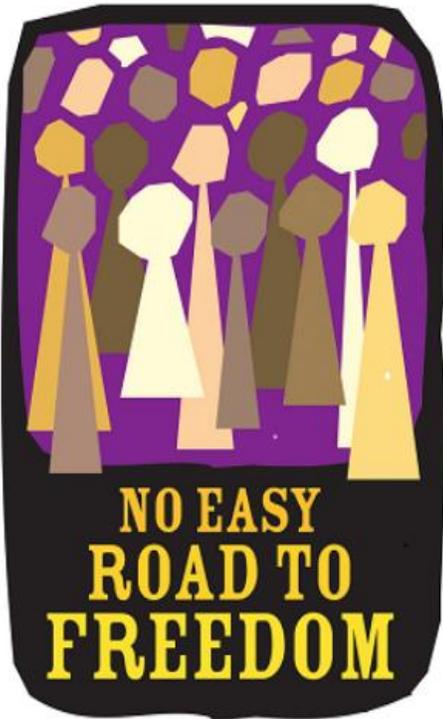


## TOURING OUTREACH - STUDY GUIDE

### NO EASY ROAD TO FREEDOM

written by Thomas Quinn & Directed by Renee T. Krizan



### SHOW SYNOPSIS

No Easy Road to Freedom takes students on an exciting journey of discovery and understanding. Beginning in the late 19th century and taking us right up to today, No Easy Road to Freedom introduces us to many characters who made the headlines in the ongoing struggle for racial equality and the right to freely exist without persecution here in America.

Audiences are transported from the shores of Ellis Island to California; the open plains of Wyoming to the Deep South. With each stop, people depicted in history books come to life on stage. Through personal stories, historical events such as the Holocaust, Women's Suffrage and the Civil Rights Movement will be passed on to generations to come. It is our responsibility to remember the history of our nation—to keep it “alive” and relevant for everyone today so that we can move forward on our nation's walk to freedom, keeping hatred and prejudice at bay.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### BEFORE THE SHOW:

- What is discrimination?
- What are civil rights? What have you learned about civil right movements?
- How can we overcome racism and other forms of discrimination that still exist today?
- Can you list the different factors about a person that people use to discriminate against them?

### AFTER THE SHOW:

- What do you think the main message of NO EASY ROAD TO FREEDOM is?
- Did the play teach you anything new about civil rights and discrimination?
- How relevant do you feel the subject is in today's society?
- How do you think you might be able to change to help social equality?

## HISTORIC EVENTS

Interactions with Native Americans  
Immigration from Europe and Asia  
Women's Rights  
World War II  
Civil Rights Movement  
Mexican American Workers Rights  
Hate Crimes  
Politics

Ghost Dance  
Ellis Island  
Susan B. Anthony, 19th Amendment, The Feminine Mystique  
Japanese Internment Camps, The Holocaust, D-Day Invasion  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks  
Caesar Chavez  
Matthew Shepard  
Barack Obama

## CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

### DEBATE!

Several of the characters in *No Easy Road to Freedom* speak out for what they believe in. This activity will get your students to express their opinions on certain issues as they engage in an "historical" debate.

- Pick a debatable issue (women's suffrage, segregation, immigration, etc.) that your students learned about in *No Easy Road to Freedom*.
- Split your class in half. Tell both groups that they should pretend they are all American citizens from the time period when the issue was first being debated. Tell one group that they are supporting the issue and the other group that they will be arguing against the issue.
- Give them time to talk with their group members to develop an argument for the debate they will have with the other group. Supply them with a large piece of paper and a marker to write down the points for their argument.
- After each group has had time to develop an argument, have the groups sit facing one another.
- The two groups should pick representative(s) to issue an opening statement (2-3 minutes to explain their argument to the other group).
- After the opening statements, have the groups meet privately again to come up with a rebuttal to the other side's argument.
- Send new representatives from each group to make a short 1-minute rebuttal statement.

After the debate, hold a discussion with your class: What was it like to argue the side that you personally do not believe in? Is the issue still of importance today? What is an issue today that you or your family feel passionate about?



## THEATRE ACTIVITY

### CIVIL RIGHTS TALK SHOW

1. Assign each student a major historical figure from the Civil Rights Movement. This will be their “character” they are to research in-depth –
  - a. Character Breakdown - Gender, age (during the peak of their career), race, home life (number of siblings, name of spouse, number of children, etc.), geography, social status.
  - b. Social Action - What was their major contribution to the Civil Rights Movement? What was the consequence of their actions at the time? How do their actions reflect today’s society?
  - c. Characterization - Costume: How would your character dress/present themselves? Voice & Dialect: Can you find any recording of this character’s voice? Does your character speak with an accent? Do they have a high-pitched voice? A deep, raspy voice?
2. Presentation
  - a. Conclude this project with an all class “live talk show” where the students are interviewed in character and in-costume about their involvement with the Civil Rights Movement.
  - b. The teacher or a designated student should act as the talk-show host/ facilitator.
  - c. One character at a time, welcome in each guest.
  - d. As their character, students respond to basic questions about their life and previous class discussions.



