

AfroReggae: Ignite!

Salisbury Arts Centre 2nd June 2010

Ignite! was a very well-attended drumming and dance show by six performers from the Brazilian group AfroReggae, along with two members of Bad Taste Cru, a UK-based urban dance crew.

It was presented as a family show, so it was good to see a packed house with so many families in the audience. I particularly enjoyed seeing how the performers interacted with the audience . and they did this much more than I had expected they would. Language was no barrier to communication.

AfroReggae do a lot of work with children and young people in the *favelas* of Rio de Janeiro, and it was very interesting to hear from members of the group about what they do and what they have achieved there. Bad Taste Cru, who are based in Newcastle, have been collaborating with AfroReggae for some time now, and had just come back from a visit to their base in Rio. It was good to find they have done a lot of work together, and it certainly showed in the way the performers interacted and played off each other.

Ignite! was a really exciting show. It was so brilliant that I couldn't single out any one part over another, and it culminated in a ~~jam~~ session, when many people (children and adults) who had taken part in workshops with the company during the week, joined the performers on stage for break-dancing, Afro-Brazilian dancing and lots of drumming.

Kevin Follett
as told to Gill Roberts