

Penumbra Theatre: Sleep Deprivation Chamber Review

Written by Alaina L. Lewis



The perils of being reawakened to our society; that's the central theme surrounding Penumbra Theatre's new production entitled "*The Sleep Deprivation Chamber*." A piece written by mother and son team, Adam P and Adrienne Kennedy, who from a real life incident of being intertwined with the unjust judicial system, birthed a story that resonates a pain that many African American's know all too well, as we continue to maneuver through an openly broken society.

Lucas Bellamy, stars as Teddy, an enterprising young man, with a promising future ahead of him, who when on his way home from an afternoon jaunt, is met at the end of his driveway by an angry white policeman, a night stick, and a brutal beating.

Plagued by racism in his own backyard, Teddy is carried off to jail, *broken and battered*, to later learn that his initial charge and the motive behind his unwarranted lashing, is that of having assaulted his arresting officer; a crime that never occurred before or after his battering.

His mother Suzanne, played by Indira Addington, struggles to find sleep, as her eyes are newly opened to the prison fate her son may have to suffer after being wrongly accused and punished for being a Black Man in *this* America.

Locked in an esoteric chamber of sleepless nights, faltered memories, and the remains of endless letters to members of Congress searching for support for her son Teddy, Suzanne struggles to keep it altogether, and remain hopeful that justice is possible inside of an unjust world.

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