

## **BLACK BOYS RETURNS FOR A LIMITED RUN AT BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE, FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 11**

A Buddies in Bad Times Theatre production

# **BLACK BOYS**

created Saga Collectif

The 2016 smash hit production of *Black Boys* played to packed houses, stellar reviews, and was nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Performance – Ensemble. After embarking on a nation-wide tour to theatres in Vancouver (The Cultch, with Zee Zee Theatre), Calgary (High Performance Rodeo), and Montreal (Espace Libre, with Black Theatre Workshop), *Black Boys* comes back to Buddies this February for a limited two-week run.

*“This show has a unique point of view, the guts to make it heard and a message that needs to be heard right now.”* — Toronto Star, ★★★★★ (out of 4)

*“I think this is probably the most important theatre production that I’ve seen all year. It had me on the edge of my seat, I was completely speechless after it was done but haven’t stopped talking about it since.”*  
— Amanda Parris, CBC Radio Q

A raw, intimate, and timely exploration of queer male Blackness, *Black Boys* is created from the lives of three people seeking a deeper understanding of themselves, of each other, and of how they encounter the world. As they explore their unique identities on stage, they subvert the ways in which gender, sexuality, and race are performed. Theatrical and intimate, *Black Boys* weaves together the ensemble’s own personal stories in search of an integrated self and a radical imagination.

At the heart of the piece is an impressive ensemble of skilled young artists. The Dora-nominated ensemble – **Stephen Jackman-Torkoff** (*Botticelli in the Fire/Sunday in Sodom, Angels in America*), **Tawiah Ben M’Carthy** (*Obaaberima*), and **Thomas Olajide** (*Love’s Labour’s Lost, King Lear*) – have been seen on the stages of the Shaw Festival, the National Arts Centre, Canadian Stage, and the Stratford Festival. Director **Jonathan Seinen** has been the creative force behind *Unknown Soldier*, and *Like There’s No Tomorrow*, while Dora Award-nominee **Virgilia Griffith** choreographs after establishing herself as a formidable performer in her own right, most recently in Cahoots Theatre’s production of *Other Side of the Game*. The creative team is rounded out by dramaturge **Mel Hague** and designers **Rachel Forbes** (set and costume), **Stephen Surlin** (sound and video) and **Jareth Li** (lighting).

### **Accessible Performances**

**Audio-described performance:**  
**Sunday, March 4, 2:30 PM**

**Relaxed performance**  
**Wednesday, March 7, 8:00 PM**

### **MEDIA INFO**

**INTERVIEWS** –**Stephen Jackman-Torkoff, Tawiah Ben M’Carthy, and Thomas Olajide** are available for interviews in English. Contact 416-975-9130 x35 or aidan@buddiesinbadtimes.com to arrange.

**OPENING NIGHT** – Opening night is **Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**. 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](http://www.buddiesinbadtimes.com/media)

**TOURING INFO –**

Vancouver | The Cultch (with ZeeZee Theatre) | January 16-20 | [communications@thecultch.com](mailto:communications@thecultch.com)

Calgary | High Performance Rodeo | January 23-26 | [tford@oyr.org](mailto:tford@oyr.org)

Montreal | Espace Libre (with Black Theatre Workshop) | February 13-17 | [benedicte@rugicomm.ca](mailto:benedicte@rugicomm.ca)

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A **Buddies in Bad Times Theatre** production

***Black Boys***

created by **SAGA COLLECTIF**

starring **STEPHEN JACKMAN-TORKOFF, TAWIAH BEN M’CARTHY + THOMAS OLAJIDE**

directed by **JONATHAN SEINEN**

choreography **VIRGILIA GRIFFITH**

dramaturge **MEL HAGUE**

set + costume design **RACHEL FORBES**

sound + video design **STEPHEN SURLIN**

lighting design **JARETH LI**

Preview: February 28

Opening Night: March 1

Closing Performance: March 11

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

Tickets: PWYC - \$40

Box Office 416-975-8555 or [buddiesinbadtimes.com](http://buddiesinbadtimes.com)

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

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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.

Saga Collectif, founded in 2012, is a theatre performance company that brings to the stage underrepresented bodies and voices in a fashion that is risky, honest, and new. As we create and perform, we are dissecting and dismantling, posing questions to unravel identity, ancestry and place in society. We bravely challenge ourselves to move into the unknown to discover personal truths, and hope to offer ourselves as examples of those who see limits and choose to transcend them. With diversity at the heart of our collaborative decision-making structure, Saga Collectif founding members are Virgilia Griffith, Stephen Jackman-Torkoff, Tawiah Ben M’Carthy, Thomas Olajide and Jonathan Seinen.