

abysmal.

- REBECCA BOEY

INTO THE HOODS

Novello Theatre, Aldwych, WC2

ZOONATION brings this high-energy hip-hop dance show to the West End via Sadler's Wells and a run at last year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe - and the work that has been put into it really shows.

The premise, combining characters from fairy tales into one jumbled story, will be a familiar one but everything director and choreographer Kate Prince brings to it is fresh and new.

After running away from school two mildly deviant children find themselves "lost in the hood" of the Ruff Endz Estate.

To earn their bus money home they must complete a series of tasks, meeting the likes of DJ Spinderella, Lil Red and MC Rap-on-Zel, along the way.

The company are all fantastically fit, each bringing individual talents, from break-dancing to body popping, to the mix.

Aside from a tendency to change tracks before really building a groove, the music is never less than engaging, with clever sampling often used to get the story moving along.

From soul and funk classics to contemporary R'n'B, this soundtrack will appeal to both old and new school hip-hop fans.

Completely without ego yet full of true artistic integrity, Into the Hoods, is different from anything that has been seen in the West End for a long while.

- JO CAIRD

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