Kudos to the Rose Theatre in Brampton for snaring Joby Rogers to perform the one and only stint in Canada this time around. It is only the 2nd time that this doppelganger, who has an uncanny resemblance to Michael Jackson (MJ), has ever performed in Canada, which speaks volumes for The Rose’s ability to attract great talent.

Michael Jackson needs no introduction as he was truly the King of Pop with a universal appeal. He once said: “You hear us talk about the peacock a lot because the peacock is the only bird of all the bird family that integrates every color into one. That’s our main goal in music. When you go to our concerts and you see every race out there and they’re all waving hands and they’re holding hands and they’re smiling and dancing. All colors.” And so it happened as his tunes would blare out on radio stations all over the world, even all the way to the streets of India.

At The Rose on Jan 16, Joby brought Michael Jackson back to life and really socked it to an extremely multicultural audience who had come from all over. Joby has been impersonating Michael Jackson for the last 30 years and in 2003 was officially endorsed by MJ as his ‘official substitute’ when he was looking for an impersonator to cover him at an event. Joby also has the honor of being the only tribute artist to be ever featured on the cover of the prestigious music magazine, Rolling Stone.

This past Friday, Joby lived up to his fame as he emulated MJ’s moves to perfection prompting huge applause from the sold out theatre. He, his band and a troupe of four highly skilled dancers pulled out all the stops and went the whole nine yards right from the ‘ABC, 123’ days of the Jackson Five to MJ’s final days. They started off with some tunes from the band and then on came Joby with “Wannna be startin’somethin’” to boots of approval from the crowd as they got up to dance. Even the ushers were tapping their feet, such was his charisma! He continued with “Black or White”, “The way you make me feel” and more intercalating all his songs with videos of the man himself (MJ) as he and his dancers kept going off stage for a change of costumes.

All the while he kept going into the crowd and interfacing with them, bringing up loads of women to teach them MJ’s dance measures and he and his group posed with people for loads of photographs as they all lined up to get a close glimpse of MJ’s dead ringer.

And he didn’t forget the audience up in the balcony even going up there and interminably with them. It was an amazing interactive experience for the audience.

He of course performed MJ’s early hit “ABC 123” and his other major hits, “Beat It”, “Billie Jean”, “Thriller”, “Man in the Mirror”, “I’ll be there” and many more bringing to life MJ’s brilliant moves including his famous moonwalk which saw everybody go wild, before bringing the exhilarating evening to a close.

But it didn’t end there. Joby invited everybody out to the hall for a meet and greet session and he and his group posed with people for loads of photographs as they all lined up to get a close glimpse of MJ’s dead ringer.