



PRESS RELEASE

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Historical Figures Come to Life in Stage's BACKSTORY & Lockheed Martin PROJECT BLUEPRINT Education Programs

(Syracuse, NY)—Professional actors bring historical figures to life for area schools and community groups in Syracuse Stage's BACKSTORY and Lockheed Martin PROJECT BLUEPRINT education programs. Touring February through April, three professional actors and three students from the Department of Drama in Syracuse University's College of Visual and Performing Arts give performances as the following history makers: Anne Frank, a Shakespearean Actor paired with a modern hip-hop artist, Harriet Tubman, Rosalie Randazzo, and George Washington Carver. Last year, over 9,000 students across Central New York participated in the BACKSTORY and Lockheed Martin PROJECT BLUEPRINT education programs.

Each presentation features an interactive, live, creative history lesson for middle-school students through adults. Roughly 45 minutes in length, presentations include a dramatic performance and brief Q&A. For booking info, please call 315-443-1150.

Touring this winter & spring:



Dreamprints: A Conversation with Harriet Tubman by Myxolydia Tyler
Called Moses by the 300 people whose escape from slavery she assisted, Harriet Tubman freed herself from slavery, then risked her life 19 times to help others. **Available Dates: 2/1-2/26**



George Washington Carver: Carver at Tuskegee by Kyle Bass
(Lockheed Martin PROJECT BLUEPRINT)
Born into slavery and kidnapped as a child by Confederate raiders, George Washington Carver fought prejudice and poverty in the Reconstruction period to become the first African American to receive a national monument in his honor. Best known for developing three hundred uses for peanuts and hundreds more for other crops, Carver may have single-handedly saved the agricultural industry and botanical environment of the south. As Director of Agriculture at the Tuskegee Institute, he never profited from the patents and discoveries he made: "God gave them to me. How can I sell them to someone else?" **Available Dates: 2/22-3/19**



Anne Frank: My Secret Life by Patricia Buckley
Her diary, which has been translated into sixty-seven languages, remains one of the most widely-read books in the world. Through the eyes of this remarkable girl, we see into the annex of her father's office, and in her own voice, hear her dreams for a better world. **Available Dates: 3/22-4/16**



Rosalie Randazzo: Child Garment Worker by Sara Ariello and Anna Cometa
This fictional character is a composite based on the true stories of the millions of child laborers and immigrants working in America at the dawn of the 20th century. ***Available Dates: 3/22-4/16***



Hip-Shake by Len Fonte and Reenah Golden
A modern hip-hop spoken word artist. An actor from Shakespeare's Globe Theatre circa 1600. Both are masters of wordplay, rhythm, and rhyme, but can they even understand what the other is saying? Can this linguistic odd couple find the similarities in their styles? Will they find themselves in synch, or at odds? ***Available Dates: 4/5-4/23***

MORE ABOUT BACKSTORY

History Comes to Life. BACKSTORY invites students to step back in time for an interactive classroom experience with a featured historical character portrayed by a Syracuse Stage artist-in-residence. Students take an active role in the preparation of the character's visit, as well as interact with the character during a classroom performance.

MORE ABOUT LOCKHEED MARTIN PROJECT BLUEPRINT

Lockheed Martin Project Blueprint *merges scientific discovery and the arts.* An actor portraying a scientist/mathematician introduces students to the connections between scientific discovery and the artistic process. Students take an active role in the preparation of the character's visit, as well as interact with the character during a classroom performance.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT SYRACUSE STAGE

The Bank of America Children's Tour brings high-energy, interactive, and culturally diverse performances to elementary school audiences.

The BACKSTORY Program brings history to life, as professional actors portray historical figures in classrooms and other venues.

Lockheed Martin PROJECT BLUEPRINT merges scientific discovery and the arts in classrooms and other venues.

artsEMERGING takes students on an in-depth exploration of our mainstage season using a multi-cultural, multi-arts lens.

The Young Playwrights Festival challenges students to submit original ten-minute plays for a chance to see their work performed at Syracuse Stage.

VPA AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

VPA is committed to the education of cultural leaders who will engage and inspire audiences through performance, visual art, design, scholarship and commentary. It provides the tools

for self-discovery and risk-taking in an environment that thrives on critical thought and action.

SYRACUSE STAGE

Syracuse Stage is Central New York's premier professional theatre. Founded in 1974, Stage has produced more than 220 plays in 36 seasons including a number of world, American, and East Coast premieres. Each season 90,000 patrons enjoy an adventurous mix of new plays and bold interpretations of classics and musicals featuring the finest theatre artists. In addition, Stage maintains a vital educational outreach program that annually serves over 30,000 students from 24 counties. A solid core of subscribers and supporters helps keep Syracuse Stage a vibrant artistic presence in Central New York. Additional support comes from the government, foundations, corporations and Syracuse University. Syracuse Stage is a constituent of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, and a member of the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, the Arts and Cultural Leadership Alliance (ACLA), the University Hill Corporation and the East Genesee Regent Association. Syracuse Stage is a member of The League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the largest professional theatre association in the country.

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