

What to expect when attending a performance of
OFF THE RECORD: Acts of Restorative Justice
at
HERE Arts Center

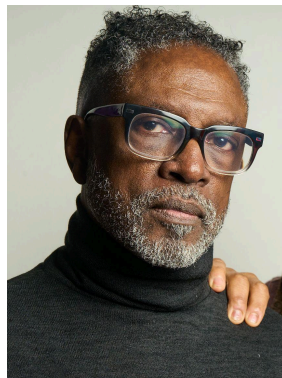
SYNOPSIS: In this show, there are actors who play characters that represent different big ideas related to criminal justice. There is an Emcee who brings us into the show and sets up the idea that this is an interactive intervention into the American Criminal Justice system. Then, a character called The Conductor discusses her own questions about how to be an activist in the face of the oppression caused by the system. She shares facts and asks the audience to participate in some demonstrations about how the system works. We then meet a character named The Magician, who is a tool of the System, who takes the audiences through a magic card game that further reveals the contradictory and manipulative nature of the American Criminal Justice system. Lastly, we meet The System himself, who challenges the audience directly to offer ideas for how to reform the system. The characters and audience all participate in dialogue and debate around the question of whether reform is possible, and the show ends with this question lingering. There are videos of fire burning across the space, images of a historic lynching in which white onlookers are replaced by Black people.

CHARACTER GUIDE:

The main performers in this show are:



Thomas Giovanni (The System)



James Scruggs (The MC)



Obehi Agbede (The Conductor)



Murphy Lorenzo Applin (The Magician)

The run time, or expected length, of this show is 80-90 minutes.

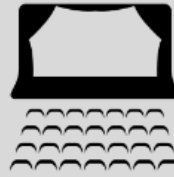
This show will take place in the Mainstage at HERE Arts Center.

There will be a limited number of seats reserved for Seats on the Spectrum, indicated by paper signs marked as "reserved." There will be fidget tools available for patron use. They will be located in a container in the lobby, as well as in a container downstairs in the designated break area. Please return the fidget tools to the container after the performance.

Shows use different theatrical elements to help tell the story. In this show,

Actors Interacting with the Audience

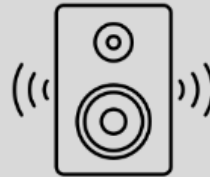
In this performance, the actors may talk to or come close to the audience.



(Please note that this show involves many moments of direct audience interaction. Audience members may be invited to stand on the stage with performers at certain moments. They may also be asked questions by performers and asked to vocalize in response to moments in the performance.)

Loud music and/or Bass

This show will contain loud music or bass elements. You may feel the vibration from these elements.



Crowd Noise

At most shows you will hear other audience members applauding/clapping and cheering at the end of scenes or at exciting portions of the show.



Loud and/or Sudden Noise

At times during the show, there will be loud noises which may be unexpected



Flashing Lights

There will be portions of the show where lights will flash or a strobe effect will be used.



Intense Visuals

You may see bright colors, complex patterns or fast moving visuals/projections.



Please note there are video depictions of fire and historical moments of lynching, political figures, and general violence.

Sudden Changes in Lighting

At points during the show, the lights may become dim or brighten suddenly. There may be times when lights are pointed toward the audience momentarily and will appear very bright.



Intense Emotions

Some of the characters will show intense emotions like sadness, fear, anger and joy. You may see the actors crying, wailing or yelling to show what the character is feeling. This is all to help tell the story.



Please note this show includes characters that express very strong emotions of anger, confusion, exhaustion, exuberance, triumph, and sadness.

Arguments

At times the characters may argue with or yell at each other which is all part of the show.



Weapons

Props that look and sound like weapons will be used on stage but they are not real and there is no risk to the actors or the audience.



(Please note there are prop guns used on stage in one scene accompanied by the sound effect of gunshots,)

Sensitive content includes:

Cursing, vivid experiences of racism - including the use of racial slurs, vivid depictions of police brutality, simulated gunshots through sound effects and stage weapons. This content is in service of exploring the inner workings of the American Criminal Justice system and asking whether the system is capable of reform.

What To Expect from Your Experience at HERE:

The box office is located in the lobby at HERE Arts Center. Feel free to direct any additional questions not covered by these narratives to the box office staff.

Seating information: All seats are general admission. However, there will be a limited number of seats reserved for SEATS ON THE SPECTRUM, indicated by paper signs marked as "reserved." In order to reserve a SEATS ON THE SPECTRUM ticket, please select your desired ticket price, then select SEATS ON THE SPECTRUM as an add-on at checkout.

There are two all gender bathrooms, one containing only stalls and one with urinals and stalls, located down the stairs and to the left.

Venue information:

The lobby and box office will open two hours before the show starts.

In the lobby area you can also find:

- The box office.
- Couches, tables and chairs to sit.
- A bar with alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages and snacks available for purchase.
- There will be a house manager present who can answer any questions. They will not be inside of the theater throughout the performance — should patrons need anything during the show, please exit the theater and find the house manager.

The mainstage theater is located on the ground floor. Please alert the box office manager or the house manager should an accessible entrance be needed. For reference, the accessible entrance is located on 6th ave, just around the corner from the main entrance on Dominick St.

Lobby activities:

Film will be projected in the lobby, accompanied by sound.

In the main space, there will be a ballot box to interact with, and audience members are invited to walk around the vestibule before taking their seats.

In our main lobby there will be certain dates when attorneys will be seated to answer questions and give more information to audience members about the criminal justice system. They may also have one on one meetings with system affected audience members in our downstairs theater.

The red couch downstairs (across from the restrooms) can be utilized as a designated break area. Please note that people will likely pass through the area to use the bathrooms or file in for a show in our downstairs theater.

If there are any questions about these elements of the show or additional information is needed, please contact the box office by calling (212) 647- 0202 or emailing tickets@here.org.

We look forward to seeing you at

OFF THE RECORD: ACTS OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

