


CAST AND CREW




Tanner Conley Isa

Bio Ecco minulabo. Itaque eos et voluendula eturam voluptas sequa inveni gendita cou parati sequam fugitamped mi, onomolup tatur? Ex as etAgrum num sinet et officit numpique nonaqui.

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


Michael McPherson Daz

Bio Ecco minulabo. Itaque eos et voluendula eturam voluptas sequa inveni gendita cou parati sequam fugitamped mi, onomolup tatur? Ex as etAgrum num sinet et officit numpique nonaqui.

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


Jonathan Matthews Grif

Bio Ecco minulabo. Itaque eos et voluendula eturam voluptas sequa inveni gendita cou parati sequam fugitamped mi, onomolup tatur? Ex as etAgrum num sinet et officit numpique nonaqui.

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Kristopher Swint Tiny

Bio Ecco minulabo. Itaque eos et voluendula eturam voluptas sequa inveni gendita cou parati sequam fugitamped mi, onomolup tatur? Ex as etAgrum num sinet et officit numpique nonaqui.


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





Rachel Finley
Director




Joel Villa
Stage Manager




Elizabeth Parker
Assistant Stage Manager




Dejuan Russell
Costume Design




Kimmy Mar
Sound Design




Christian Harris
Media Design




Crestencia Ortiz-Barnett
Dramaturg




Julio-César Saucedo
Dramaturg




Allie Fair
Deck Stage Manager



Gio Curtiss
Lighting Design



Sydney Thomasy
Scenic Design




PLAYWRIGHT I JAMES JAMES



Playwright • Director • Educator

James' plays have been produced by Flashpoint Theater Company, Coltrane 3, Theatre Horizon, Wilma Theater, Theatre Exile, Azuika Theatre (Philadelphia, PA), The National Black Theatre, JACK, The Public Theater (NYC), Hudson Valley Shakespeare Theatre, StageWorkshop Theatre, DeafNation Theatre, Timeline Theatre (Chicago, IL) Boulder Playhouse (Berkeley, CA) and have received development with Playwrights New Play Conference, The Lark, Playwright's Horizon, Cabbaget Town, Wilma Theater, Wilma Theater, Azuika Theater and Victory Garden.

James was a founding member of Coltrane 3, Philadelphia's first playwright producing collective.

He received a B.A. in Drama from Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA and a M.F.A. in Acting from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. James is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Villanova University. He resides in South Philadelphia.

2011 **F. Otto Haas Award**
Emerging Artist recipient

2015 **Pew Fellow**
Playwriting

2016 **Terrance McNally**
New Play Award for WHITE

2015 **Kesselring Honorable**
Mention Prize
for Miz Martha

2007 **Whiting Award**

2009 **Kesselring Prize**
for Kill Move Paradise

2020 **Steinberg Prize**

2022 **Pulitzer Prize**
In Drama recipient

2023 **Barrmore Award**
Outstanding Direction
of a play for The Brothers Sike with Seraphica Theatre Company and Dem of the Ocean with Kismet Theatre




ABOUT THE PLAY

“Larger and bolder... a fresh and beautiful... drama”
—James James

—NY Times.

This play was directly influenced by the killing of **Tamir Rice** by the **Cleveland Police Department**. It was developed at **Victory Garden Theatre** in **Chicago, Illinois**. **Its world premiere was in 2017 at the National Black Theatre in Harlem, NY.**

Kill Move Paradise specifically highlights the Black male experience of being perceived as a performer on the Black Face making to create stereotypes and caricatures of African Americans to ridicule, demean, oppress and present as less than human. During Reconstruction, the free Black man became a challenge to the political system and a threat to the status quo. In retaliation, the most heinous and lingering movement caricature was created—the “Vicious Black Brute.” This stereotype was presented as large, menacing, violent, and on the prowl for white women. The “Vicious Black Brute” caricature incited fear and gave people the justification they were looking for to kill Black men. The lynching of Black males became a popular blood sport. They were carried out in public and often times people would set up picnics and bring their entire families.

