

WILLIAM'S ADVENTURE IN BLACK HISTORY

BRIGHT STAR TOURING THEATRE

WWW.BRIGHTSTARTHEATRE.COM

About the Show!

Our objective in creating this production was to offer young audiences the opportunity to meet some of the most significant Black Americans in the last few hundred years! Our format for the show is an interactive approach that reinforces the names of these famous Americans and their contributions to, not only America, but the whole entire the world.

ADVENTURE, INDEED!

You may have noticed that this show travels at the speed of light by introducing our audiences to a character, talking about what they did and moving on with the next interesting personality. Well we do this for a couple of reasons. One reason, and probably the most obvious, is because we only have 45-minutes to cover a whole bunch of ground. The second reason is because we believe that young people are more likely to soak up the information if they're constantly entertained and surrounded by fun!

So Who Exactly is in the Show???



Good question! A lot of people

PHILLIS WHEATLEY: She was the first published black poet in America.

DRED SCOTT: Tried to gain his freedom through the American court system.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS: Taught himself how to read and became one of the most famous Abolitionists in America.

HARRIET TUBMAN: Helped more than 300 slaves escape to the North to Freedom.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER: Founded 300+ uses for the Peanut.

MADAME CJ WALKER: America's first female self-made millionaire.

SCOTT JOPLIN: Composer and founder of the Ragtime musical style.

LOUIS ARMSTRONG: Famous jazz musician

THURGOOD MARSHALL: First black Supreme Court Justice.

ROSA PARKS: Started the Civil Rights Movement.

DR. MARTIN L. KING, JR.: Civil Rights Leader and Baptist minister. He changed America using peaceful methods.

OPRAH: America's only black billionaire.

MAE JEMISON: America's first black female astronaut.



SPOTLIGHT: George Washington Carver dedicated his life to the study of botany and science. He worked tirelessly to create uses for plants like the peanut, which were much easier to grow than labor-intensive cotton.



SPOTLIGHT: Rosa Parks! At the age of 42, on December 1, 1955, Ms. Parks refused to move to the back of a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. In many ways, this is the spark that kicked off the American Civil Rights Movement.



SPOTLIGHT: Mae Jemison; the first black female astronaut in space in 1992. She loves dancing and even had an appearance as an actress on an episode of Star Trek.

Activity Ideas!

Fun Learning Activities for the Classroom!

IDEA #1: ACTIVELY PRESENT!

Divide the students up into small groups and assign each group a famous Black American. They can then create a presentation on that famous and influential American, but all bets are off! It can be a musical, a dramatic reading, a poem... they name it! They can get really creative with it. Let them use props and costumes, student-lead class participation/games or even food as long as it revolves around their assigned famous Black American. It will be fun, interactive and unforgettable for the entire classroom!

Idea #2: Catch the ball!

Find a soft and fairly large kickball to use. Practice throwing the ball to a student and then have them throw it right back to you. After everyone get the hang of it, throw a ball to a student say a famous Black American's name. When they catch the ball, they

hold it and say what that American is famous for and then throw the ball back to you. Continue on through every student in the class, until everyone has a chance to play.

Idea #3: Wax Museum!

Assign, or have students draw out of a hat, a historical American.

Let each student research the person, find out interesting facts about them and put together a costume looking as much like them as possible.

Arrange for the students to go to the gym, freeze as their character and have another class come and walk around and ask them who they are and what they do.

SPOTLIGHT: PHILLIS WHEATLEY & OPRAH



* Phillis Wheatley lived from 1753-1784 and became America's first black published poet—while living as a slave.



Oprah Winfrey built an empire as an American talk show host (and to many, a guru). She's America's first black Billionaire.

SPOTLIGHT: DRED SCOTT & SOJOURNER TRUTH



Dred Scott unsuccessfully sued for the freedom of himself and family in 1857. His case helped motivate a lot of Americans to end slave and inspired the Emancipation Proclamation. He lived from 1795-1858.



Sojourner Truth: A remarkable woman who lived from c. 1797-1883. At one point she went to court and won her son back who had been sold illegally into slavery.

