



THE MOUNTAINTOP

Synopsis

Music is playing, the show starts with CAMAE, with a Black Press and Curl and in a Blue Maid's Uniform, sat smoking. She is waiting for DR KING to arrive.

The music stops and a storm starts as Dr King arrives. Camae puts out her cigarette and exits the stage as Dr King makes his way around to his room.

Dr King shouts back to his friend, Ralph Abernathy, that he wants a pack of smokes, but he only likes the brand Pall Mall. Dr King enters the Motel Room. We see Dr King, alone in his private space, he's writing a new speech but he's paranoid someone has bugged the room. He telephones room service to ask for a cup of coffee and Camae quickly arrives with his coffee. Dr King is mesmerised by Camae's beauty. They soon hit it off and Dr King insists she stays and smokes with him. They are flirting. The phone rings; it's Dr King's wife, Coretta Scott King. Camae attempts to leave but Dr King motions for her to stay.

We get a glimpse into the relationship between Dr King and his wife: she's been out at a meeting, she's been getting threatening calls and their 5-year-old daughter, Bernice, is having trouble sleeping. Camae is listening and is surprised to hear Dr King lie to his wife about drinking tea. Dr King points to Camae's name tag 'Carrie Mae' & says that isn't what she said her name was. Camae teaches Dr King how to pronounce her name. Camae leaves telling Dr King to call the switchboard man if he wants her.

Thunder and lightning strike. Dr King calls Camae back, he wants to know if he would look better & younger without his moustache. Camae thinks he should ask his wife. Dr King wants another cigarette, Camae's only got one, she begins cussing but is soon apologising. Dr King forgives her. Camae is embarrassed and is about to leave when Dr King notices that, strangely, she has brought him tomorrow's paper. She explains, saying: 'Tomorrow already here'. Dr King reads the paper aloud and we hear about his current marching campaign for fair pay for sanitation workers. We also learn that there was a bomb threat on his flight from Atlanta to Memphis.

Lightning and thunder strike again causing Dr King to duck for cover. Camae comforts Dr King, telling him a story about fireworks. Camae tells Dr King about her support of the Black Panthers, Dr King explains to Camae why it is important to protest peacefully. We hear how the last march in Memphis ended with a 16-year-old boy called Larry Payne being murdered by a police officer.

Dr King and Camae tease each other about how they smoke. Dr King tell Camae 'You smoke like a man', Camae tells Dr King 'Well you smoke like a fruit'. Camae learns why Dr King supports the LGBT community and Camae teaches him how to smoke, pretending to take photos of him. They are soon disagreeing about Dr King's peaceful protest campaigns and he asks her to tell him what she would do if she was him. Camae gives a speech on why the Black community should be self-sufficient, but she goes too far and is soon apologising for swearing. Dr King is impressed. She learns about his frustration of the lack of progress his campaigns are making. Dr King is surprised with how eloquent she is saying 'most maids don't sound like professors'. He tells her she spoke well for a woman, he tells her if she was a man she would be Malcom X. Camae laughs & runs outside and shouts up to the heavens 'You hear that, Malcom! He calling you a Sissy'. Thunder rolls and Dr King pulls her back into the room. She tells him she's not scared of thunder & she laughs. Dr King is upset about the way she speaks about God but Camae tells Dr King that God doesn't mind, that Malcom X is in Heaven and how much God likes Dr King. Dr King doesn't believe her, he think she's talking about herself.

She helps him take his tie off, they get close, thunder and lightning strike, Dr King has a panic attack and struggles to breathe. Camae calms him down by calling him Michael, his childhood name. Dr King is shocked and begins to freak out, asking her how she knows his childhood name. He thinks she's a spy, there is a tussle & he drags her out of the room. As soon as Dr King steps outside onto the balcony it starts to snow. He is stunned and confused. He accuses Camae of drugging his coffee. Camae reveals she is an angel. Dr King is in disbelief. Camae kneels and a prayer from Dr King's daughter for him not to die alone comes out of Camae and floats around the room. Camae cries & flowers grow from her tears falling on the carpet.

Camae tells Dr King she's here to take him to the other side. He accepts Camae is an angel but does not accept that it is his time to die. He has too much work still to do. He continues to write and deliver his latest sermon, 'Why America is going to hell', insisting that Camae must leave so he can finish it. Camae pleads with Dr King to accept his fate. Dr King persuades Camae to ask God to give him more time on earth. Camae eventually calls God on the hotel phone and God wants to be speak to Dr King. Dr King attempts to convince God to let him live for a bit longer, but when God doesn't agree Dr King becomes enraged. God puts the phone down and all seems lost. Upset and fearful of the consequences she will face after she called God and after Dr King's behaviour towards God, Camae hits Dr King with a pillow and a pillow fight ensues.

Dr King becomes emotional as he begins to come to terms with his fate. Camae tells him about her how she became an angel, how she lived a life of sin and was murdered in an alleyway. We learn that God had given her the task to bring over Dr King to the over side: if she did it successfully, all her sins would be washed away.

Dr King asks Camae to show him the future before he dies. Camae take us through the history of the civil rights movement and important figures in the journey, detailing how the baton of Civil Rights has been passed from person to person. Dr King watches via a static TV and, amazed, he begins to contemplate what he has just seen and what it means. He steps down from the stage to talk to us & urge us to 'Pick up the baton'. Camae cuts him off in mid-flow saying 'Time'. The lights fade, Dr King is dead.

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Cast Page



'Tomiwa Edun
Dr King



Ntombizodwa Ndlovu
Camae