## THEATRE 101

Every wonder how to put on a play? There are many different elements

Playwright – The person who writes the script.

Director – The person in charge of the show - they lead the actors, designers, and crew on the stage.

Costume – What the actors wear during the show.

Scenery – Everything on the stage to show the place where the action is happening.

Props – The items that are on stage that actors can move – lamps, pens, chairs, books, and more.

Lights – Stage lights show the actors and the scenery and can change color and brightness for effect.

Sound – Everything you hear during the show – can be the actors’ voices or background noise.

Actors – The people who perform the show on stage.

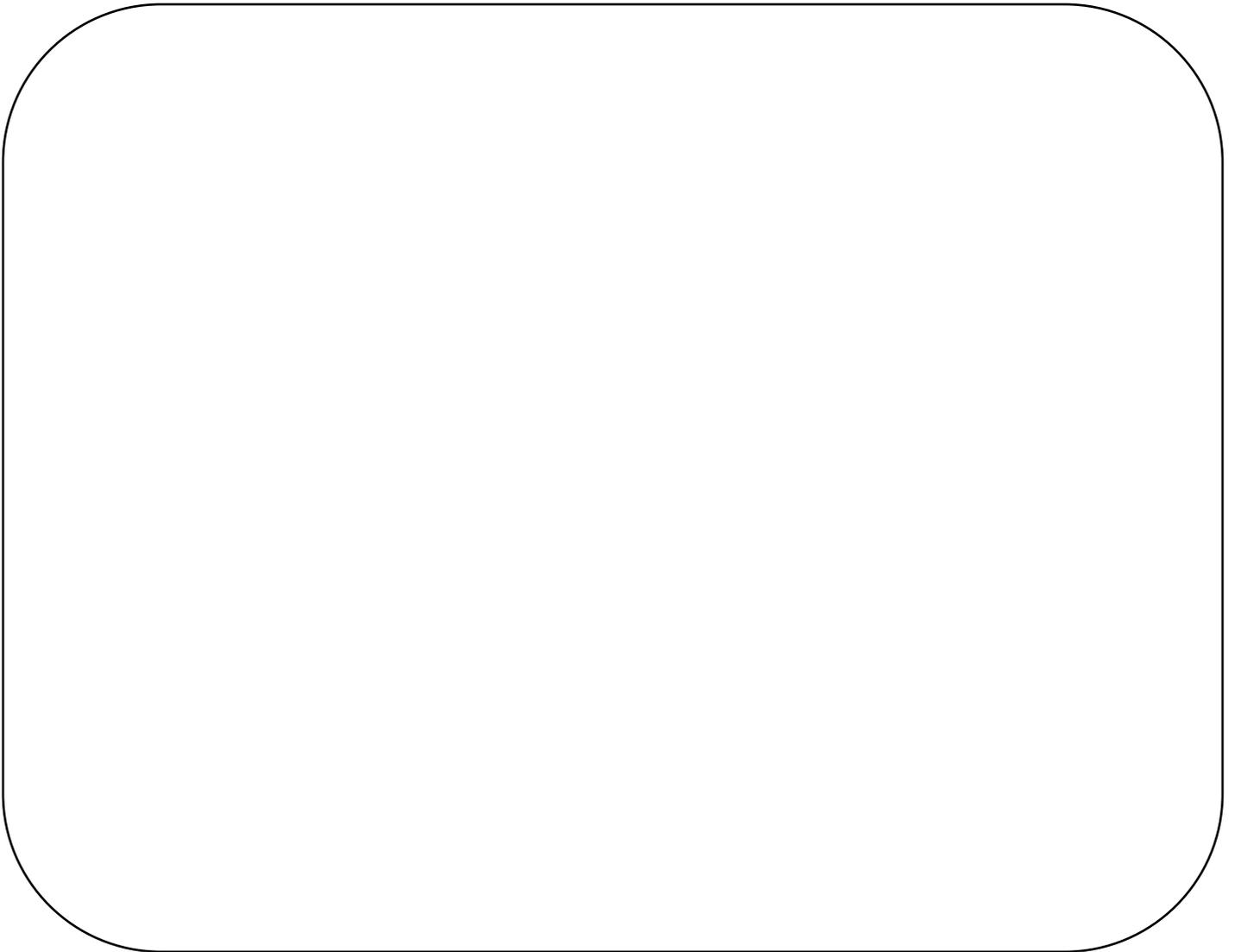
Audience – The lucky people who watch the show.

# STUDENT ACTIVITY

## AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL FLAG

Directions:

- Each student draw an image or a scene that represents their heritage or cultural background
- Cut out each section and use the images to make the bars in an American Flag
- Display the flag in your classroom to remind everyone about the diversity of its classroom and a reminder of some of the challenges we may have faced to get here.



## ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Why did so many immigrants come to America during the late 1800's and the early 1900's?

Does anyone have grandparents or great grandparents that immigrated to the US during that time period? How many Japanese Internment Camps were there? Do you know the locations?

What would you consider to be Roosevelt's greatest contributions to our nation?

