

NC Arts Council cARTwheels & Grassroots Arts Performance-based Community Residency: **JACKIE ROBINSON: A GAME APART** Mike Wiley Productions

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Mike Wiley Productions, Ltd. www.mikewileyproductions.com

“More than mere versatility... It’s virtuosity.” American Theatre Magazine

JACKIE ROBINSON: A GAME APART, written and performed by Mike Wiley

Experience a powerful lesson of courage through the dedication and leadership of African-American athletes who pushed the color barrier to its breaking point. The play provides a glimpse of Jackie Robinson’s life during a bygone era of separate and unequal locker rooms, of whites-only hotels, and of restaurants with on a back door for “colored” athletes to enter. Students witness the hopeless humiliation of a star player who was showered with adulation on the field and became a second-hand citizen when he walked off the diamond. They meet Jackie’s compatriots fighting the same battles between the end zones, inside the ring and around the track. JACKIE ROBINSON: A GAME APART is a powerful lesson of courage through dedication, perseverance and leadership. The play intrigues, educates and sets one’s thirst for success on fire.

The components of this program include a three-hour teachers’ workshop, two matinee student performances of Wiley’s play JACKIE ROBINSON: A GAME APART, followed by four days of artist residency activities and workshops for students. (Recommended for grades 3rd through 12th; running time approx 45-50 min., followed by an audience talkback/Q&A.) . The student workshops provide active hands-on introduction to the world of creative writing, storytelling, and dramatic interpretation. Both the teacher workshop and residency events are facilitated by actor/playwright Mike Wiley. Based on guest artists’ availability, the teacher workshop and the student residency events may also include participation by NC award winning playwright/poet Howard Craft and choreographer Aya Shabu.

“I’ve never found any other artist who (1) delivers more valid educational content, (2) involves and connects with school audiences more successfully, or (3) is more pleasant to work with. He has a knack for taking sensitive and sometimes painful topics, and making them accessible in non-threatening – even humorous – ways. You will not regret bringing him to your school.”

- Christian B. Rothwell, Chorus/Drama Specialist, Apex NC

More information: <http://www.ncarts.org/Education/cARTwheels.aspx>
http://www.ncarts.org/Portals/44/elements/docs/Grassroots_AIE_Idea_Book_15-16.pdf

Artist site: www.mikewileyproductions.com

Artist booking: www.goingbarefoot.com

Video compilation reel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Op0_rWON4k