

# Our Fathers, Sons, Lovers and Little Brothers

## Fact Sheet

Welcome to the Our Fathers, Sons, Lovers and Little Brothers Relaxed Performance.

This fact sheet has key information about the play and the theatre that you may find useful.

### Key Information:

<b>date:</b>	Thursday February 16, 2023
<b>time:</b>	7:30pm
<b>location:</b>	Prairie Theatre Exchange
<b>address:</b>	393 Portage Ave., Unit 300, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor, Winnipeg, MB R3B 3H6
<b>theatre:</b>	Cherry Karpyschin Mainstage Theatre
<b>length of play:</b>	70 minutes
<b>link to program:</b>	<a href="#"><u>Here</u></a>

### General things to know:

- The Prairie Exchange Theatre is inside Portage Place, on the third (3rd) floor.
- If you are being dropped off, please ask to be dropped off at Portage and Edmonton.
- If you are taking a bus you should get off as close to Portage and Edmonton as possible.
- There are two (2) sets of doors at Portage and Edmonton. One is usually locked (often the set on the left).
- If you have any trouble getting into the building please call 204-942-5483.
- If you drive there is parking underground at Portage Place.
- You can access the parking lot from Carlton or Vaughan streets.
- Parking for an evening or on a weekend is \$8.00.
- You must pay for parking before going upstairs.
- Only elevator #6 will get you from the parking lot to the third (3rd) floor.
- Elevator #6 is near the Carlton St. entrance of the parking lot.
- You will need to take the escalator or an elevator to the third (3rd) floor.
- Elevator #3 and #6 will take you up to the third (3rd) floor.
- The Box Office opens one (1) hour before the play begins - that is 6:30pm.
- The lobby opens one (1) hour before the play begins - that is 6:30pm.
- The theatre/auditorium opens 30 minutes before the play begins.
- The seating is assigned.
- A volunteer usher can help you find your seat.
- The audience sits on three (3) sides of the stage.
- The first row of the audience is at the same level as the stage.
- Limited accessible seating is available, please book these seats in advance if needed.

- Service dogs are welcome.
- There are stairs and walkways to the seats.
- The steps in the theatre alternate width (tread).
- The handrails in the theatre are intermittent.
- Washrooms are located in the lobby.
- Washrooms are non-gendered, please use whichever you prefer.
- There is a water fountain outside of the washrooms.
- You can purchase a drink in the lounge or at the cafe.
- Drinks are allowed in the theatre.
- During the play the house lights will remain on at a low level.
- This play contains some very emotional scenes.
- This play contains comedy and some sarcasm.
- There is swearing, shouting, and arguing in the play.
- There is violence and racism in the play (noted below in the sensory moments section).
- Photographs are not allowed to be taken during the play.
- Please keep your mobile devices on silent during the play.
- You may use your mobile device during the play if needed.
- During the play audience members are welcome to move and leave the theatre if needed.
- Audience are encouraged to express themselves naturally and authentically during the play.
- A quiet space has been designated for this play.
- The Quiet Room for this play is in the student Lounge.
- The Student Lounge is on the second floor.
- A volunteer usher can direct you to the Quiet Room if needed.
- If you need help at any time, the volunteers ushers are there to help.
- The play was written by Makambe K. Simamba.
- The play was directed by Donna-Michelle St. Bernard.
- The play is a co-production between Tarragon Theatre & Black Theatre Workshop, based on the world premiere production by b current.

### **Play Synopsis:**

Slimm, a seventeen-year-old Black boy in a hoodie suddenly finds himself in the first moments of his afterlife. What happens next is a sacred journey through the unknown, as Slimm grapples with the truth of the life he lived and the death he didn't choose. *Our Fathers, Sons, Lovers and Little Brothers* is a protest for all Black life beyond headlines and hashtags, a prayer for all families left behind, and a promise to the community that all Black lives matter.

### **Advisory:**

*Our Fathers, Sons, Lovers and Little Brothers* deals with content that may be difficult to some, including strong language, descriptions of drug use, racism, violence and death.

## Meet the Artist:

This is Makambe K. Simamba (she/her). Makambe is both the playwright and the performer of *Our Fathers, Sons, Lovers and Little Brothers*.



*Image description: a young Black woman smiles at the camera. Her long hair is braided and rests over her shoulder. She wears a royal blue top.*

## A note about language:

During the play the actor plays more than one character. Each character has their own mannerisms, way of speaking and physicality; this includes some dialogue that the character of Slimm's friend uses to talk to his peers. The use of this language is in the context of the character and the story.

## Sensory moments in, and information about, the play:

- This is a one person show. That means that one actor plays all the parts in the play regardless of age or gender.
- Throughout the play there will be projections of images, light, colour and patterns onto the screen at the back of the stage.
- The projections will change many times. Not all changes will be noted below.
- When you enter the theatre there will be blue light on stage.
- The stage goes dark.
- Music begins to play.
- The music is not very loud.
- There is a loud sound of breathing.
- Lights came up slowly.
- There is a person lying on the floor.
- This is Slimm.
- As Slimm stretches his legs a sound plays.
- The sound is not very loud. But if it is too loud, you may want to cover your ears or use sound dampening headphones.
- Soft light is being projected onto the screen at the back of the stage.
- The projection looks like the night sky.
- Slimm sits.

