

Merely Players
Presents
A Slow Crawl Towards Heaven

A Dance Theatre Experience

Created and Danced by
Javon “Ja’Moon” Jones

AUGUST 18, 19, 25, 26, and 27, 2023

Created and Performed by
Javon “Ja’Moon” Jones

Performance artist Javon “Ja’Moon” Jones discovered his love for movement in his hometown of Detroit, MI. Following his graduation from Cass Technical High School, he went on to train, traditionally, at The Juilliard School. During his college tenure, “Ja’Moon” performed works by some of the leading names in the concert dance community, including Crystal Pite, José Limón, and Bill T. Jones. “Ja’Moon” took a leave from his formal studies to join in the thoughtfulness of A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham. He has had the privilege to dance works that have allowed him to move audiences from stages at The Joyce Theater, The Kennedy Center, The Peter Jay Sharp Theater, and the Ralph Freud Playhouse. Ja’Moon is developing his own sacred illustrations as an independent performance artist while also continuing to expand through his ventures as a resident performer at *Sleep No More* in NYC.

To enhance your theatre experience, we invite you to join us for a talkback, AFTER WORDS, 5 minutes after each performance.

CREATIVE TEAM AND CREW

Technical Director/
Set Designer

Charles Ford

Theatrical Consultant

Zachary Chiero

Composer

Javon “Ja’Moon” Jones,
in collaboration with Marc Carderelli

Light and Sound Board Technician

Milli Grice

Tech Assistant

Jenny Mason

Set/Props Construction/Scenic Painting

Michael Lee

Matt Bodo

Milli Grice

Luke Stone

Natalie Cohn

Diane Panelli

Susie Stone

Abby Kubicek

Photographer

Dallas Padoven

Poster Distribution

Mary Lynn Clark

Deborah Heath

Heather Howe

Please silence your cell phones; they don't work that well down here anyway.

*We welcome you to take photos/video in the theatre before and after, **but not during**, the performance. If you post photos of the stage, please be sure to credit and tag Merely Players. @merely_players_durango*

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We offer our sincere gratitude to those who helped us with this show. Many hands and kind hearts help us to do our work:

Community Foundation Serving SW Colorado

Mandy Gardner/Christ the King Lutheran Church

Margy Dudley/4 Corners Arts Forum/ KDUR

Durango Herald

Local News Network

MERELY PLAYERS was founded in 1995 and has been bringing theatre to our community ever since. Our vision is to consistently provide quality theatre in this region, while broadening the range of types of experiences available to local theatergoers through relevant, exciting productions. Merely Players is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and we assure you that any money donated will go toward making quality theatre in Durango both now and in the future.

Season Tickets Are Now On Sale For Our 2023-2024 MERELY PLAYERS THEATRE SEASON:

An Enchanting Tale by William Shakespeare

The Tempest

October 6 -15, 2023

An Uplifting Musical Created by Members of Phish

Hands on a Hard Body

December 1 - 10, 2023

An Exciting Regional Premiere
Small Mouth Sounds

February 9 – 18, 2024

A Razzle-Dazzling Musical
Chicago

May 3 - 19, 2024

The Season Subscription Deadline is Sept. 15, 2023. Get discounted tickets, flexibility, great seats, individual attention, and your name in the program.
Individual Tickets for all shows are also on sale on our website now.

ANNOUNCING AUDITIONS:

Small Mouth Sounds
Chicago

September 15 and 16, 2023
December 11 and 12, 2023

Watch our website or join our mailing list for more details.

For more information on Merely Players, to buy tickets, to get involved, or to be added to our mailing list:

Website: <http://www.merelyplayers.org/>

Telephone: 970.749.8585

Email: merelydirectors@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook: Merely Players-Durango

Instagram: [Merely_Players_Durango](#)

MERELY PLAYERS ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Artistic Director	Mona Wood-Patterson
Technical Director	Charles Ford
Associate Director	Zachary Chiero
Company Manager	Mary Lynn Clark

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We are grateful to the City of Durango Lodger's Tax Arts and Culture Fund for their support of this project.

Merely Players is supported in part by an American Rescue Plan Act grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support general operating expenses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for spending your time with us. We would love to know what you thought about the play. Drop us an email at merelydirectors@gmail.com or share with us on Facebook at Merely Players – Durango.

A NOTE FROM THE ARTIST:

A Slow Crawl Towards Heaven is a two-year artistic journey that has taken me through residences in Colorado, New York, California, and New Mexico, culminating in its highly anticipated premiere with Merely Players in Durango, CO. This production delves into the vibrant tapestry of African and black diasporic ancestral traditions, sharing forgotten stories rich with magic, philosophy, tragedy, and triumph. Through the mediums of dance, text, and sound, *A Slow Crawl Towards Heaven* is an immersive experience of recollection, combining facts and storytelling to shed light on untold narratives of black spiritual lineages.

SUPPORTERS/DONORS WHO HELP MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

Mere words cannot describe how honored we are by your support. We encourage our audience members to solicit these businesses and to tell the individuals that they are grand! *This list is current as of August 12, 2023. We look forward to adding your name to the list when you become a Season Subscriber by Sept. 15, 2023.*

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