

# BKBOXKIDS! ASKS WHY PARENT GUIDE



## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR ASKS WHY

- 1** The performance takes place in the Eve Alvord Theatre. Seating is stadium style, on long benches. There is an aisle on each side of the theatre, and a quiet room on the back right.
- 2** The show is accompanied by live music. The musician is on stage, on the left side as you are facing the stage. If someone in your group is sensitive to music you may want to sit farther back or in the right side of the audience.
- 3** The show is approximately 60 minutes in duration and takes place without an intermission.

## SHOW CONTENT CONSIDERATIONS FOR ASKS WHY

- 1** *Asks Why* is a show inviting audience members on a journey examining racism in America including false historical narratives around freedom, dehumanization of people with dark skin, and why black people continue to be hurt. The main character and other characters grapple with feeling of sadness, fear, numbness,
- 2** There are 5 performers in the show. Four of them are mimes and only communicate using their bodies, they do not speak.
- 3** When the audience enters the theatre, the mimes are onstage warming up.
- 4** For this show, there is no set, costumes or props. The actors pantomime their environment and items with which they interact.
- 5** The production utilizes live video with a camera on stage filming the actors and the audience and projecting larger than life images onto the backdrop. The images could be intense for some people with visual sensitivities.

## KEY TO SYMBOLS



Visual intensity



Auditory Intensity
















Suspense



Emotional Intensity



Audience Interaction

SCENE	SENSORY CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Opening	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The mimes interact with the audience from on stage, encouraging the audience to participate from their seats.</li> <li>- Mimes dance to live music.</li> </ul>
Act I	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Regan enters upset. She discusses feelings she had seeing someone black being hurt. The mimes create images of what she is describing with their hands.</li> <li>-Clouds are projected on the backdrop.</li> </ul>
Act II	   	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-This act begins with live music.</li> <li>-Bright images of a garden are projected onto the backdrop.</li> <li>-A camera on stage projects magnified video of what is happening onstage on to the backdrop.</li> <li>-Flowers represent historical myths about America and racist thoughts people have, which may be challenging to hear.</li> <li>-The audience is invited to create flowers with their own hands. Video of the audience is projected onto the backdrop.</li> <li>-The audience is invited to interact by pantomiming pulling a huge flower from the ground.</li> </ul>
Act III	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-This act examines why people hurt and dehumanize other people and is emotionally intense.</li> <li>-Video of Regan taken by the camera on stage is projected onto the backdrop throughout the scene.</li> </ul>
Act IV	  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Regan reflects on racism, unfairness and judgement as the other actors create scenes around her. She remembers incidents where she experienced racism and othering.</li> <li>-A courtroom is created and projected onto the background using the camera onstage.</li> <li>-The audience is invited to pantomime planting seeds that change the future for the better and create healing.</li> <li>-The actors dance onstage to live music and invited the audience to partake in the dance party from their seats.</li> </ul>