Famous Quote

"Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations."

-Dr. Mae Jemison, Astronaut

HARRIET



TUBMAN

WHAT SHE DID:

Helped more than 300 slaves--many strangers--to freedom in the North.

Born: 1820 in Maryland; died in 1913 in New York.

Cool Fact: She helped to lead an armed assault in the Civil War and worked as a spy.

Did you Know? She was tragically hit in the head with a weight, as a slave. For the rest of her life she would often suffer from temporary black-outs--even while she was leading people to freedom!

DID YOU KNOW?

BLACK SCIENTISTS AND INVENTORS HAVE GIVEN US MANY THINGS INCLUDING:

Cascade Dish Detergent

The Super Soaker

Potato Chips

Egg beaters

Peanut Butter

Gas Masks



ACTIVITY IDEAS

* Using a map find some of the locations that are talked about in the show. With help from the internet it's possible to trace the routes of Harriet Tubman from the South to Freedom in the North and even see where Africa is on a map.

* Music has played an integral role in the history of America. Listen to music from throughout our history--from the work songs of the plantations to the songs of the Civil Rights Movement. How has music played a role in the history of the Black community.

* Who are famous black Americans that weren't mentioned in the show? Break into groups or as individuals ask your students to learn more about them and present them to the class.

* Who would you most like to meet from throughout Black History? Write them a letter and ask them whatever questions you may want to ask them. Older grades could then respond to another classmate's letter as if they were that person.

* Start a discussion in class about everyone's favorite person from the show. What did they do and what made them so significant for the period of time in American history that they were living?

* Why is it so important to talk about these people and what was so important about the things they accomplished? How would America be different if any one of these people had chosen a different path?

NUMBERS

African Americans that served in the Civil War:

180,000

Attendance at the Civil Rights March on Washington in 1963:

250,000

Number of slaves living in America when the Civil War ended.

4,000,000

Everything about the Theatre!



A mini-van is our hip and favored mode of transportation for touring the country!

THEATRE VOCABULARY!

Actor: The people on-stage performing the play.

Backdrop: The background for the play.

Props: Anything that an actor holds while on-stage--a cane, book or rubber chicken.

Downstage: the area closest to the audience a long time ago stage were built at angles.



Upstage: The area away from the audience, like the back wall of the a stage.

Director: The person who told

Facts about us!

1. Did you know we're owned by an Emmy winning actor?
2. Our actors average 1,000 miles a week traveling the country to entertain young audiences.
3. Our programs have been seen in almost every corner of the country and around the world.
4. We watch over 1200 actors a season audition, before we cast our season.
5. We offer dozens and dozens different shows a season from Black History to anti-bullying and literary classics.
6. We toured Moscow with performances of our Aesop's Fables.
7. We're based in Asheville, NC.

ABOUT US!

Founded in 2003, Bright Star Theatre tours the nation offering high quality, affordable programs to every imaginable venue. We've had countless engagements at the National Theatre, Toured to Moscow and are so grateful to be in your very school today!

the actors where to go while they were on-stage and helped them create the characters they would play.



Costumes: The wigs, clothing and glasses that the actors wore to help flush out their characters .

Auditions: How an actor gets a role is by auditioning, they may have to interview, pretend to be a character from the play, read something from it, etc.

Set Designer: The person who decided what should be on the background and who painted or created it.



Were there other terms that came up in the show or from the experience of seeing the live play that you'd like to learn more about?

BRIGHT STAR THEATRE

Bright Star Touring Theatre performs across the country from Boston to Burbank and virtually every school, museum, theatre, community event in between. Each Season our shows run the gamut from Black History to anti-bullying, from literary classics to biographical shows. Our shows are available throughout the year for any event in any part of the world.

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Learn more about this show, this company & our whole Season:

www.brightstartheatre.com

WILLIAM'S ADVENTURE IN BLACK HISTORY

Made it's Debut in January 2014
National Tour

We want every show to be special and remarkable for our audience. Please feel free to connect with us at anytime to tell us about your experience:

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