

Michael Jackson tribute artist makes rare Canadian stop

Brampton Guardian

BRAMPTON – He's never met the King of Pop, but Joby Rogers, sure knows how to move like him.

The Michael Jackson tribute artist has moonwalked his way to success, with his long-running show *The Ultimate MJ Experience* – and he brings it to the Rose Theatre on Jan. 16.

The show has travelled the world over the last three decades – from London to Japan, and South America to Alaska – but the Brampton date will be the only Canadian stop on his tour, and only his second time performing in Canada.

This year, he celebrates 30 years as a tribute artist.

"It's still one of the biggest thrills of my life," said Rogers, adding that it all began when he was recruited by friends to do some "popping and breaking" dance moves for a school talent show when he was just a teenager.

Now, he present a full-scale 75-minute show that spans MJ's days from Jackson 5 to the end of his career. A big focus, adds Rogers, is on the music of the '80s.

Though he doesn't sing – he lip syncs through the show – he does emulate the moves that made Jackson a star. He's also joined by dancers on stage, and plays a video in the background.

Rogers also notes that he was personally endorsed as a tribute artist by the real MJ – and in 2003 he received a letter from Jackson.

"It really gives (what I do) validation," he said.

Though he tries to stay in character for the show, the one thing he does differently is that he interacts with the audience during and after the performance.

The *Ultimate MJ Experience* takes place at the Rose Theatre on Jan. 16 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$46 to \$56, and are available by calling 905-874-2800 or visiting www.rosetheatre.ca.



Joby Rogers as Michael Jackson will perform at The Rose Theatre, Jan. 16.