Four Little Girls: Birmingham 1963

Content Guidelines

Violence Content
- The bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL, is referenced. This bombing killed the four little girls.
- References to the consequences of protesting are used in the script (blasted by high-pressure fire hoses, attacked by dogs, clubbed by police officers, arrests).
- Threatening phone calls, as well as threatening letters, are referenced.

Mature Content
- The KKK is referenced.
- This script references other bombings in the area—bombings done specifically because of race.

Language Content
The word “nigger” is used twice in the script.

Here is a note from the playwright on its usage:
"As a playwright I feel like one of my primary responsibilities is to be a truthsayer. Whether it’s writing a fictional play or something that’s based on nonfictional events, at its core must be the truth.

When asked to write Four Little Girls: Birmingham 1963, it was important that there be an authenticity not only the period, but to what the real individuals- Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, Cynthia Wesley and Addie Mae Collins – must've gone through. The bastardization of the word “Negro” into the word “nigger” and how it was used during this period to subjugate African-American (particularly in the Jim Crow South) is unfortunate. However, it was necessary for me to use this word in this play to document what life was like for these young ladies living in 1963 Birmingham, Alabama.

It is my hope that new generations that continue to hear this word that many African—Americans have lost their lives over will realize the ugliness that this word entails and its usage will dissipate over time."