

MISS JULIE FREEDOM SUMMER

January 10-31, 2009

PLAY GUIDE



PLAYHOUSE
THEATRE COMPANY

MAX REIMER, ARTISTIC MANAGING DIRECTOR

Miss Julie: Freedom Summer

A new version by Stephen Sachs
From the play by August Strindberg

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WELCOME

This booklet was created to help audience members explore the play beyond the actual performance. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions for the guide please contact Meredith Elliott, Outreach and Education, at 604 629 2097 or by email at melliott@vancouverplayhouse.com.

About the Company

The Playhouse Theatre Company is dedicated to producing live theatre of the highest quality – to presenting a stimulating and challenging repertoire of plays that speak to today’s audiences. This year the Playhouse presents a five-play mainstage subscription series running from September to May, as well as a bonus production in April 2009.

The Playhouse was founded in 1962 to provide the people of British Columbia with professional live theatre. Since then it has grown from a core of volunteers operating out of basement offices into one of the country’s leading regional theatre companies, presenting an outstanding selection of plays produced by the very best actors, directors, designers and craftspeople from across the country.

THEATRE ETIQUETTE

Theatre relies on the give and take between actor and audience. The actors can see and hear the audience just as the audience can see and hear them.

Seating is assigned. Please sit in your assigned seat and respect the fact that other seats have been reserved for other patrons.

Latecomers are seated at the discretion of the Playhouse Theatre staff; otherwise, they may take their seat at intermission.

A note to student groups: If you are unable to attend the dedicated Wednesday student matinee we are happy to book you into another matinee performance. If you are booking a Tea Matinee performance instead, please note that many of our senior patrons attend these events.

Talking during a show (even in a whisper), fidgeting, rustling papers or candy wrappers all disturb the actors’ concentration and disrupt the performance. On the other hand, audience responses can inspire the actors to do their best work. This interplay is the essence of live theatre.

As a courtesy to performers and patrons, **all pagers, phones, cameras and other recording and noise making devices should be turned off.** This regulation is strictly enforced.

No **outside food or drink** is permitted inside the theatre. Also, audience members should be aware that **heavy perfumes and colognes** may also disturb others.

All performances are for patrons aged **6 years and up** (any exceptions will be announced).

DID YOU KNOW? MORE ABOUT THE PLAYHOUSE'S EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Talkbacks

Following every student matinee and select evening performances, audience members are invited to remain in their seats to ask questions of the actors. *How does an actor prepare for a role? Do actors rehearse every day? How do the actors personally handle a play's difficult issues?*

***Miss Julie: Freedom Summer* runs approximately 100 minutes. There is no intermission. Please plan to stay for approximately twenty minutes after the end of the performance.**

Production Centre Tours

As a group, you can book a complimentary guided tour of the 25,000 square foot Production Centre and explore scenery and prop shops, the wardrobe department and rehearsal halls. The Playhouse recently moved into a new facility on East 2nd Avenue, which will be the company's home until 2011.

Salon Saturdays

The second Saturday matinee of each production features our Salon Saturday pre-show chat. Explore the issues and ideas at the heart of each production in this informative and fun series that presents in-depth topics about the play, the playwright or the design. Past speakers have included broadcasters, playwrights, (musical) directors, actors, journalists and professors.

The Salon Saturday for *Miss Julie: Freedom Summer* takes place on Saturday, January 24, 2009. Speaker to be announced.

Dedicated Student Matinees

Each year the Playhouse introduces thousands of school children to the magic of live theatre at deeply discounted prices. Every production has a dedicated student matinee on the first Wednesday afternoon of the run, which is followed by a talkback with the actors and director, as available. Our popular weekday tea matinees are also open to those student groups not able to attend the student matinee.

For information about any of our education programmes, including E-Stage: Playhouse Young Playwrights and show specific outreach initiatives, please contact Meredith Elliott, Outreach and Education Manager at 604 629 2097 or by email, melliott@vancouverplayhouse.com.

