

## Program Note - Protest Music

In SPU Theatre's 63rd year entitled the 'Season of Discovery' *Romeo and Juliet* is a potent and timely ending. The works over this past year have asked questions regarding religious doctrine, the power of memory, and the value of wonder. As the vision of this production states our artists are asking the question; what does it mean when children become the casualties of war? In pursuit of this directive the production you will see tonight features work by multiple artists that have lived through wars and civil disputes all over the world to provide a wider perspective of this reality. Burna Boy, one such Nigerian artist, uses his music as activism regarding Pan-Africanism believing that Africa is the Motherland and that there is much to be gained by the joining together of the African Diaspora. He is especially interested in the narratives that have arisen in Nigeria post independence. In 1999 Nigeria's government returned to civilian rule which led to heightened civil unrest between political parties and the mass murder of numerous young, unarmed civilians. The piece you will hear tonight entitled *20 10 20* speaks about the night of October 20, 2020 when the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) opened fire on innocent #EndSARS protesters on the Lekki toll bridge in Lagos, Nigeria. SARS, as an agent of the government, denied their nefarious involvement justifying the murders based on regulations regarding curfew that were put into effect moments before the event with no notice given to the protesters. Audiences can expect to see depictions of violence enacted on children as well as the conversations regarding relationships, grief, trauma, and all such ramifications. We look forward to the ushering in of our next year of performances and hope to welcome you into these seats once more.