

Taking aim with hip hop theatre

Review: SPITFIRE
 By Rhoda Davids
 Cue reporter

Are we being sold ideas, told what and how to think? *Spitfire*, written and performed by Ian Robinson, suggests that the aim of authorities is to keep people from forming their own opinions.

Robinson brings hip hop to the stage. Using fast-paced lyrics and poetry, he questions a topic that "irritates him and needs to be addressed".

He refers to the government and capitalism, which he feels are at the root of South Africa's problems.

Crime, poverty and education are depicted as a triangle – solve

one and the rest will follow suit.

This one-man show features two characters: the poet, who lives in solitude seeing problems and trying to find solutions; and the hustler, who is part of the street world, one of the herd.

The challenge for Robinson is getting people to watch the show, because hip hop theatre is not well known.

Bringing hip hop to the theatre merges two audiences – those with a love for hip hop and those who love the theatre – enabling both to experience their passions in a new way.

Spitfire's simple set encourages the audience to use their imaginations and the show aims to get people to not just

accept things, and to live life instead of just blindly consuming everything.

Not everyone ignores the problems and issues that surround us, but those who are comfortable with their lives will stay the way they are.

"The people right at the top want to keep their position so they choose to be blind," says Robinson.

In his play, he aims to push the audience out of their numb state and make them think.

Instead of seeing hip hop on TV and having it regarded as an alienating form of expression, Robinson welcomes people to experience both.

Spitfire is at the Gymnasium today at 2pm



Ian 'Ewok' Robinson in an award-winning, one-man slam poet. Catch his performance *Spitfire*, which shows most days at the Gymnasium. Cue/ Karen Crouch