

Mike Wiley Productions

TOURING REPERTOIRE 2016-18

goingbarefoot•inc. *a presenter's point of view... an artist's standard of performance*

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All Mike Wiley Productions' theatrical adaptations are offered in abbreviated versions for student audiences (approx. 45-min. plus post-show audience talkback), plus in full-length production (approx. 80 min. running time plus post-show audience talkback, preferably without intermission unless required by presenter) for general audiences. All productions include media projection sequences during each performance, and require audio/lighting/ projection production services as outlined in the Mike Wiley Productions Technical Rider. See promotional resources, technical rider, fee schedule & more in the Presenter Toolkit links at www.goingbarefoot.com

- **JACKIE ROBINSON: A GAME APART**

Glimpse into baseball legend Jackie Robinson's life during a bygone era of separate and unequal locker rooms, whites-only hotels and restaurant back doors. Witness the hopeless humiliation of a star player showered with adulation on the field, but a second-hand citizen outside the stadium. Meet compatriots fighting the same battles between end zones, inside the ring, around the track. JACKIE ROBINSON: A GAME APART is a powerful lesson of courage through dedication, perseverance and leadership. (student version recommended for gr. 3+)

- **TIRED SOULS: THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT**

Montgomery, AL, Dec. 1, 1955: Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat to a white man on a city bus. This action inspires the black citizens of Montgomery to abandon all travel on city buses until they are no longer forced to sit in the back or stand when a white person boards. There were more who came before, brave visionaries who laid the groundwork for this pivotal moment. TIRED SOULS introduces audiences to heroes and heroines Jo Ann Robinson, Claudette Colvin and others instrumental in the Civil Rights Movement, changing the course of U.S. history. (student version recommended for gr. 3+)

- **BROWN VS. BOARD OF EDUCATION: OVER SIXTY YEARS LATER**

In 1952, the Supreme Court heard a number of school-segregation cases, including Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. It ruled unanimously in 1954 that segregation was unconstitutional, overthrowing Plessy vs. Ferguson (1896) that had set the "separate but equal" precedent. This play recounts the effects of the decision on the families who participated in the original court case, the impact of the ruling on school systems at the time and the challenges still being made today. (student version recommended for gr. 5+)

- **ONE NOBLE JOURNEY: A BOX MARKED FREEDOM**

A true story of three slaves who overcome seemingly insurmountable odds to gain a life of freedom. Wiley becomes Henry "Box" Brown a black slave who sees no alternative but to mail himself to freedom in a small crate. Brown's life unfolds like a Mark Twain adventure, perilous and somber at times while humorous and heroic throughout. Audience members join Wiley on stage, quickly becoming characters helping propel the historic action. (student version recommended for gr. 3+)

- **BREACH OF PEACE**

On May 24, 1961, 19-year old Jean Thompson boarded a Trailways bus in Montgomery, Alabama with 11 other young Freedom Riders bound for New Orleans - and history. Within three months, approximately 300 other riders took up the mantle to desegregate buses, following the path of the first brave few. Mobs bloodily assaulted many. Others were arrested. Wiley's drama BREACH OF PEACE is based on true accounts of surviving participants of the Freedom Rides and others involved in the early struggle for African-American equality. This solo-play is a living monument to those remarkable young men and women of various races, religions and backgrounds who rose to face the dangers of fighting for just and equal treatment for all. (student version recommended for gr. 5+)

- **THE FIRE OF FREEDOM**

Abraham H. Galloway (1837-1870) was a fiery young slave rebel, radical abolitionist, and Union spy who rose out of bondage to become one of the most significant and stirring black leaders in the South during the Civil War. Risking his life behind enemy lines, he recruited black soldiers for the North, and fought racism in the Union army's ranks. He also stood at the forefront of an African American political movement and led a historic delegation of black southerners to the White House to meet with President Lincoln to demand the full rights of citizenship. He later became one of the first black men elected to the North Carolina legislature. Long hidden from history, Galloway's story reveals a war unfamiliar to most of us. This riveting portrait, adapted by playwright Howard Craft, illuminates Galloway's life and deepens our insight into the Civil War and Reconstruction as experienced by African Americans in the South. (student version recommended for gr. 5+)

- **DAR HE: THE STORY OF EMMETT TILL**

In 1955, a 14-year-old black Chicago youth traveled to the Mississippi Delta with country kinfolk and southern cooking on his mind. He walked off the train and stepped into a world he could never understand -- a world of thick color lines, of hard-held class systems and unspeakable taboos. Young Emmett crossed that line and met his gruesome fate by whistling at a white woman. This riveting play chronicles the murder, trial and unbelievable confession of the men accused of Emmett Till's lynching. (student version recommended for gr. 7+)

- **BLOOD DONE SIGN MY NAME**

In the spring of 1970, Henry "Dickie" Marrow, a 23-year-old U.S. Army veteran whose wife was pregnant with their third daughter, was beaten and shot to death by three white men who were later acquitted of the crime by an all-white jury, despite testimony by two black eyewitnesses. Roger Oakley, the stepson, actually confessed to shooting the gun. This hot-headed hate crime launched the small town of Oxford, NC into a season of violent reprisals. Based on Tim Tyson's award winning memoir, Wiley's compelling dramatization of the true-life account of this 1970 racial murder feels frighteningly familiar, and all too current. Features special guest gospel musical artist in full-length version. (student version recommended for gr. 7+)

- **And Mike Wiley's personal call to action & the arts: "WE COULD BE HEROES..."**

A motivational commentary by actor/playwright Mike Wiley that speaks to his experiences and influences as a boy growing up in Virginia, a young man finding his inner voice, and his journey to becoming a professional touring artist in America. It is a statement of gratitude to those who incite greatness, and a call to action to those who aspire to... It is a personal sharing about a long-planted seed. Originally written for Arts North Carolina as a message to arts advocates and legislators, the speech has been presented as a commencement address, and at education and arts conferences. The address runs approx. 25 minutes in length, and may be followed by an audience Q&A if desired.