

# The N King and King

A Play by Bernard Mersier

## The Pitch

A haunting, one-act theatrical experience that explores the weight of legacy, the pain of people's regression, and the timeless struggle between divine guidance and mortal free will.

## Logline

In a surreal, ethereal realm, a grieving ancestral Queen and her steadfast King watch as the descendants they died to save squander their freedom, forcing them to confront the most profound question: what happens when your people choose to live as everything you fought against?

## Synopsis

"The N King and King" is a poetic and powerful two-person play centered on Queen Amara and King Jelani, two ancestral spirits who exist beyond the mortal coil. From their cosmic plane, they observe their people on Earth, who have adopted the titles of "king" and "queen" as hollow symbols, while engaging in the very behaviors and struggles—violence, self-hatred, and emotional neglect—that their ancestors fought to overcome.

Through a raw and impassioned dialogue, Amara and Jelani grapple with their shared grief and frustration. Amara, consumed by despair, questions the value of their sacrifice, while Jelani maintains a quiet faith in his people's eventual awakening. Their conversation is a powerful exploration of the chasm between legacy and reality, culminating in a poignant resolution to continue their silent, eternal work of guidance, even if unseen.

## Key Themes

- **Legacy vs. Reality:** The painful disconnect between the noble legacy of the ancestors and the chaotic, self-destructive reality of their descendants.
- **The Meaning of Royalty:** A deep dive into the difference between a title and the responsibility that comes with it. The play argues that a true king leads by example, and a true queen nurtures and guides, rejecting the modern-day interpretation of power and fear.
- **Community and Ancestral Trauma:** The play touches on the cycles of pain and self-harm that have plagued people, suggesting that spiritual and emotional healing is a multi-generational effort.
- **Hope and Persistence:** Despite the overwhelming sorrow, the play ends on a note of enduring hope, emphasizing the ancestors' unwavering love and commitment to their

people, even when their efforts seem futile.

## Characters

- **QUEEN AMARA:** A powerful ancestral queen, filled with sorrow and righteous rage at the desecration of her legacy. Her dialogue is sharp, passionate, and deeply emotional.
- **KING JELANI:** A calm, resolute ancestral king. He is a grounding force for Amara, embodying patience and enduring love, even in the face of immense disappointment.

## The Setting

The stage is a surreal, minimalist canvas. A glowing platform, cosmic windows displaying fragmented images of urban life, and ethereal sounds create a dreamlike atmosphere. This unique setting visually represents the ancestral plane and serves as a powerful backdrop for the play's allegorical themes.

## Why This Play Now?

"The N King and King" is a timely and deeply relevant piece of theater. It speaks directly to contemporary issues of identity, community, and the search for meaning in a world of superficial symbols. Its powerful message and emotional depth offer a profound mirror for audiences, encouraging a vital conversation about self-worth, responsibility, and the true meaning of power. As a one-act, two-person play, it is also highly accessible and efficient to produce.