

Kumar bares all just for laughs

review comedy

KUMAR: STRIPPED BARE & STANDING UP

Dream Academy
Esplanade Theatre
Thursday

tara tan

This queen sure knows how to hold court.

Famous cross-dresser Kumar brought the house down with his trademark no-holds-barred brand of humour.

His reputation preceded him. He sold out all three nights of the show's run at the 1,491-seater Esplanade Theatre before one scathing remark even crossed his scarlet lips.

The stage was bare but for his name in giant letters, all lit up. He struck an impressive figure in a red-and-white sequined dress.

No topic was too sacred to be left untouched. He poked fun at sombre politicians, current affairs, joking about Mas Selamat and the Merlion being struck by lightning, and delivered spot-on imitations of the different races in Singapore.

The 100-minute show was directed by Selena Tan and written by Benjamin Lee, better known as the blogger Mr Miyagi.

But this solo show, the comedian's second biggest since Kumar The Queen in 2007, is his most intimate yet.

He told the audience stories about his childhood, school days and army days, and in the process, turned painful stories about prejudice into heartwarming gems.

The audience laughed, but beneath the laughter, they knew Kumar had learnt some hard lessons in life.

By the end of the night, the cavernous hall of the theatre had become more cosy.

Those who cannot get enough of Kumar, or cannot get tickets to this show, can always catch him at his weekend gigs at the Orchard Towers pub 3 Mondays.

But seeing him bravely baring his soul on stage was really something special. Encore.

Kumar: Stripped Bare & Standing Up is sold out.