

THE SHOW



BLACK IN CANADA is a glimpse into the social and emotional impact of systemic-racism, while teaching audiences about the accurate history of racial oppression in Canada. All while shining a light on the tremendous and lasting impact Black people continue to have upon the cultural fabric of our land.

Engaging and thought-provoking, the performance of **BLACK IN CANADA** begins with the perilous journey of runaway slaves navigating the Underground Railroad. It captures a world filled with danger and uncertainty, yet ignited by an unyielding hope for freedom. The weight of sleepless nights and the constant fear of capture press heavily upon them, but the promise of reaching Canada—where slavery has been abolished—propels them onward. Upon finally stepping onto Canadian soil, they experience an exhilarating sense of safety and liberation, transforming their arduous journey into a triumphant new chapter.

Through powerful spoken word, they reflect on the complexities of their Black experience, seamlessly blending movement with narrative. The show navigates the beauty and heartbreak of growing up in a world that often works against you, yet celebrates the resilience that allows them to rise and thrive regardless.

Some pieces of the show tell of Canadian history, acknowledging that yes, Canada was a place where slaves ran to for freedom, but the ideologies and effects of slavery, systemic oppression and discrimination for years to come was what was waiting for them on the other side. Other parts tell of Black American Civil Rights leaders who helped create change, but also Black Canadian pioneers who have added to the fabric of Canadas' success, highlighting their accomplishments and saying their names proudly so they are always remembered and never forgotten.

The cast each share personal monologues that are spoken and voice recorded. They tell of their own struggles with racism and come together for powerful moments of dance and stillness. At the very end of the show, the house lights will come on, and the performers will take turns dancing to upbeat and joyful music while individually and collectively taking their final bow.

The Set

The set is only the stage and a plain backdrop. There are no props or set pieces during the show.

Costume

Throughout the show, the four performers will be wearing unifying monochromatic looks of various styles and colours.

Their costumes consist of complementary flesh tone shades of brown, reflecting each person individually and highlighting their richly melanated skin.