For **group ticket bookings, discounts** and **Playhouse PERKS**, contact Stasa Andric, Sales Manager, at **604 637 3094** or by email, groups@vancouverplayhouse.com.

MISS JULIE: FREEDOM SUMMER AT A GLANCE

NUTS AND BOLTS

The world premiere of *Miss Julie: Freedom Summer* was originally developed and produced by the Fountain Theatre, Los Angeles, directed by Stephen Sachs.

Setting:

The large kitchen of a country estate in Greenwood, Mississippi, the night of July 4, 1964. Two days after the signing of the Civil Rights Act by President Lyndon Johnson.

WHAT IT'S ABOUT

Miss Julie, the daughter of a judge and plantation owner in Greenwood, Mississippi, spends the Fourth of July dancing with the black field workers and servants in barn. Her fiancé recently broke off their engagement, and she is too ashamed to attend a social affair with her father. But when she sets her sights on her father's black chauffeur, John, and demands that he dance with her in the kitchen, she sets in motion in a struggle for sexual and social power that spirals out of control. Both Julie and John dream of freedom from the constraints of their gender and race, and their mutual attraction and longing ignite in a night of violent passion. Their dreams can't stand up to the cold light of day, however, and in the face of harsh reality, Julie has only one remaining chance for freedom.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Power Play

Chart how the balance of power shifts between Miss Julie and John throughout the course of their encounter. How is Julie's power manifested? How does John assert his power in a situation where he might be assumed to be powerless? What is Christine's place in the character triangle, and how does her presence or absence affect the interactions between John and Julie? Watch for visual cues from the actors, both in their body language and blocking.

WORDS TO REMEMBER

"Mississippi the onliest state in the Union where you can drag a river and know the body of *somebody* is gonna come up." Christine

"All that non-violence talk ain't gonna change nothin' down here. These crackers don't know nothin' from non-violence. I ain't turning no other cheek. This country born outta violence. Time to take matters into our own hands." John

"I have this dream. I'm standing way up high on this very tall pillar. Like one of those columns outside the Courthouse. Way up on top, standing on the edge, peering down over my toes, looking all the way down, down. Makes me dizzy. How easy it would be. Such relief ... to take just one ... more ... step ... You ever have dreams like that?" Julie

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



Stephen Sachs co-founded The Fountain Theatre with Deborah Lawlor in 1990.

His 2008 production of the U.S. Premiere of Athol Fugard's *Victory*, which he directed, received glowing reviews and was presented by Santa Barbara Theatre in May.

His 2007 production of *Miss Julie: Freedom Summer*, which he wrote and directed for the Fountain Theatre, was Critics Choice in numerous publications, and was nominated for Best Adaptation by the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle.

He adapted his own play *Sweet Nothing in My Ear* for television, aired on CBS as a TV movie starring Jeff Daniels and Marlee Matlin in April 2008.

He directed the world premiere of Athol Fugard's *Exits and Entrances* (3 Ovation Awards including Best World Premiere of a New Play and Best Director, 5 LA Drama Critics Circle Awards including Best Production and Best Director). Sachs is directing regional productions of the play around the country. Sachs recently directed the West Coast Premiere of *String of Pearls* at The Road Theatre Company. He will direct the world premiere of a new translation of Euripides' *Hippolytos* for the J. Paul Getty Museum, launching the new outdoor venue at the Getty Villa in Malibu.

He's won many theatre awards for directing such plays as the Los Angeles premiere of Athol Fugard's *The Road to Mecca*, *After the Fall* (four L.A. Ovation Awards including Best Production of the Year and Best Director), *Sweet Nothing in my Ear* (Fountain Theatre, Victory Gardens Theatre in Chicago, Mixed Blood Theatre in Minneapolis), the Los Angeles premiere of Steven Dietz's *Lonely Planet* (starring Philip Anglim), *The Seagull* (starring Salome Jens, Philip Baker Hall and Bud Cort), the 20th Anniversary production of *The Boys in the Band*, and many others.

