



Wake Drama & Zoning Media present

Empty Space

Starring Mike Wiley

Directed by Rob Underhill
Cinematography by Aravind Ragupathi

NEW SHORT FILM *EMPTY SPACE* FEATURES MIKE WILEY IN ONE-MAN ENSEMBLE CAST

Characters from playwright Mike Wiley's original one-man drama DAR HE: THE STORY OF EMMETT TILL share one room with a mattress and chair.



EMPTY SPACE :60 trailer: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LOH_buyRVY

NC actor-playwright Mike Wiley is receiving notice for his work in the new short film **EMPTY SPACE** by Rob Underhill & Aravind Ragupathi. The thirteen-minute film narrative, featuring a solo performance by Mike Wiley in multiple character roles, is billed as “an act of filling empty space with meaning.”

The film was recipient of the **Audience Choice Award** at the November 2009 Carrboro (NC) Film Festival where it had its North American premiere. Mike Wiley also received the **Best Actor Award** for his work in the film.

In February 2010, **EMPTY SPACE** was one of two films honored and screened as part of the opening night's Red Carpet Premiere of the Texas Black Film Festival in Dallas, TX, hosted by Giancarlo Esposito. The film was among seven nominees for **Best Short Film** at the Texas Black Film Festival, with Mike Wiley named as **Best Actor in a Short or Featured Film** as “the one man cast” in the film **EMPTY SPACE**.

EMPTY SPACE is an official selection of the 2010 San Diego Black Film Festival in San Diego, CA.

Director Rob Underhill's film synopsis: *EMPTY SPACE is in part an adaptation of Mike Wiley's one-man play entitled Dar He: The Story of Emmett Till, a play that chronicles the 1955 Mississippi murder, trial and confession of the men accused of the horrific death of 14-year-old Emmett Till. Every morning Mike wakes, the voices in his mind wake, too. Each scene he acts out on a bare stage -- an act of filling empty space with meaning.*

About Rob Underhill: Director, Writer & Producer of **EMPTY SPACE**

Since 1998, Rob Underhill has directed, written, produced and edited various film, television, commercial and performing arts projects. He truly enjoys collaboration with performance, visual and audio artists to produce meaningful works that tell the story in dynamic and impacting ways. Rob began writing and directing for theatre in 1998, when he co-founded the drama club that paved the way for the first ever Associate of Arts in theatre program at Wake Technical Community College in North Carolina. In 2004, he incorporated Wake Drama, his non-profit production house.

Rob was born in 1975 in Lansing, Michigan. He was awarded a Bachelor in Arts degree from North Carolina State University in 2007. He currently resides in Raleigh, NC.

For information regarding **EMPTY SPACE**, contact:
Rob Underhill, www.RobUnderhill.com; Cel 919-649-7218; wakedrama@gmail.com

From **ARTERY** by Marc Maximov, 25 November 2009:

Theatre stalwart Mike Wiley was recognized [by the Carrboro Film Festival] with the Craft Award for Best Actor. In **EMPTY SPACE**, Wiley inhabits several of the characters from his one-man stage show, *Dar He: The Story of Emmett Till*. Director Rob Underhill and cinematographer Aravind Ragupathi shot Wiley in a raw indoor space with a mattress and a chair, rather like a spare stage set, putting the focus squarely on Wiley's performance. It's the first time he's brought his work to film, and he was impressed with the results.

"The film captured the grittiness and desperation of the characters," said Wiley. "The proximity of the camera makes the experience in some ways more immediate. With close-ups and with the sound and the music, it puts it in your face more than I've been able to achieve so far on stage." The screening was *Empty Space's* premiere, and it won the audience award for best film.

**For more information regarding theatrical works by Mike Wiley,
visit www.goingbarefoot.com**