Schooled
Racism, Resistance and Education

A University of Richmond
American Studies and Theater and Dance Production
On May 17, 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a landmark decision, unanimously overturned the Plessy v. Ferguson decision of 1896, declaring that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Two years later, Virginia governor Harry F. Byrd called for “massive resistance” to desegregation, ordering state funds to be cut from schools that agreed to integrate and supporting the creation of new, all-white schools. What resulted was the closing of many Virginia public schools, most notably in Prince Edward County between the years 1959 and 1964. This history continues to affect public schools in Virginia.

"Schooled" launches a five-year documentary theater project led by Dr. Laura Browder and Dr. Patricia Herrera. Students taking their documentary theater class will create a series of dramas focused on the educational system during the era of Civil Rights in Richmond. Drawing on a wide variety of sources and perspectives, interview transcripts, newspaper articles, archival photographs and scholarly monographs, students created "Schooled: Racism, Resistance, and Education" a living work of theater that hopes to inform a new generation about a crucial era in Richmond history.
Cast

Moderator
Rev. Dr. Sylvester "Tee" Turner, Hope in the Cities

Panelists
Lewis Booker, Former Public Schools Board Member
Carmen Foster, Thomas Jefferson High School Alumna
Mark Person, George Wythe High School Alumnus
Elizabeth Salim, George Wythe High School Alumna

Instructors
Dr. Laura Browder  Professor of American Studies
Dr. Patricia Herrera  Professor of Theatre

Students
Max Baird  Junior, American Studies
Chrissy Brodt  Senior, American Studies
Renee Horen  Sophomore, American Studies
Jessie Kelley  Junior, American Studies
Jenna McAuliffe  Sophomore, English
Kelsey Mickelson  Freshman, History/English
Amani Morrison  Junior, English/American Studies
Michael Rogers  Senior, Interdisciplinary Studies
Katherine Schmidt  Junior, American Studies
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