In the 1880s and 1900s, the American South experienced an epidemic of race mob violence against Black people resulting in over 3,000 victims. Therefore, in Kill Move Paradise, we see not just dreams, but the dream deferred, cut short for being Black in a society that has been conditioned to view Black as transgressive. The lynching of African American men that began during Reconstruction and continued well into the 20th century has left a trail of blood that continues to be spilled today in the gunning down of unarmed African American males and desensitized to their random murders. This fear and desensitization continues today in the gunning down of unarmed African American boys and men by law enforcement and rogue vigilantes. Unarmed Black men are five times more likely to be gunned down by police than whites.

In Kill Move Paradise, James James boldly expresses the fear, stereotypes and death threat facing Black males in America today. Bringing 400 artists, designers and audiences together to witness this event is a vital part in extending the dialogue the play begins.



POP CULTURE REFERENCES



Eazy E
Known as the godfather of gangsta rap.



Joe Louis
Pioneering Black boxer in 1920s to 1950s. Held on to championship from 1937 to 1943, a record.



Just for Me
Proverbially designed for young Black people and hair styling. Products are controversial because of damage they have been known to cause and are linked to cancer.



Living Single
Created by Treva Lee Newsom, who worked on The Cosby Show and A Different World. It ran from 1993-1996.



Roots (1977)
A miniseries that follows Kunta Kente and his descendants as they are enslaved and into becoming free people in the United States. Based on the book Roots: The Saga of an American Family (1976).



A Different World
A spin off of The Cosby Show (1985-1992).



Martin
Show created by Martin Lawrence and starring him. Ran from 1992 to 1997.



Twilight Zone
A television show that originally ran from '59 to '64. It featured episodes of supernatural, science fiction or dystopian subjects.

Purple Drank/Syzurp
Mixture of cocaine cough syrup with a soft drink.

Afrofuturism
Encompassing Black Sci-Fi is a term applied to imagining a future of Black excellence, intelligence and imagination.

Pimp Cup
First featured in New Made you look from the album God's Son (2003).

LP's
Long Play Record, containing longer play times than predecessors.

Diaphragm
A thin, dome-shaped muscle that separates the lung area from the stomach and is used to breathe deeply. Yes, it is a barrier type of instrumentation that is inserted in the cervix with spermicide to prevent pregnancy. Sterilization.

Hoop Skirts
Were symbolic of an opulence that excluded Black women. They not only were synonymous with southern aristocratic fashion, it became a fashion choice used by suffragettes. White women were not inclusive of Black women in their rights for equality. There is a clear relationship between the hoop skirts and the elaborate hats worn to church on Sundays. "If the master's tools cannot dismantle the master's house, perhaps his clothes can do the job," writes Sissy Haskins for SACKED.

John Coltrane's Horn
Black saxophonist, very influential to jazz.

Jamaican Castor Oil
Though it can be used for many things, it is also used for hair growth. This product is particularly visible in products for Black hair care.

Tap Dancing
Product of mixture of West African step traditions and European jig.

Bessie Smith
Blues singer, known as the Empress of Blues.



HISTORICAL REFERENCES



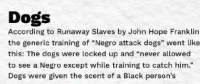
Anniiston Bus Bombing
On May 14, 1958, during the civil rights movement, a pro-segregation mob bombed a bus that headed out of Anniiston, AL. The bus carried activists known as the Freedom Riders.



16th Street Baptist Church Bombing
A terrorist attack on the 16 street Baptist Church by the Ku Klux Klan on September 16, 1958. Four girls were killed in that bombing.



The Tuskegee Experiment
An experiment conducted on a community of Black men, where syphilis was left untreated in 400 men, 400 of which were in advanced stages of the disease. The experiment was authorized by the US Public Health Service. The objective was to understand and observe the impact of the body's prolonged exposure to the disease. The combined lack of education (illiteracy) and poverty made this group particularly vulnerable to being taken advantage of. The phrase "Last chance for free treatment" was printed on letters and notices sent to the participants.



Dogs
According to Runaway Slaves by John Hope Franklin, the generic training of "Negro attack dogs" meant the dogs were locked up and "never allowed to see a Negro except while training to catch him." Dogs were given the scent of a Black person's shoe or article of clothing and taught to follow the scent. Slaves were sent out as trainees. When the dogs freed the slaves, the dogs were given meat as a reward. "Afterwards they learn to follow any particular Negro by scent." Besides the paroliers readiness "with the best of sport," their canine "Negro hunters" were fierce, vicious, and fearsome beasts. If the dogs were not constrained at the end of the chase, they would tear a man to pieces.

