

# Hip-hop hits the Arsht

**Mos Def** meandered on stage in a slow-to-build performance Saturday night. But fans open-minded and patient enough to give him a chance were rewarded with a freewheeling, eclectic performance suitable as the first major hip-hop performance at the Adrienne Arsht Center.

After his DJs **Preservation** and **Gold Medal Man** took the stage, the typically low-key and quirky Mos, dressed in a gray T and baseball cap and wielding mallets, managed to sneak on stage and man his orchestral drum kit, which he played on several songs.

Mos was gracious and humble, often thanking the crowd. But the several minute-long interludes

between songs (which consisted of various soul, funk and reggae songs that he would sing and dance to) often became tedious.

It wasn't until performances of *No Hay Nada Mas* (a Spanish-language track from *The Ecstatic*) and a slowed-down, haunting cover of Michael Jackson's *Bilie Jean*, that the crowd began warming up. Mos saved the best for last, when he sang his biggest hits, *Ms. Fat Booty* and *Umi Says*, which brought most of the audience to its feet.

— ADRIAN RUHI



MOS DEF



PHOTOS BY MANNY HERNANDEZ