As a playwright, Sachs wrote *Open Window* (Pasadena Playhouse), *Central Avenue* (PEN USA Literary Award Finalist, Garland Award for Best Play), *Sweet Nothing in my Ear* (PEN USA Literary Award Finalist, published by Dramatic Publishing), *Mother's Day* (Garland Award Honorable Mention), *The Golden Gate* (Drama-League Award, Best Play), and *The Baron in the Trees*.

Sachs is a member of the Dramatists Guild and the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers.

AUGUST STRINDBERG



Miss Julie: Freedom Summer is a free adaptation of a play by August Strindberg, a Swedish playwright and novelist best known outside of Sweden for his plays *Miss Julie* and *The Father*. Strindberg is considered one of the fathers of the modern theatre, and he influenced two major literary movements, Naturalism and Expressionism.

Strindberg was born on January 22, 1849 in Stockholm to a father who came from an aristocratic family, but had fallen on hard times, and a mother who had been a domestic servant before becoming the mistress and then the wife of Strindberg's father. He called one autobiographical novel *The Son of a Servant*, and the class distinctions that framed his family life would become a major theme in *Miss Julie*.

He studied at the University of Uppsala, but left without a degree, taking work as a journalist, tutor and librarian. An early play, the historical drama *Master Olaf* (1872), was rejected by the Royal Dramatic Theatre for its realism and style. The play was written in prose, which was radical for the time. Not produced until 1890, it is considered the first modern Swedish drama. He first made his literary mark with the novel *The Red Room* (1879), about the hypocrisy and corruption in Swedish society, but his next novel *The New Kingdom* (1882) stirred up enough hostility that he fled the country. The backlash from his collection of short stories *Married* (1884) outraged the public for its chauvinism and a charge of blasphemy was brought against him, which forced him to return to Sweden to stand trial. He was acquitted, but the experience fostered a persecution complex that led to periods of mental instability.

During these times, when writing was difficult for him, he turned to art, transposing his inner turmoil onto landscapes of his native land. He produced 30 paintings in the summer of 1892 alone, but an exhibition later that year resulted in only two sales.



Photograph of the first production of *Miss Julie*, November 1906 at The People's Theatre.

An early proponent of Naturalism, Strindberg's plays were an attempt to reflect reality; not a slice-of-life, which he considered boring, but the world stripped of illusion and romance.

Many of his later plays, however, were more symbolic in nature and his trilogy *To Damascus* heavily influenced the German Expressionist movement. He established the Intimate Theatre in Stockholm, where only his plays were produced.

Strindberg married three times and divorced three times, which may have contributed to his often harsh depictions of women and marriage. Shortly before his death he was awarded the "Anti-Nobel Prize," a large sum of money raised through public subscription, as protest that he had never received the Nobel Prize.

THEMES AND ALLUSIONS

Freedom

Stephen Sachs' adaptation of *Miss Julie* is subtitled *Freedom Summer*, and is set against the backdrop of the American civil rights movement, specifically Freedom Summer in Mississippi. All three of the characters long for freedom. Miss Julie is trapped by her upbringing and gender. She has no money of her own, just that given to her by her father. Socially, she is trapped by the expectations of her class. Christine and John were born in a state where being black automatically made them second-class citizens. John wants to leave Mississippi, moving north to where he believes he will have more freedom. Julie wants to run away with him, believing she can find love away from the expectations of southern white society. But of the three characters in the play, only Christine is doing something concrete to achieve that freedom. Although she is barely literate, she is working with the Freedom Summer volunteers, attempting to educate and help both herself and others. In the end, John abandons his plans of escape, at least for the time being, while Julie shares the fate of her pet bird, unable to survive outside her own gilded cage.