The Pita Brasileiro is a breed of dog that is named after the pit it was designed to do. In Brazil, this dog was utilized to return slaves to plantations. The word "Pita" means "to wait" in Portuguese. This dog was known to bite and not let go translated this dog is called "The Brazilian Setzer."

Himphill and Jackson
Joseph Himphill was the name of a senator third backed Andrew Jackson, slave owner and signer of the Indian Removal Act, an act of racial cleansing. Himphill, defied his constituency and eventually supported Jackson. Though Himphill was anti-slavery, he did little to oppose Jackson who was pro-slavery.

Saartjie Bartman
Was sexually-trafficked and exhibited because of the shape of her body, specifically the lower half of her body. She was a sort of "freak show." She was renamed Sarah but here, James has selected to use her known.



PLAY AREA



Hopscotch

Hopscotch is a popular playground game in which players toss a small object, called a legger, into numbered triangles or a pattern of rectangles outlined on the ground and then hop or jump through the spaces and retrieve the object. It is a children's game that can be played with several players or alone. Hopscotch is a physical and cognitive workout.



Rules:

Each player tosses a small object inside one of the squares on the hopscotch grid, then hops from square to square, hopping over the square with their small object in it.

Each player's goal is to hop all the way down to the end of the squares and back without the other foot touching the ground.



Double Dutch

Double Dutch is a game that the Dutch settlers brought to the Hudson River trading town of New Amsterdam (now New York City). When the English arrived and saw the children playing their game, they called it Double Dutch. The game has since grown over the years, particularly in urban areas.



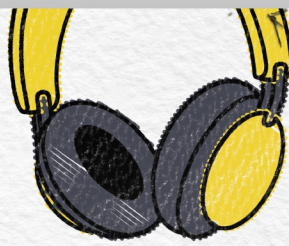
Game

Two people hold the ends of two ropes and turn them simultaneously in opposite directions while one or two jumpers, skated between the two ropes, jump over them as they turn.

After a jumper has completed their turn, they take the place of a turner, and the turner goes to the end of the line. Make this clear so there is no confusion about the responsibilities.

The activity is often accompanied by a chant or rhyme that gives the game additional structure.





#Culture Tags

#CultureTags is a spirited guessing game delivering hours of unpredictable fun as you and your friends test how well you know hashtags and the culture.

The spirited and popular game that will test just how well you know the culture. If you know what WOHW means, then you've just played CultureTags!

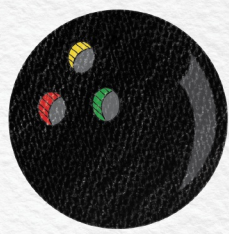
300 CARDS • 7 CATEGORIES - Black Twitter, Church, Daily Sayings, Family & Friends, Songs & Lyrics, TV & Film and Words to Live By



Rules:

Playing is simple. Grab a card, show your team the #CultureTag (acronym), announce the category and give hints to help them guess the phrase without saying what it is.

Can't figure it out? Pass! Just get through as many answers as possible before the round ends!



Game

Urban Trivia is the laid-back party game that instantly tests your knowledge of Black pop culture. Play to win, laugh and clown about how we really do with our 'til edition, TV Shows and Movies to Music and Viral Moments + MORE! It's time to test your knowledge of the culture!

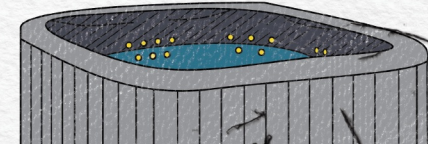


Rules:

Each person should take turns being the host. One person draws a trivia card from the top of the deck and reads it aloud - the question and four answer choices (the correct answer is in bold).

Each team or individual has 10 seconds to answer the question. To do this, we like to place the card down with the answer choice facing up. But feel free to throw the answer card face down, hold it over your head, or just yell it out.

The individual or team with the most points wins the game.



