Wythe: 
A Drama in Black and White...and so much more

Featuring Special Guest: One Voice Chorus

Created by students in the course “Civil Rights and Education in Richmond, VA: A Documentary Theatre Project” taught by

Dr. Laura Browder and Dr. Patricia Herrera
The Fight for Knowledge: Civil Rights and Education in Richmond, VA is a five-year initiative based at the University of Richmond, centered around the production of a digital archive and a series of documentary dramas. Each year the Documentary Theater course on Civil Rights and Education in Richmond, taught by Professors Laura Browder and Patricia Herrera, focuses on a specific topic related to segregation, desegregation and re-segregation in the Richmond public school system.

This semester the students in the course studied the period of court-ordered busing as it played out at George Wythe High School, beginning in the fall of 1971. The students did archival research at VCU Cabell Library’s Special Collections and at the Valentine Richmond History Center, and then conducted interviews with over 20 Wythe alumni.

Based on their research and interviews, the students in the class collaboratively wrote and produced the one-act play that you will see tonight, *Wythe: a Drama in Black and White...and So Much More*. Our primary goal is to not only revisit a complex period in Richmond’s educational history, but to initiate a conversation about civil rights and education in Richmond today.
Meet the Cast:

Camden Cantwell (*Mr. White and Tyrone*) is a rising senior at the University of Richmond. He is studying Theatre and Rhetoric & Communications and is a member of Alpha Psi Omega honors society.

Kathryn Cohen (*Mrs. Sullivan and Jane*), a rising junior, is studying Theatre and Business in addition to being an active member of the University Players, Alpha Psi Omega honors Society, and the Theatre and Dance Department.

Cheleah Jackson (*Mrs. Black, Will, Coach and Jeroyd X. Greene*) is a University of Richmond senior majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies focusing on Educational Policy Administration. She has enjoyed her time working as a Residential Assistant and participating in the UMOJA Choir. Next year, Cheleah has accepted a position with Church Hill Academy as a Career Counselor.

Amanda Lineberry (*Mrs. White, Kerry, Tyrone's friend and Principal*) is a rising junior and a second-year member of the Richmond Cross Country and Track & Field teams. She works as a student coordinator at the Bonner Center for Civic Engagement, is a Boatwright & Oliver Hill Scholar, a 2012 Burhans Civic Fellow, and a member of the SEEDS leadership team.

Charlene Morris (*Board Chairman, Clerk, mail delivery and Jasmine*) is a senior and Theatre Major. She assistant stage-managed the University's production of Mee's *Trojan Women* and sound-designed Ruhl's *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. She was also a performer in *Remnants*.

Kelsey Mickelson (*Board Member 1, Judge Merhige and Emma*) is a rising junior, studying American Studies and Arabic. She is very involved in the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship on campus and is a second-year participant in this Documentary Theatre Civil-Rights course.

Danielle Stokes (*Board Member 2, Bianca, Ray, and Kiona*), a rising senior, is currently concentrating in politics under her PPFL major. She is president of the Rho Rho chapter of Delta Sigma Theta and an active member in both the Omicron Delta Kappa Society and the Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society.

Cheyenne Varner (*Mr. Sullivan, Dr. Bronson, Off Stage Voice 1, Stranger, Amber and Sarah*), a rising senior, is pursuing an interdisciplinary major in Educational Activism for the Arts and studying Creative Writing. She is a Boatwright Scholar and Oliver Hill Scholar as well as a Westhampton Residential Assistant.

**Please keep in mind that the cast will be playing parts of both opposite gender and race. To represent ones race students will be wearing either a black or white shirt and to represent ones gender student will wear appropriate accessories.**
The Documentary Theatre and Civil Rights Education class would like to thank our professors Laura Browder and Patricia Herrera for their wonderful ideas, time, and energy. Without their support this project would have never been a success.

We would like to offer a special thank you to Salvador Barajas and Mark Person for all of their additional help. Salvador’s technical assistance perfected our digital archive and Mark’s boundless energy and dedication to Wythe High School in his time and ours was crucial to this process. Mark, we couldn’t have done it without you.

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