PROGRAM

### **T.S. Monk: “Monk on Monk”**

Review by Rocio Aguilar

Jazz. It's a very unique and difficult to understand style of music. Not everybody is able to fully enjoy it due this fundamental lack of understanding. I was a perfect example of this. Before my experience at “Monk on Monk”, I had never listened to jazz music, much less attended a live performance! Although, I was a bit lost in the beginning, I was able to enjoy the show.

The show consisted of a mixture of calm songs as well as plenty of songs which were much more upbeat. The background lighting varied depending on the mood of the particular song being played, anywhere from a soft blue to a firing red. Nonetheless, all throughout the performance it was obvious to me (although I am not much of a jazz fan) that the performers love what they do! You could tell right away that jazz is what they were born for, tapping their feet and snapping their fingers to the beat of the song. The emotion the musicians demonstrated made it clear that they were really having fun and being themselves. T.S Monk shook his head with such excitement that I was afraid he'd just get up and start dancing! His attitude was completely understandable, considering he grew up with this music. His father, Thelonious Monk, is a jazz legend, and as his son mentioned several times, “it is [an] honor to keep the music alive.”

The show had a very relaxed feeling to it, since the performers were deciding the songs they would play on the spot. There was also chit-chatting amongst them between each song, they were cracking jokes, and acting as if the audience was not even present. This did not seem to be inappropriate behavior at all for a jazz concert setting. It actually made me feel like they were selecting songs that they felt were best to play for this audience. Also, I felt like it just made the audience see that this is what they do, this is them, and this is their style of music.