

AWARD-WINNING OBAABERIMA RETURNS TO BUDDIES FOR A LIMITED ENGAGEMENT, NOVEMBER 27 – DECEMBER 9

A Buddies in Bad Times Theatre production

Obaaberima

written and performed by Tawiah Ben M'Carthy

"As a performance it's a tour de force and more than earned M'Carthy the raucous ovation it received. As a play it's persuasive and touching." ★★½ (out of 4)
- *The Toronto Star*

Buddies continues its 2018-19 season with the long-awaited return of **Tawiah Ben M'Carthy's** *Obaaberima* after its successful premiere in 2012. Winner of three Dora Awards (Outstanding Production, Outstanding Sound Design/Composition, and Outstanding Lighting Design), this unique coming-of-age tale has played on stages across the country, garnering rave reviews from coast to coast. In this anniversary season, Buddies brings back the first show to have been developed through the Buddies residency program, which has gone on to produce eight mainstage shows including *The Gay Heritage Project*, *Black Boys*, and the upcoming *Shove it Down My Throat*.

Imprisoned in Canada for committing a violent crime, a young man from Ghana tells his cellmates a story on the eve of his release. While there is risk in sharing his tale, he must tell it to be truly free. Through storytelling, dance, and live music, *Obaaberima* chronicles a young African-Canadian's journey across continents, genders, races, and sexualities.

Obaaberima features a "tour de force" performance by writer/performer Tawiah Ben M'Carthy (*Black Boys*, *Maanoma (Blue Bird)*) under the direction of Buddies artistic director **Evalyn Parry** (*The Youth/Elders Project*, *Graceful Rebellions*) and accompanied by the live music of award-winning multi-instrumentalist, composer, and producer **Kobèna Aquaa-Harrison**. This powerhouse creative team is rounded out by set and costume designer **Camellia Koo** (*20th of November*, *Tom at the Farm*, 2018 Siminovitch Prize finalist) and lighting designer **Michelle Ramsay** (*Gertrude and Alice*, *The Magic Hour*).

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES

Performance in ASL - A deaf-interpreted performance in ASL will be held on Saturday, December 1st at 8PM. d/Deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons can access \$10 tickets in advance using the code "ASL10" at checkout. Pay-what-you-can tickets will also be available at the door.

Relaxed performance – A relaxed performance will be held on Sunday, December 2nd at 2:30PM. Patrons can book \$10 tickets in advance using the code "RP10."

MEDIA INFO

INTERVIEWS – Listed artists are available for interviews in English. Contact 416-975-9130 x35 or aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com to arrange.

OPENING NIGHT – Opening night is **Thursday, November 29th**. Contact Aidan Morishita-Miki at 416-975-9130 x35 or aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com for accreditation.

ON-LINE RESOURCE – The Buddies website includes a Media Centre that houses press releases, images and other pertinent information for easy download. www.buddiesinbadtimes.com/media

PLEASE ADD TO YOUR LISTINGS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

A **Buddies in Bad Times Theatre** production

Obaaberima

written + performed by **Tawiah Ben M'Carthy**

directed by **Evalyn Parry**

live music by **Kobèna Aquaa-Harrison**

set + costumes by **Camellia Koo**

lighting by **Michelle Ramsay**

stage management **Laura Baxter**

Previews: November 27 + 28

Opening Night: November 29th

Closing Performance: December 9th

Runs: Tues-Sat 8pm, Sun 2:30pm

Tickets: PWYC - \$40

Box Office 416-975-8555 or buddiesinbadtimes.com

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander Street, Toronto ON

Established in 1979, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre is Toronto's leading destination for artistically rigorous, alternative theatre and a world leader in developing queer voices and stories for the stage. Over the course of its history, it has evolved into the largest facility-based queer theatre company in the world and has made an unparalleled contribution to the recognition and acceptance of queer lives in Canada.
buddiesinbadtimes.com