Did you know the English word slave comes from Old French 'sclave', from the Medieval Latin 'sclavus', from the Byzantine Greek 'σκλάβος' which, in turn, comes from the ethnonym Slav, because in some early Medieval wars many Slavs were captured and enslaved. An older interpretation connected it to the Greek verb skyleúo "to strip a slain enemy".

In 1955 when Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat, it wasn't the first time she'd clashed with the driver James Blank. Parks stepped onto his very crowded bus on a chilly day 12 years earlier, paid her fare at the front, then resisted the rule in place for blacks to disembark and re-enter through the back door. She stood her ground until Blake pulled her coat sleeve, enraged to demand her cooperation. Parks left the bus rather than give in. Before Rosa Parks, there was 15-year old Claudette Colvin who nine months earlier refused to give up her seat on the same bus system.

In his speech, Dr. King said, " I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character ". What are some of your dreams for the future of our society?

Did you know Thurgood Marshall (First black man to hold a seat on the United States Supreme Court) was a classmate of Hughes at Lincoln University, a historically black university in Chester County Pennsylvania?

Did you know that within the US there are 562 Native American Tribes? The largest are Navajo, Cherokee and Sioux. In the Lancaster/Lebanon County regions, Susquehannock, Piquaws, Shawnese, Conestoga, Nantl-cokes, Ganawese, Conoise or Conoys, Mingoos, Minguays and Delaware Indian Tribes were here long before we settled the area. Do any of these names sound familiar?

Did you know, Millersville University has a Migrant Education program dedicated in assisting the families of migrant workers? Their mission is to provide instructional, support services and academic development to children who have interruption in their education caused by migrant lifestyle.

# LITERARY ADDITIONS

## WANT TO READ MORE?

### Immigration:

Coming to America: The Story of Immigration  
by Betsy Maestro

### Japanese Internment Camps:

The Crystal City Story: One Family's Experience with the World War II Japanese Internment Camps  
by Tomoko Izumi

### Holocaust:

The Dairy of Anne Frank

### Slavery

Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad  
by Jane Addams Peace

### Martin Luther King, Jr.:

Let the Children March  
by Monica Clark

### Langston Hughes:

Visiting Langston  
by Willie Perdomo illustrated by Bryan Collier

### Native Americans:

Who Were The First North Americans  
by Philippa Wingate and Struan Reid

### Migrant Farm Workers:

Voices From the Fields: Children of Migrant Farmworkers Tell Their Stories  
by S. Beth Atkin

### Feminism:

I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark  
by Debbie Levy and

### Matthew Shepard:

October Morning: A Song For Matthew Shepard  
by Leslea Newman

## BIOGRAPHY

Gretna Theatre is America's oldest summer theatre, and Lebanon's only professional theatre. Today, under the direction of Executive Producer Brian Kurtas, Gretna Theatre is approaching its 93<sup>rd</sup> year as a self-producing non-profit theatre company. Gretna Theatre continues to entertain and serve over 15,000 through all of its combined programs: including its Mainstage Broadway shows, Kids Series productions, Touring Outreach program, Educational Workshops, and its Professional Internship Program. Visit [GretnaTheatre.org](http://GretnaTheatre.org) for more information.

### CAST

IAN WALLACE  
KAYLA KLASE  
MALCOLM BISHOP  
ZENOBIA DECOTEAU

### GRETNA THEATRE STAFF

BRIAN KURTAS – Executive Producer  
RENEE T. KRIZAN – Director and Associate Artistic Director  
STEVE CARGILE – Production Manager  
REGINA SUKANICK – Development Manager  
MARY ANNE RITTER - Business Manager  
JACK RIZZO – Marketing & Sales Manager  
THOMAS QUINN - Playwright

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## TOURING OUTREACH

We hope you'll consider bringing Gretna Theatre back!

### **AMELIA EARHART: LOST HERO—MARCH/APRIL 2019**

Her family and relationships from birth to her disappearance, and new findings. (All Ages)

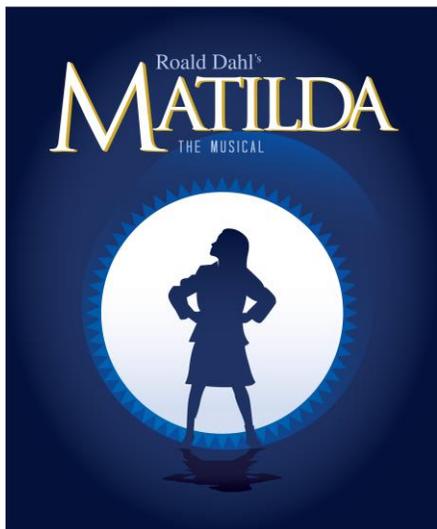
### **THE BOY WHO CRIED BULLY – OCTOBER 2019**

An elementary look at Bullying, and how to respond to it. (Elementary School)

### **A TELL-TALE TALE – EDGAR ALLAN POE - OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2019**

The famous stories and poems of Poe are almost as interesting as the life of the man himself! (All Ages)

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