Race/Gender/Class

By setting this adaptation in Mississippi during the summer of 1964, Stephen Sachs has added race to the pre-existing divisions of class and gender in Strindberg's original play. In this time and place, the colour of the skin determines social status and divides the members of their community. Miss Julie is white and a member of the ruling class, even if her own power is dependant upon her father. John and Christine are servants, who are all too aware that stepping outside the social boundaries determined by their race could lead to death. John warns Christine that the judge will fire her if she attempts to register for the vote. This point is driven home by the discovery of two dead bodies uncovered during the search for the missing civil rights workers.

Julie embodies the gender divide within herself. Her mother was a bohemian who refused to marry Julie's father, even when Julie was born. She dressed Julie in boy's clothes and taught her to do a man's job. But then one day she decided to change the gender roles on the plantation, forcing the field hands to work in the kitchen and clean the house, and sending the women out to work in the field. Her father put a stop to it then and forced her mother to marry him, trapping her forever in the cage of gender roles. Her mother taught Julie to hate men, to promise never to allow herself to become a slave to any man. Her father taught her to hate women. "Every thought I have is his," she tells John. "And every feeling I feel is my mother's. I am half man, half woman. I have no self of my own."

John is caught between two races, born of a black mother and a white father (who may or may not have been Julie's father). He belongs to neither community, a situation made even more apparent by his efforts at self-education. To his fellow servants, he seems like a snob. Miss Julie and her father might be impressed by his learning, but as an anomaly rather than an equal.

Power

Miss Julie has power over John and Christine. Not only is she the daughter of their employer, but she is also a white person in a community where colour and social class are inextricably entwined. And yet she is also powerless over her own life. She attempts to exert control over her fiancé, but he rebels and breaks their engagement. She orders John to dance with her, to wait on her, to kiss her foot, and because he is a black servant in Mississippi, he has to obey. But sexual attraction has its own power, and when things turn physical, strength of will and body trumps all social divisions.

GLOSSARY

Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner

James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner were three civil rights activists murdered on June 21, 1964 in Neshoba County, Mississippi. After being arrested on the pretext of speeding, an ambush was set up by the local Klan. On their way out of town, they were stopped and taken to an isolated spot where James Chaney (the only African-American) was savagely beaten. All three were shot to death, their bodies buried and their car driven into a swamp and set on fire. Their bodies weren't found for six weeks, and only after direct pressure from President Johnson forced the FBI to investigate.

Civil Rights Act

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 banned discrimination due to colour, race, national origin, religion or sex. It guaranteed voting rights, prohibited segregation or discrimination in restaurants, hotels and theatres, called for the desegregation of public schools, and limited government funding to organizations found to be discriminatory in practice.



Collard greens

A staple of Southern cuisine and “soul food”, collard greens are a headless variety of cabbage closely related to kale. They are usually cooked by boiling them with bacon or salt pork and are often served with cornbread to soak up the collard broth – or pot liquor – which is rich in nutrients.

Communism

An economic system in which property is owned communally and the division of labour is organized to the advantage of all, theoretically eliminating the need for the state. In practice, however, an authoritarian central government has controlled all aspects of the society, directing the economy through state policy rather than market action.



Walter Cronkite

(November 4, 1916-)

The anchor of the CBS Nightly News from 1962-1981, Walter Cronkite was known as “the most trusted man in America” for his professionalism, accuracy, and impartiality. He served as a correspondent for United Press International during World War II and joined CBS in 1950. As anchor of the evening news, he ended each broadcast with his signature call-out, “...and that’s the way it is.”

Declaration of Independence

A document adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776 that announced the separation of the thirteen American colonies from Britain and the creation of the United States of America. It was the first formal document affirming a people’s right to government of their choice. The document was primarily written by Thomas Jefferson, who was heavily influenced by John Locke’s *Second Treatise of Government*.

