

MISS YOU

Playwrights crowdsource community responses to the Tamir Rice shooting death to create a visual of the emotions people feel after the fallout.

In the wake of a tragedy, there's a mix of emotions and lasting scars. When 12-year-old Tamir Rice was fatally shot by police in 2014, it devastated his family and friends along with his Cudell neighborhood and the Cleveland community.

To confront the emotional response to the grand jury decision that police were justified in their actions, five playwrights — Mike Geither, Tom Hayes, Lisa Langford, Michael Oatman and David Todd — took nearly eight months to seek out and interview more than 30 individuals for Playwrights Local's *Objectively/Reasonable*.

"We wanted to talk to people and really get their reactions," explains Todd. "We felt that was the most authentic thing that we could do as people who live in Cleveland and care about the state of Cleveland."

Directed by Terrence Spivey, the documentary play runs Sept. 1, 3 and 4 at the Creative Space at Waterloo Arts and packs singing, drumming, movement and 18 monologues into 90 minutes. Each monologue, collected from February 2016 until the first rehearsal this July, portrays the anonymous responses of civic and legal officials, community members and closely affected parties.

Shorter voice collages are interspersed throughout,



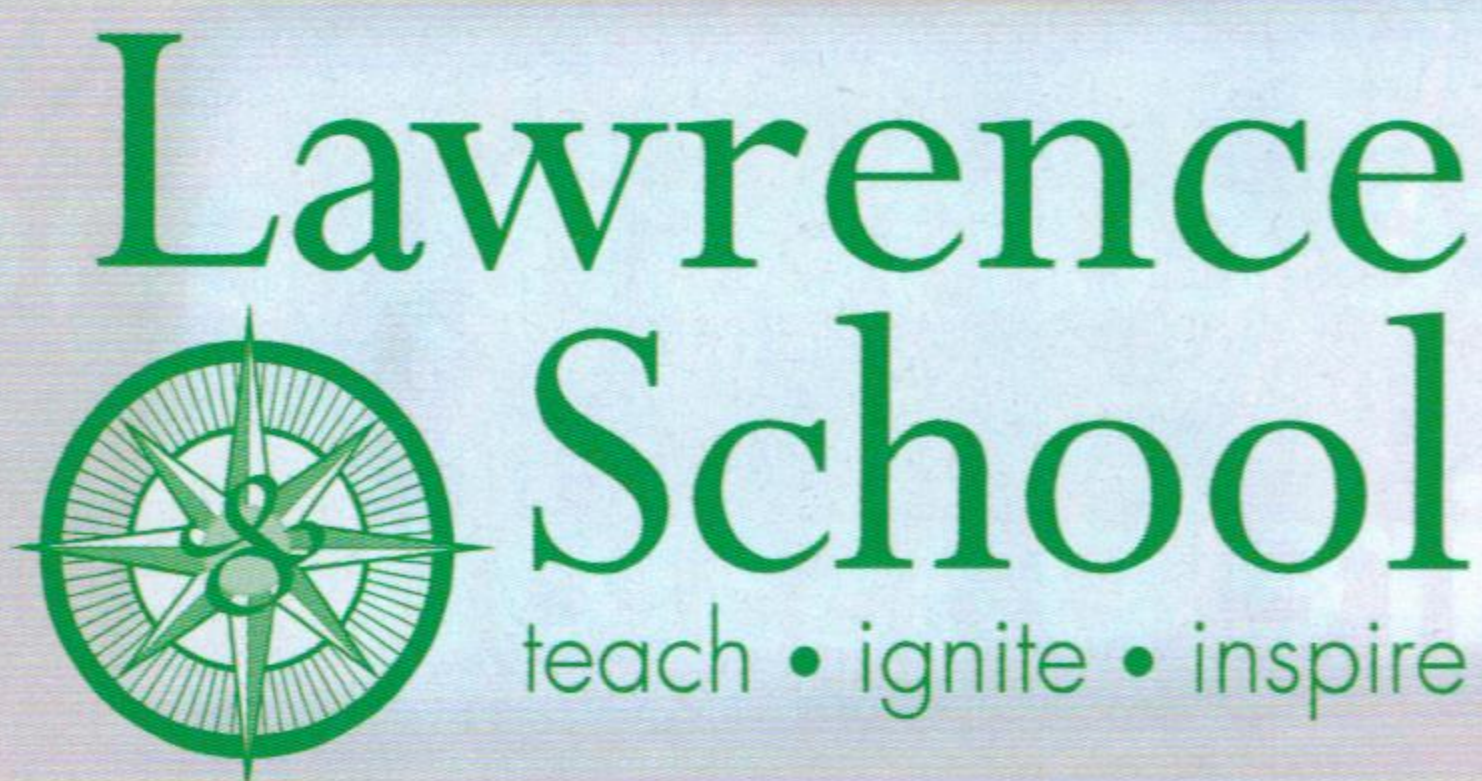
and the play ends with a monologue from someone close to Rice.

"They still had this very fresh, emotional reaction," says Todd. "A lot of people really wanted to talk about it."

While the play's title parses the terms used to determine the appropriate use of police force, it takes inspiration from the works of actress and playwright Anna Deavere Smith, who blends journalistic interviews, usually on topics of civil and political unrest, to create theatrical works representing many points of view.

"The play is not a traditional narrative," says Todd. "It does emphasize the irrefutable emotional cost to something like this, and the real life cost of something like this. It's a big part ... to not lose track that these are real people that this stuff is happening to." *Sept. 1, 3 and 4, Waterloo Arts, playwrightslocal.org*

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