


GREEN DAY'S american IDIOT

Reviews

"While the album's themes of alienation and frustration in a post 9/11 world play out, the audience is fed two hours of orchestrated chaos, as the show crashes through the barriers of the traditional musical set-up. Through all of this, however, there are still opportunities for both wit and warmth, and this homage to lasting friendship in the most difficult of circumstances is likely to win over even the most traditional theatregoer." ****

thesussexnewspaper.com – *Paul Lucas-Scott, 18 April 2019*

"If you prefer Tarantino or Danny Boyle movies to theatre then this is the musical for you... Powerful, gritty and sometimes a little uncomfortable to watch, this is certainly not a traditional musical. There's minimal talking as the roaring soundtrack, provided by the punk-rock opera concept album 'American Idiot' from Green Day, propels you hurtling through the story narrative. 3 disillusioned teenagers choose their path to escape the dreary suburbs post 9-11, with war raging in Iraq, and their sole highlight: drinking in the local store car park.

Themes of drug-taking, alter egos, military conflict and teenage fatherhood are expertly portrayed by a phenomenal cast to represent the disillusionment from the collapse of the 'can-do' spirit of the American dream. Leading man 'Johnny' played by Tom Milner is utterly convincing as his drug habit spirals out of control, in part due to his alter-ego St.Jimmy (played with expert empowerment by the talented Luke Friend as the devil on his shoulder). Sam Lavery strikes a great balance between confident independent woman and love-torn girlfriend desperately trying to save Johnny from himself.

Despite occasionally being an uneasy watch (a testament to how well those scenes were acted) this was the most enjoyably entertaining and affecting live theatre I've seen for a very long time!"

*Sharon Thompson, **Eastbourne Theatres**,
reviewing 17 April performance in Brighton*