Don Juan

A famous figure in Spanish literature, portrayed as a heartless womanizer of great charm and courage. The story formed the basis for many works of literature and music, including the play *The Seducer*



Der Sanger Francisco d’Andrade at Don Giovanni in Mozarts Oper by Max Slavitt

of Seville by Tirso de Molina, perhaps the first written recording of the legend, Mozart’s opera *Don Giovanni* (1787), Shaw’s *Man and Superman* (1903), whose often-cut third act is entitled “Don Juan in Hell.”

Elks Lodge

The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks was founded in 1868 in New York City as a fraternal order and social club. Membership was originally restricted to white males, but was opened to all male American citizens in 1973 and to women in 1995. It currently has 1.3 million members belonging to 2,200 local lodges. The charitable arm of the organization carries out a broad range of community and social work.

Founding Fathers

The Founding Fathers of the United States were those political leaders who signed the Declaration of Independence, participated in the Constitutional Convention, or otherwise played a significant role in the American Revolution.



Scene at the Signing of the Constitution of the United States by Howard Chandler Christy

Freedom Houses

The houses, apartments or makeshift accommodation where Freedom Summer volunteers stayed while helping with the voter registration drives in Mississippi in 1964. The “houses” also acted as headquarters for their activities.

Freedom Riders

In 1961, African-American and white protesters traveled by bus through Alabama and Mississippi to challenge segregation laws in southern bus terminals. Although their actions often incited racial violence, they forced the federal government to take action and influenced a series of federal rulings and laws that ended systemic segregation in interstate travel.

Freedom Summer

A voter registration project in the summer of 1964, Freedom Summer was an initiative that came out of overall efforts to encourage and increase black voting in the south. Several hundred volunteers – primarily college students – travelled throughout Mississippi, working with the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party on voter drives and establishing summer schools.

Great Society

A slogan first used in 1965 by President Johnson to describe his program of national reform. His vision of a “Great Society” included a war on poverty, federal support for education, medical care for the elderly, and protected voting rights for African Americans. Many of the programs instituted, such as the Office of Economic Opportunity were dismantled by subsequent Republican administrations.

Greenwood

Nicknamed the Cotton Capital of the World, Greenwood is located on the Yazoo River in the Mississippi Delta and is the county seat of Leflore County, Mississippi. The original inhabitants were Choctaw Indians, but the area was ceded to the United States in the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, signed by Choctaw Chief Greenwood LeFlore in 1830.

Independence Hall

Commissioned by the Pennsylvania colonial legislature and completed in 1753, Independence Hall is a red-brick building in



Philadelphia where the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution were signed. It served as the principal meeting place of the Continental Congress during the Revolutionary War and the original home of the Liberty Bell.

Indochina

A former French colony in Southeast Asia, including Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, it was formed in 1887. Following the 1954 French defeat by the Viet Minh at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu, France relinquished all claims to territory in Southeast Asia.

Jackson

The largest city in Mississippi, Jackson is located along the Pearl River and first settled by a French-Canadian trader named Louis LeFleur, who called it LeFleur’s Bluff. It was renamed for President Andrew Jackson when it became the state capital in 1822.

Jasmine

A genus of tropical and subtropical plants in the olive family, jasmine is known for its fragrant white or yellow blossoms, which can be used for scented tea or perfumery.

Lyndon Bains Johnson

(August 27, 1908-January 22, 1973)

Lyndon Baines Johnson was the 36th President of the United States, succeeding to the presidency following Kennedy’s assassination on November 22, 1963. He went on to win the 1964 Presidential election, but chose not to run for a second term in 1968.



Liberty Bell

Commissioned by the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1751 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of William Penn’s Charter of Privileges, which established a unicameral legislature and elected assembly of freemen, the Liberty Bell is a symbol of American independence and freedom. Inscribed with words from Leviticus 25:10 – “Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof” – the bell cracked at its first ringing and was subsequently recast, but finally became unusable after tolling on Washington’s Birthday in 1846.



