

'Scraps' at Matrix Theatre

BY MARGARET GRAY

The essentials: In a review of "Scraps," the New York Times called Geraldine Inoa (also a writer for AMC's "The Walking Dead") a "playwright to watch." Set in Brooklyn after a young black man has been fatally shot by a white cop, "Scraps" explores the grief of his loved ones in a "provocative mashup of poetry, realism and expressionism."

Why this? "At first glance, the story sounds very familiar," says Matrix Theatre Company artistic director Joseph Stern, "but I've never seen anything like it."

Openly addressing racism in our culture — the explicit focus of programming at the Matrix since 2009 — can make people uncomfortable, but as Inoa points out: "If we continue to only engage in surface-level conversations about race that prevent us from feeling uncomfortable, we are only asking for things to stay the same."

The details: Matrix Theatre, 7657 Melrose Ave., L.A. Opens July 6. Performances 8 p.m. Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays, 8 p.m. Mondays, through Sept. 15. \$35; Mondays are pay what you want. (323) 960-or matrixtheatre.com



Denise Yolén and Tyrin Niles in "Scraps" at the Matrix. (Stan Mayer)