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Act Four of *Black Teen Lives Matter*, entitled *Present Tense*, premieres this week!  
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# ***Black Teen Lives Matter: Present Tense***

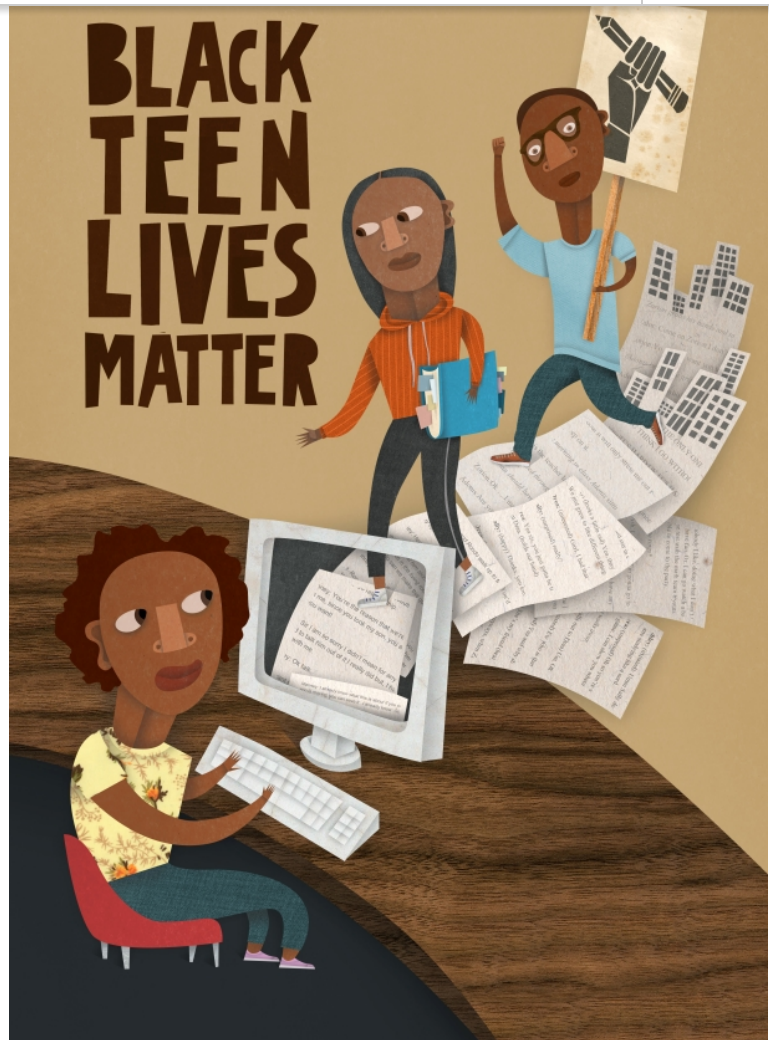
**Directed by Jarrett King**

**July 28 & 31, 2021**

*Present Tense* is the fourth and final act of Silk Road Rising's inspiring virtual project, *Black Teens Lives Matter*. This collection of nine monologues and one short play was written by Black teens in our EPIC (Empathic Playwriting Intensive Course) program during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. These stories were all written after Chicago's stay-at-home orders

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MARCH 21, 2020. A few of the stories reflect upon the May 25, 2020 murder of George Floyd and the heightened demands for racial justice that have followed.



Silk Road Rising is enormously proud to have produced four acts of *Black Teen Lives Matter*. In addition to amplifying the voices of Chicago's Black teens and centering the experiences of our city's middle and high school students, our hope is to build greater solidarity and cooperation between Black communities, Silk Road communities, and all who have a stake in a more just and connected Chicagoland.

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**Jarrett King**  
Director



**Brianna Buckley**  
Actor



**Jabari Khaliq**  
Actor

Directed by EPIC Teaching Artist Jarrett King, this collection of student-written plays will premiere on **Wednesday, July 28**. Join us at **7:00pm CDT** to watch the video and discuss the plays with the creative team. An encore presentation will occur on **Saturday, July 31 at 2:00pm CDT**.

Please join us for one or both Zoom screenings by clicking on the appropriate button(s) below. Only one reservation is needed per household per event.

**Wednesday, July 28 at 7:00pm CDT**

**Saturday, July 31 at 2:00pm CDT**

After the July 31 presentation, the video will become available for everyone to watch at any time for free.

**Notify Me When the Video Becomes Available**

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***Present Tense Features the***

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## Play

"Emotions" by Sa'Qura W.

"Online School" by Dean H.

"2020 Vision" by Destini C.

"Black Lives Matter" by Howard W.

"ALM and BLM" by Kenyae M.

"Change" by Steven F.

"Not anymore." by Virniya B.

"Touch" by Morgan M.

"The Future Is in Our Hands" by Brielle S.

"I am beautiful, I am smart, and I am loved" by Ashlyne W.

## ***Present Tense* Features Stories from These EPIC Partner Schools:**

Galileo Scholastic Academy

Ryan Banks Academy

Mark T. Skinner West Elementary School

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