



*Arbez Drama Projects*

TORONTO  
**FRINGE**  
**NEXT STAGE**

## ***Justice for Maurice Henry Carter: I'm gonna be free, Big Bro'***

Based on the true story of a wrongful conviction, two men, one Black, one White, become brothers while fighting for justice. Live hymns, gospel music, and spirituals are woven throughout. Innocence Canada (formerly AIDWYC) supported this case and Doug Tjapkes, who inspired the play, was so changed by his experience that he created the 501(c)(3) Humanity for Prisoners. Wrongful convictions can happen to anyone, but no one should have to go it alone.

*Justice for Maurice Henry Carter* is a new play looking to find its groove after having been workshopped at theatre festivals and conferences in the United States and Canada, including the Toronto Fringe. It's cowritten by life partners Donald Molnar and Alicia Payne who cofounded Arbez Drama Projects with a friend. They traveled to Michigan to research this story and meet the real life Doug Tjapkes, his family, and community members who lived the story.

The play stars theatre luminaries Walter Borden and R.H. Thomson, who are working together for the first time. It features Johevah Cobby, Ryan Downey, Alexandra (Ali) Garrison, Andy Marshall, and Alicia Payne who play a variety of characters and weave a cappella hymns, gospel music, and spirituals throughout the play. Donald Molnar also directs. Music direction by Dr. Jamie Hillman, a conductor, music educator, composer-arranger and Director of Choral Studies and Associate Professor at the University of Toronto.

Come see this play with music about friendship through adversity. When the legal system doesn't work, the power of community and brotherly love does.

### **Arbez Drama Projects**

*Justice for Maurice Henry Carter* presented as part of the 2025 Toronto Fringe Festival, Next Stage Series

written by Donald Molnar and Alicia Payne

directed by Donald Molnar

music direction by Dr. Jamie Hillman

starring Walter Borden and R.H. Thomson

featuring Johevah Cobby, Ryan Downey, Alexandra (Ali) Garrison, Andy Marshall, and Alicia Payne

**July 3-13, 2025**

**Soulpepper's Michael Young Theatre, 50 Tank House Lane, Historic Distillery District, Toronto, Ontario,**

**More information and tickets available as of June 5, 2024**

Online at <https://fringetoronto.com/fringe/show/justice-maurice-henry-carter>

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