

Hello! I'm Ksenia Broda-Milian, the Education and Enrichment manager at Royal MTC, and this is the audio introduction to King James by Rajiv Joseph at the Tom Hendry Warehouse. This introduction covers the set and costumes that appear before intermission, as well as the few instances of physical action needed to understand the scene or that might cause the audience to laugh. Another track will cover these things for act two. A third and final track lists the cast and creative team. This introduction track is five minutes 40 seconds long.

King James is divided into 4 quarters, with intermission as halftime. It is about 2 hours long including the 15 minute intermission. It takes place in Cleveland Ohio between 2004 and 2016.

There are two characters in this play, Matt and Shawn. Here are our actors to introduce themselves.

[Justin: Hey everyone. I'm Justin Fry and I'm playing Matt. I'm a white man in my early 30s but I play ages 21 to 33 in the show. I have shorter brown hair and am 6 feet tall. I hope you enjoy the show, and thank you so much for coming.

Eric: What's up everyone! I'm Eric Miracle, and I'm playing Shawn. I'm a Black man in my early 20s but I play ages 21 to 33 in the show. I have black hair and short trimmed facial hair, and I hope you enjoy the show. Thanks for coming to King James.]

In Quarter 1, it's February 2004. Matt and Shawn are 21 years old. Matt's style icon is Justin Timberlake. He wears baggy black jeans and shiny square toed dress shoes, a loud purple striped button down shirt under an open grey vest, a burgundy server's apron, and has a wallet with a chain in his pocket. Shawn is dressed cool but almost preppy. His jeans are baggy blue ones, and he wears worn sneakers, a grey t shirt, red and grey striped cardigan, and a wool peaked cap with colourful plaid patches. Shawn enters with a rust-coloured puffer jacket that he leaves on the back of a chair.

In Quarter 2, it's summer 2010. Matt is still wearing his jeans, dress shoes, and apron, but his shirt is a more subtle green stripe. Shawn has upgraded his sneakers to white adidas ones with red stripes, and wears a Cleveland Cavaliers jersey over a grey t. During quarter 2, He removes the jersey in anger and hurls it to the ground.

The first two quarters take place in La Cave au Vin, a wine bar. The stage floor is painted to look like light brown hardwood. Brown brick walls angle towards the back centre of the stage. On the left wall is a chalkboard menu, then a stained glass window divided into diamonds, some red, yellow, and purple. Below it is a marble-topped table with a candle on it and two chairs. Outside, through the window are stairs leading down to the door, showing that La Cave is below street level. The wooden door has a pointed top and is framed in stone. In the other brick wall there are two small windows, high up. Below them is a tall, wide shelf full of wine and liquor bottles. A grey bucket with a mop standing in it leans against the shelf. Further along against this wall is another table and two chairs.*** A light with a stained glass shade hangs on a chain above the middle of the stage. Below this light, in front of the shelf, is an L-shaped leather-upholstered, marble-topped bar with 3 leather padded bar stools. A metal trash can is on the floor beside the bar. Close to the front of the stage at the centre is a final table also with two chairs.

Now for some moments in the scenes. At the beginning of the first quarter, Matt sits on the bar reading a newspaper. He will crumple it, toss it towards the garbage and realize it reminds him of a basketball. Matt will put the wastebasket up onto the bar to make a net and begin to play basketball against an invisible foe, doing lots of spins and tricky moves, repeatedly tossing the crumpled paper towards the trash and missing it. Shawn enters the bar and watches him for a while before Matt notices him.

Later, Matt excitedly quizzes Shawn about his jobs. Shawn scoots his stool backwards and stretches his arms out to put some distance between them.

The second quarter is at night, with blue light filtering in through the windows. It begins with the two sitting at the table closest to us, drinking wine. You may hear their glasses clink as they set them on different surfaces or toast. Near the end of the scene, Matt begins to walk around the bar to close up, flipping the chairs onto the tables. The two do a handshake where they clasp hands, thump chests, and snap their fingers. Shawn exits through the door, which clicks behind him. Matt ends the quarter by getting the bucket and mop, setting them down close to the bar, and picking up Shawn's discarded jersey. After staring at it for a long while, he tosses it into the metal trash bin.

In the first two quarters you'll also hear the chimes of cell phones - this is Matt's in 2004, and 2010 - and this is Shawn's.

The transitions between quarters are in the style of basketball games, with spotlights that sweep over the stage and the audience throughout. At the end of quarter 2, before intermission, a curtain is closed across the stage, making a sound as it goes along its track. Through intermission a projection of LeBron James' number, 23, with a crown over it is on the curtain.

Thanks for listening! Make sure to leave yourself 5 minutes at intermission so that you can hear the introduction to act 2, quarters 3 and 4.