BLACK REPRESENTATION IN MEDIA

We are more likely to identify with someone who looks like us, and better able to imagine our own potential. Representation shapes and fosters positive self-esteem, self-worth, and respect for our own narratives.

-Jennifer Gordon

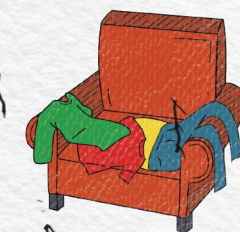
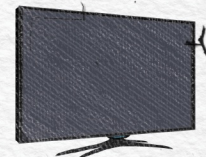
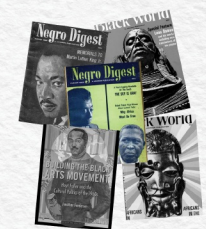
From the beginning of the 20th century until the mid-1950s, African Americans were virtually invisible in the mainstream (white) American press. If Black people were not flat-out ignored, they were depicted as inferior and subservient through stereotypical images and ads. There were no positive portrayals of Black people, only stereotypes that dominated the mainstream media. Having been largely underrepresented and stereotyped, it was time to change that. Enter John H. Johnson.

John H. Johnson was a Black man born in 1918 in rural Arkansas, the grandson of enslaved people. At a young age he moved to Chicago with his mother and stepfather where he lived and worked for the rest of his life. In 1942, after securing a \$500 loan, which was almost unheard of at that time for a Black man, he used the loan to publish the first edition of a publication he named *Amigo Digest*. He modeled it after *Reader's Digest*. This magazine featured articles written by and about African American athletes, from both the Black and white media, and targeted a Black audience. It was not an instant success because distributors were not willing to put the magazine on their newsstands, believing it would not sell. However, through community pressure and persuasion, the digest hit the newsstands and thrived.

Mr. Johnson's second publication, *Ebony* was founded in 1945. It showcased Black people in photos similar to *Life* magazine and stories about normal Black life. The editors stated in the first issue that this new magazine would celebrate Black success and "mirror the happier side of Negro life, the positive everyday achievements from Harlem to Hollywood." Mr. Johnson stated that in creating this magazine "we wanted to give Blacks a new sense of 'somebodiness,' a new sense of self-respect. We wanted to tell them who they were and what they could do...we believed then - and we believe now that Blacks needed positive images to fulfill their potentialities."

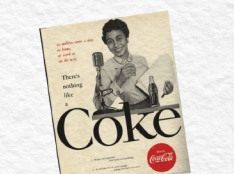


This monthly magazine focused on African American news, culture, and society. It featured professionals, entertainers, athletes, Black soldiers back from the war, and civil rights activists. It highlighted Black fashion and beauty and covered social issues. The covers featured beautiful Black men and women and included stories of middle- and upper-class Black families, living in beautiful decedent homes, vacationing, and living normal lives. Finally, Blacks could control their own narrative and be fully represented in a safe space.



This translated into advertising and selling products too. African American ad agencies (there were two at that time, founded in 1943) had been successful in selling Black-owned products to Black people, but Mr. Johnson argued that Blacks would embrace other brands whose advertisements depicted people of color. Advertising agencies that had previously ignored this market, with limited interest in representing Blacks, were now interested in advertising in this publication. Courting the Black dollar, in 1955, by a new advertising campaign, Coca-Cola chose Mary Alexander to be their first female African American model. The February 1955 issue of *Ebony* featured this venture.

In total, Johnson Publishing Company published nine print publications. A few more to note were *Hue*, published in 1953, *Ten Commandments*, created in 1955, which was a "True Confessions" style magazine, and *JET* (launched The Weekly Negro News Magazine) published in 1951. *JET* was a pocket sized weekly magazine and whose coverage included beauty and fashion tips, Black entertainment news, the Civil Rights Movement, sports, and social events. A very popular *JET* feature was the "Beauty of the Week." Every week a new African American woman, about sexualized in sweetness, would be featured as a way to promote the beauty of Black women.



