

A high-angle photograph of four young Black men lying on their backs on a green lawn. They are wearing school uniforms consisting of dark blue blazers, white shirts, and striped ties. Two of the men are wearing khaki trousers, while the other two are wearing dark trousers. They are all smiling and looking up at the camera. The man in the bottom left has a school crest on his blazer.

A BRISTOL OLD VIC PRODUCTION  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH CHUCHU NWAGU PRODUCTIONS

# CHOIR BOY

RELAXED PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

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DIRECTED BY NANCY MEDINA

12 OCT - 11 NOV

BRISTOL  
OLD VIC

## INTRODUCTION

Bristol Old Vic is very excited to welcome you to our Relaxed Performance of *Choir Boy*.

On our Relaxed Performance days we take a more relaxed approach inside our performance spaces and within the front of house areas, allowing everyone to enjoy the show in their own way, whether you need to move in and out of the Theatre, make involuntary noise, or take a bit more time to adjust to your surroundings.

We've gathered some information about access, the performance space and the story of *Choir Boy* which you might find helpful before seeing the performance.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of our Front of House team, or get in touch with the Box Office at [tickets@bristololdvic.org.uk](mailto:tickets@bristololdvic.org.uk) or call **0117 987 7877**.

We hope you enjoy the show!

## WHO YOU WILL SEE ON STAGE

These are the actors who will appear on stage in *Choir Boy*. There may be times in the show when the actors seem angry or upset, but this is because they are pretending to be their characters.



**Michael  
Ahomka-Lindsay**  
*David*



**Daon  
Broni**  
*Headmaster Marrow*



**Khalid  
Daley**  
*JR*



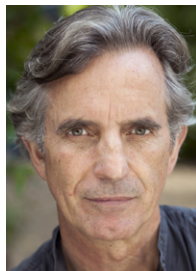
**Terique  
Jarrëtt**  
*Pharus*



**Jyuddah  
Jaymes**  
*AJ*



**Alistair  
Nwachukwu**  
*Bobby*



**Martin  
Turner**  
*Mr Pendleton*

# THE STORY

## PLEASE NOTE THIS SECTION CONTAINS SPOILERS

The story of *Choir Boy* follows Pharus, a student in an all-boys elite American school. He leads his school choir, and loves to sing gospel hymns and spirituals. His dream is to sing at his own commencement at the end of the school year. Throughout the play, there are moments when the characters sing on stage.

In the opening scene, Pharus is hurt when his classmate Bobby uses a homophobic and racial slur against him, during a choir performance. The story then follows Pharus as he makes his way through the school year, along with his friend and roommate, AJ. Some scenes take place in the Headmaster's office and some in the classroom with Mr Pendleton, a retired teacher who has returned to the school to lead a course in "thinking".

Bobby continues to be unkind to Pharus. In the first Act, the audience also finds out that Bobby has recently lost his Mother.

In the school choir there is also JR, who is friends with Bobby, although feels unsure about the way he

is treating Pharus. There is also David, and in the Second Act we find out that David and Pharus are in a romantic relationship. When Pharus and David are caught kissing by JR, David hits Pharus.

At the end of the play, the audience and Pharus find out that David has now been excluded from school, and Pharus, along with AJ, JR and Bobby, graduate.

## CONTENT GUIDANCE

*Choir Boy* contains the use of strong racial and homophobic slurs that have been carefully rehearsed to reduce the impact of them on the cast. Some scenes include moments of physical violence and some include sexual intimacy.

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# TYPES OF ACTION & KEY SCENES

## MOVEMENT

There are moments when the performers dance or move quickly around the space and the action onstage can be fast-paced.

## LOUD NOISES

On Relaxed Performance days, we lower the volume of sound certain effects, but there may still be a few loud ones. There are moments where the audience might make loud noises like clapping. The actors sometimes sing on stage but they will not have microphones.

## SADNESS

There are moments when the characters get a bit cross, sad or frustrated. They may shout and their faces and movements will show how they feel. Some of these scenes of sadness can be upsetting.

As mentioned below, there are some loud noises in the play, or moments where the characters might seem angry or cross. These scenes have been practiced many times to make sure everyone is safe. We have put below the times when these scenes take place.

## 57 MINS INTO ACT 1

Bobby appears cross, and throws his rucksack on the floor, which may make a loud noise.

## 27 MINS INTO ACT 2

Mr Pendleton gets cross at Bobby and grabs his jacket.

## 32 MINS INTO ACT 2

David hits Pharus, although this happens in the showers and can't be seen by the audience. There may be a loud noise. Afterwards Pharus may look hurt, but this has been done with makeup.



# SET AND LIGHTING

The majority of the action that takes place on stage happens in two different locations - the classroom and the the shower rooms. These are pictured below.

## THE CLASSROOM



## THE SHOWER ROOMS



There are also lots of lights that are built into the set. They can change colour, and sometimes they may flash. At the start and end of the performance, there are some bright lights (pictured below) although these will be reduced for the Relaxed Performance.

## LIGHTING EXAMPLE



**FOR ALL OUR RELAXED  
PERFORMANCES, THE  
HOUSE LIGHTS ARE KEPT  
ON, AT 50%**



**0117 987 7877**  
**bristololdvic.org.uk**

f t i c #ChoirBoy



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