- Slimm falls off his seat.
- Slimm speaks for the first time in the play.
- Slimm shouts "God". If this seems too loud you may want to cover your ears or use sound dampening headphones.
- Slimm rests on a pillar.
- A sound is played.
- The sound is not very loud. But if it is too loud, you may want to cover your ears or use sound dampening headphones.
- When the sound is played, Slimm moves away from the pillar.
- A book comes up and out of the pillar.
- The book glows.
- As Slimm reads the book the words appear on the screen at the back of the stage.
- The words on the screen appear as if hand written.
- Moving forward in the play, every time Slimm reads from the book the words will appear, as if hand written, on the screen at the back of the stage.
- Slimm speaks to the audience.
- Slimm tells bible stories.
- The way Slimm tells the stories may seem disrespectful.
- Slimm opens the book and reads.
- Writing appears on the screen as Slimm reads.
- Sometimes the writing appears just before Slimm reads from the book.
- The lights change.
- Slimm and his mother have an argument.
- There is talk of marijuana.
- Slimm meets with his friend.
- At the end of the conversation, the lights change.
- A sound is played.
- The sound is not loud. But if it is too loud, you may want to cover your ears or use sound dampening headphones.
- Handwriting appears on the screen.
- Slimm sits.
- Slimm is in a car with others.
- Talk of police.
- Talk of police treatment of Black men.
- Sounds of traffic and the car are played.
- The sounds are not loud. But if it is too loud, you may want to cover your ears or use sound dampening headphones.
- Talk of racism.
- Talk of fear.
- A child cries.
- Sounds from inside a car are played.
- Slimm moves to the book.
- Handwriting appears on the screen.
- A sound is played. If it is too loud, you may want to cover your ears or use sound dampening headphones.
- Slimm waves his arm around.
- The sound of a school bell is played. If it is too loud, you may want to cover your ears or use sound dampening headphones.

- Depictions of marijuana smoking.
- Talk of different family relationships.
- Slimm talks about flying with his mother.
- A sound is played. If it is too loud, you may want to cover your ears or use sound dampening headphones.
- Slimm reads from the book.
- Handwriting appears on the screen.
- Slimm reads about releasing his body's last breath.
- Slimm shouts.
- Slimm speaks about racism.
- Talk of police treatment of Black men.
- Slimm drinks.
- The drink drips out of Slimm's mouth.
- An image of skittles falling appears on the screen.
- The image moves quickly.
- A sound is played. If it is too loud, you may want to cover your ears or use sound dampening headphones.
- Slimm shouts for his mother.
- The projection changes to the outline of the skittles only.
- The projection still moves quickly.
- Slimm sits.
- Slimm shouts "Daddy".
- The sound gets louder. If it is too loud, you may want to cover your ears or use sound dampening headphones.
- Slimm prays.
- A buzzing sound is played.
- The projection changes and moves slower.
- The projection appears to be a train track.
- Music plays and the buzzing continues. If it is too loud, you may want to cover your ears or use sound dampening headphones.
- Slimm dances.
- The buzzing is his phone.
- Slimm answers the phone and has a conversation.
- The projection continues to move.
- Slimm presses buttons.
- The buttons make a sound. It is not loud.
- The projection is of a car and a house.
- There is still movement in the projection.
- Rain sounds are played.
- Talk of someone following Slimm.
- Slimm runs around the stage.
- Sound of a car stopping.
- The sound of a car door opening is played.
- Slimm speaks to the person getting out of the car.
- Slimm is hit repeatedly by the person.
- Slimm falls to the floor.
- Slimm screams for help. If it is too loud, you may want to cover your ears or use sound dampening headphones.

- Dripping sounds are played.
- A projection of Slimm appears on the screen.
- A buzzing sound and music are played. If it is too loud, you may want to cover your ears or use sound dampening headphones.
- The screen turns back to the night sky.
- Slimm stands.
- The buzzing and music stop.
- Slimm takes a bag out of his sock.
- A sound is played. It is not very loud.
- The book pulses slowly with light.
- Slimm speaks to his loved ones and says goodbye to them.
- Handwriting appears on the screen.
- Mention of a killer and death.
- Handwriting appears on the screen.
- The book asks Slimm to name the ancestors who called to him.
- For the next 10 minutes Slimm will name and become Black men, youth and children who were killed in acts of racism and violence.
- After each name is the age and the year of death of the person.
- Sounds are played.
- The background sound gets a little louder during the scene.
- The Ancestors and Slimm will always be louder than the background sound.
- Slimm names himself.
- Slimm's real name is Trayvon Benjamin Martin.
- Slimm shares his age (17) and year of death (2012).
- A tinkling, high-pitched sound is played as Slimm sprinkles the earth/dirt from the pouch.
- Music begins to play.
- The night sky projections continue.
- Slimm sprinkles the dirt on himself.
- Handwriting appears on the screen.
- Slimm cries.
- Music is played.
- A projection of Slimm's uplifted arm is on the screen.
- The projection changes to Slimm moving.
- The projection of Slimm is not doing the same movements as the real Slimm.
- Slimm begins to move and dance on the stage for the next 5 minutes.
- As the music changes so does Slimm's style of movement.
- The music sometimes contains voices.
- The voices are not signing words, just sounds.
- Slimm's movement contains moments of play, dreams, love as well as moments of fear.
- The music changes tempo.
- Slimm hugs his loved ones.
- Slimm walks to the book.
- The lights go dark.
- Slimm speaks.
- The sound of an airplane is played.
- The lights go out.

- This is the end of the play.
- A projection appears on the screen.
- It is a note to the audience from the creators of the play.
- The note invites you to sit and reflect on the show.
- The note also asks that if you choose to leave, please be considerate of those who continue to sit and reflect on the content of the play and to leave quietly if possible.
- The house lights will come up further so you can leave safely.
- Music will play as you exit the theatre.