

RIOT

The Beat of Freddie Gray by Ty'Ree Hope Davis

**A Young Playwrights in Progress
workshop performance**



Young Playwrights' Theater is a Takoma-based arts education nonprofit inspiring young people to realize the power of their own voices. YPT believes that young people are inherently brilliant and we exist to share that brilliance with the world.

Riot: The Beat of Freddie Gray

by Ty'Ree Hope Davis

Performed Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024
at Busboys and Poets (Takoma)

Written and performed by: **Ty'Ree Hope Davis**

Producer and Director: **Farah Lawal Harris**

Production Manager: **Keta Newborn**

Production Associate: **Azsia Green**

About the Playwright and Performer

Ty'Ree Hope Davis (he/him) is a senior BFA Acting Major and Theatre Arts Administration minor at Howard University and an alumnus of the Atlantic Acting School.



Ty'Ree's recent credits include Stage Manager for YPT's ***Silence is Violence: Wish Me Well***, and Assistant Stage Manager for ***A Raisin in the Sun*** with the Howard Players.

During the 2023-2024 school year, he served as the Technical Director for the Howard Players, overseeing productions such as ***Emergency*** and ***Long Time Since Yesterday***. In addition to his work behind the scenes, Ty'Ree has performed in ***Rhyme Deferred*** at Howard University, and ***In The Blood*** at the Shakespeare Theatre Company. This summer, Ty'Ree studied at the British American Drama Academy in Oxford, London.

About Young Playwrights' Theater

Founded in 1995 by celebrated playwright Karen Zacarías, Young Playwrights' Theater (YPT) inspires young people to realize the power of their own voices. Because everyone deserves high-quality theater education that centers their voices, YPT provides inspiration, tools, and opportunities for young and emerging artists to develop and share their stories. We prioritize young people who are targeted by systems of oppression, and we also collaborate with people of all ages who are invested in the ways that theater can transform lives and communities.

We administer customized, responsive educational programs, playwright-centered, process-focused productions, and other opportunities for youth and adults to develop creatively, personally, and professionally. Across all of our work, we center young people and their agency and adhere to our core organizational values of anti-oppression and antiracism. YPT believes that young people are inherently brilliant, and we exist to share that brilliance with the world.



Synopsis

Riot: The Beat of Freddie Gray follows the story of Freddie Gray, a young Black man murdered by Baltimore police officers in 2015, and Ty, a middle school student who witnessed Freddie's death. Freddie, unaware that he is dead, attempts to write a hit song, but struggles to recall a specific beat he knows is crucial. This leads Freddie and Ty to delve into the past, piecing together memories and flashbacks leading to Freddie's wrongful arrest, the brutality he endured, and the injustice that ultimately led to his death. The play explores themes of memory, resilience, and the fight for justice, culminating in a powerful realization that Freddie's heartbeat lives on in the collective spirit of those who continue to fight for change.

About Young Playwrights in Progress

Young Playwrights in Progress (YPIP) is an opportunity for young, early-career playwrights aged 14 – 24 to engage in a script-development and workshop reading process of original, not-yet-produced one-act or full-length plays with Young Playwrights' Theater (YPT).

With the help of a reading committee of theater practitioners, YPT competitively selects playwrights to engage in a 6-12 month workshopping process. Each month, selected playwrights meet with YPT Artistic Director Farah Lawal Harris for in-depth script advising sessions. Between sessions, playwrights complete writing assignments and script updates, and meet with a professional dramaturg to further develop their plays.

Public performances and workshop readings like tonight's performance provide a unique opportunity for a playwright to experience their work-in-progress performed in front of a live audience.

Thank you for celebrating Ty/Ree tonight and being an important part of his playwriting journey!

Help support Young Playwrights in Progress and other programs like it! Scan the QR code to learn more about us and find ways to support YPT.



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Riot: The Beat of Freddie Gray
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Young Playwrights' Theater

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