These publications "forever changed the popular representation of African Americans" and helped society see them as they saw themselves: strong, hard-working, educated, talented, and worthy of respect and equality. They highlighted important social issues and social unrest that most Americans would rather ignore. The images of the Civil Rights Movement helped illustrate to the nation and to the world the ugliness of systemic racism. They pushed cultural norms (battering interracial marriages) and challenged prevailing notions of Blackness in America. Johnson Publishing Company helped to document the African American experience by utilizing our own voices.

Essence, *Vibe* and *Black Enterprise* from other publishing companies, were also staples in many Black households.



It's important to see oneself reflected and represented in as many ways possible and if true representation is lacking or inaccurate then you must create the space for yourself because...

**Representation matters...
Black Representation matters.**



TAKE ACTION BE A WITNESS

Transformation takes time and requires purposeful and sustained action.
We invite you to choose an intention and carry it forward into the world.

Listen/Watch:

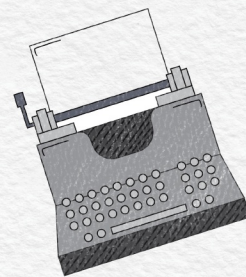
- 13th (Documentary, Netflix)
- The 1619 Project (Podcast)
- Code Switch (Podcast)
- Hale County This Morning, This Evening (Documentary, Amazon)
- Homecoming (Documentary/Concert, Netflix)
- The Nod (Podcast)
- Strong Island (Documentary, Netflix)
- When They See Us (miniseries, Netflix)
- GirlTrek's Black History Bootcamp (Podcast)
- The Stoop (Podcast)
- Marie Histoir (Podcast)
- Freedom Riders (PBS)
- Slave by Another name (PBS)
- Dark Girls (PBS)

Eat, Shop, Buy:

- Grassroot Books and Juice Bar
- Bilbo sportswear
- ICED up
- Mrs. White's Golden Rule Café
- Café Lalibela
- Arizona Sandwich Co.
- ATL Wings
- Trapp Haus
- Jupiter Rings
- Larder + Delta
- LoLe's Chicken and Waffles Cafe Boa

Read

- Ain't I a Woman (Bell Hooks)
- Black Panther: A Nation Under Our Feet (Ta-Nehisi Coates)
- Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower (Brittney Cooper)
- The Fire Next Time (James Baldwin)
- Blackpast.org
- Me and White Supremacy (Layla F. Saadi)
- You Don't know us Negroes and other essays (Zora Neale Hurston)
- The New Jim Crow (Michelle Alexander)



Take Action:

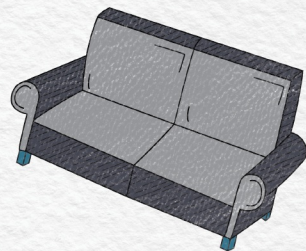
- East/West Valley NAACP
- One Arizona
- Black Phoenix Organizing Collective
- Poder In Action
- Arizona Coalition for change
- All Black Lives Matter Arizona

Visit:

- Black Theatre troupe
- East Lake Park
- George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center
- Jupiter Rings
- Tanner Chapel A.M.E Church
- Swindall Tourist Inn
- Millbrook Urban Farms

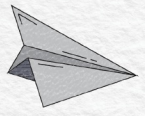
Donate/Volunteer:

- ASU Black Theatre Organization
- African American Men of ASU
- National Coalition of 100 Black Women
- Shining Light foundation
- African American Advisory Committee of Tempe
- 100 Black Men of Phoenix



THE RULES

- 1 Don't raise your voice
- 2 Don't talk back
- 3 Comply!
- 4 Say yes sir/ma'am
- 5 Watch your tone
- 6 Fix your face
- 7 Sit at the front of the class
- 8 Look at me when I'm talking to you
- 9 Stay calm, don't strike back, don't resist
- 10 Ask them to call your mother/father/guardian

- 
- 11 You better **be home** before the streetlights come on
 - 12 If you want to make it home, **don't** show anger.
 - 13 **Don't** look them in the eye, it could be seen as aggression
 - 14 **Work harder** than everyone else so you aren't seen as lazy
 - 15 You can do everything your classmates can, but you have to **work** twice as hard and be twice as smart
 - 16 When you get pulled over, **keep** both hands on the steering wheel & keep your hands visible at all times
 - 17 **Announce** what you are doing and **don't** make any sudden movements