



Presents

# KING JAMES

a play by Rajiv Joseph



a touching examination of fandom and friendship...

Sponsored by:  
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## DRAMATURGY NOTE

As Americans, many of us identify with underdogs – a sentiment rooted in our country's origins and an integral part of the rags-to-riches American Dream. Rising from a challenging and unstable childhood, LeBron James' dedication, communal ethos, and charisma transformed him into a national icon and champion. Inversely, Cleveland, a city once celebrated as a golden industrial powerhouse, is now haunted by economic decline and a tarnished reputation. "The Mistake on the Lake", unfortunately, is a city that can't hide its problems, but maybe that's why it's also a place of grit, determination, and community. When LeBron and the Cavaliers made their miraculous comeback to win the 2016 NBA Championship, none of Cleveland's professional sports teams had won a championship title in 54 years.

While LeBron doesn't appear onstage in *King James*, his and Cleveland's presence are certainly felt. And knowing this larger context of an underdog city's underdog team tells us so much about Rajiv Joseph's moving and hilarious play. This production invites you to witness the intertwined stories of Shawn, Matt, LeBron, and Cleveland, all reaching for connection, redemption, and glory against all odds.

Ali Tallman  
Dramaturg

**High school star LeBron James enters draft**  
**JAN. 26-30 2004**  
 1st Quarter  
 LeBron's rookie year with the Cavs

**Cleveland vs. Miami Headlines**  
**JULY 11, 2014**  
 3rd Quarter  
 LeBron publishes an essay in *Sports Illustrated* announcing his return to Cleveland

**THE BLAIN TRAILER**  
**BELIEVE IT!**  
**ENOUGH**  
**DAILY NEWS CLEVELAND**  
**THIS IS FOR YOU!**  
**STIN RULES**  
**JUNE 19, 2016**  
 Cavs win the NBA Championship

**JULY 8, 2010**  
 2nd Quarter  
*The Decision* airs and LeBron announces his move to the Miami Heat

**Cleveland vs. Miami Headlines**  
**JUNE 22, 2016**  
 4th Quarter  
 1.3 million people gather in downtown Cleveland for a Championship Parade celebration