Deconstruction Productions presents:



X and da Spirit by Donovan Hayden

Synopsis:

'X', an unassuming Black man, encounters 'da spirit of the struggle', an entity that transmits the knowledge of Black resistance through a mural in Toronto. Having received centuries of knowledge in seconds, he wrestles with what to do next, begging the Spirit for guidance. X throws himself into the protests against the countless police killings of unarmed Black people. Faced with more police brutality and the system's refusal to change, X loses hope, blaming the Spirit for pushing him into a hopeless struggle. Returning to the mural to confront the Spirit, X meets 'MC', the graffiti artist who painted it. MC challenges X's understanding of change and what it means to carry on 'da spirit of the struggle'.

The show is inspired by playwright/performer Donovan Hayden's experiences during the massive Black Lives Matter protests that stretched around the globe in 2020 and his continued involvement in the movement. During that first summer of activism, Donovan came across a mural under a bridge in Toronto – a tribute to the Black lives violently ended by police – and began writing this piece. Though the original mural has been painted over, Donovan has now teamed up with one of its original artists to recreate the mural in this production.

Joined by a talented team of Black and POC emerging artists, *X* and da Spirit is a celebration of Toronto Blackness and resistance using rap, dance, graffiti, music and spoken word.