



photo by Johanna Austin

KILL MOVE PARADISE

by James Ijames

Kill Move Paradise tells the story of Isa, Daz, Grif and Tiny, four black men who find themselves stuck in a cosmic waiting room in the afterlife. This play, inspired by the ever growing list of slain unarmed black men and women, depicts these men as symbols of life and hope. Gone but never forgotten, *Kill Move Paradise* illustrates the possibilities of collective transformation and radical acts of joy.

01

The play frankly describes and depicts moments of **violence and racism**. The characters use **strong language**.

02

James has said that the play is his attempt to create a **“black cosmology”**—a design of the universe where blackness is centered in the natural and supernatural order, with the space the characters find themselves in having been created by those who have lived through the same experiences as them.

03

The setting of *Kill Move Paradise* has been described by James Ijames as Elysium, Limbo, or the Tibetan concept of the Bardo, all spaces of transition **between life and the afterlife** where the soul reflects on its past in preparation for its future.

04

The characters in *Kill Move Paradise* all share an **awareness of the audience**, referred to by the characters at times as “America,” as a way for them and Ijames to highlight how the silent, passive consumption of the destruction of racism is an integral component of its structure.

INSPIRATION FOR THE PLAYWRIGHT

James Ijames started writing his first play in his dressing room while performing in the Wilma's production of *Angels in America*, and has said the Wilma has had a tremendous impact on his writing, encouragingly him to be "wild and precise...The HotHouse approach is playful and exploratory and then it irises down to something quite precise and I believe *Kill Move Paradise* will benefit from this".



(Photos of playwright, James Ijames in *Angels in America*, photos by Alexander Iziliaev.)

INSPIRATION FOR THE COSTUME DESIGN

LeVonne Lindsay, used images like this to inspire her costume design for *Kill Move Paradise*.



(Examples of the cast's costumes, photos by Johanna Austin.)