

## House of Holy Afro review

Article from: PerthNow

James Hanlon

March 01, 2009 10:00pm

**IF Beck's Music Box had a roof, it would have been blasted into space when the House of the Holy Afro brought their high-energy show to the festival.**

The South Africa troupe showcased not only a range of amazing vocal talents but an innovative mixture of house and dancehall music styles with traditional African dance and song.

The beginning of the night let everyone know what was in store, with six of the performers, members of the African musical theatre group Third World Bunfight, walking on stage in traditional African dress – with a twist.

Along with flowing robes, the women all donned dark black sunglasses while the men were shirtless, with loud patterned flared jeans and similarly decorated shades.

After a few minutes of a beautiful display of African vocals, the beat dropped, courtesy of DJ Dino Moran, and the party really got started, combining perfectly with the voices of the performers.

It only got louder from there on in as South African slam-poet Odidi Mfenyana, under the drag queen guise of Odidiva, burst on to the stage with no-holds-barred booty shaking and crowd hyping chants.

The beat didn't stop but for a few movements of African percussion and a recreation of a traditional African ceremony by Mfenyana, who, after placing a bowl of smoking incense on the catwalk in the centre of the stage, began blowing water out of the crowd in a ritual of purification.

The directorial brainchild of South African Brett Bailey, The House of the Holy Afro was a wonderful experience, clearly enjoyed by the crowd of people bouncing on the dancefloor and by the performers who carried out the show with smiles on their faces.

A truly amazing mixture of performance theatre and musical production executed expertly with the pure desire to entertain and create a positive atmosphere.

**House of the Holy Afro**  
**Beck's Music Box**  
**February 26**  
**Review James Hanlon**