Memphis

Located in south-western Tennessee, overlooking the Mississippi River, Memphis was founded in 1819 on the site of a Chickasaw Indian village and former U.S. fort. It was devastated by a yellow fever epidemic in the 1870s and temporarily lost its charter, but by the turn of the century was the state’s largest city. It is known as the birthplace of the blues and is home to Graceland, Elvis Presley’s mansion.

Mississippi

A state in the south-eastern United States, Mississippi was admitted into the Union in 1817, after passing through French, English and Spanish hands. Prior to that, it was home to the Choctaw, Natchez and Chickasaw Indians. It seceded from the Union during the Civil War and was readmitted in 1870. During the 1960s it was a major battleground in the struggle for civil rights and opposition to racial segregation.



Mrs. Kennedy

(July 28, 1929-May 19, 1994)
Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis was an American icon of style and grace. Her first marriage to Senator John F. Kennedy in 1953 made her First Lady of the United States when Kennedy was elected President in 1960. She married

Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis in 1968, and after his death returned permanently to the United States and started a successful career as a book editor, first at Viking and then at Doubleday.

Neshoba County

A county in Mississippi named for the Choctaw word for gray wolf, Neshoba County is famous for its County Fair, where Ronald Reagan launched his 1980 presidential campaign.

Peeping Tom

The term for a person who receives pleasure – specifically sexual gratification – from secretly watching or spying on others comes from the story of Lady Godiva, who rode naked through the Coventry

marketplace so that her husband, the Earl of March would reduce the tax burden on his subjects. According to later versions of the story, she asked all the townspeople to remain indoors during the ride; one man, a butcher or tailor named Tom, peeked through the shutters, and was struck blind for his act.

SNCC

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee was formed in April 1960 to coordinate southern black college students in non-violent protest against segregation policies, including sit-ins at segregated lunch counters and the Freedom Rides throughout the south. It later played a central role in the voter registration campaigns. It later adopted a more radical agenda under Stokely Carmichael and disbanded in 1970.

Sweet potato pie

A traditional dessert, popular in the Southern United States, sweet potato pie is made in an open pie shell filled with sweet potatoes, milk, sugar, eggs, and flavoured with cinnamon and nutmeg.



Temperance

A social movement dedicated to controlling alcohol consumption, temperance began in the early 19th century in the United States as a church-sponsored movement. While the movement reached its political pinnacle with the passage of Prohibition, the legacy of temperance continues through “dry counties” or the nearly 500 communities in the United States that prohibit the sale of alcohol.

FREEDOM SUMMER

In the summer of 1964, hundreds of volunteers, mostly students from Northern universities, travelled to Mississippi to register African American voters in a state that had essentially disenfranchised a large portion of its population.

The Summer Project was organized by the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), which was a coalition of four civil rights organizations already operating in Mississippi: the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP), the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). These organizations banded together to coordinating voter registration and education programs in the state over a period of several years, though Freedom Summer was by far the highest-profile project.

Two one-week orientation sessions were held for volunteers at Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio, between June 14 and June 27, after which volunteers were dispatched to Mississippi communities to work with local volunteers.

In addition to attempting to register black voters – a formidable task, given the literacy tests used by the state to disenfranchise black voters, which in many cases denied literate African Americans the vote while passing illiterate white citizens. In response, COFO set up Freedom Schools across the state, designed to encourage black students to become active and involved in their communities. Over the course of the summer, 41 Freedom Schools were opened – in churches, on back porches, under trees – educating over 2500 students, ranging in age from toddlers to the elderly. The curriculum focused on literacy, basic arithmetic, black history, civil rights, and the political process.

The campaign provoked deep suspicion and violence from white Mississippians, who resented and feared any change to their status quo. Over the ten weeks of the project, for civil rights workers were killed, eight Freedom Summer workers were beaten, 37 churches were bombed or burned, and 1000 volunteers were arrested.

On June 21, 1964, James Chaney (a black CORE activist from Mississippi), Michael Schwerner (a white CORE organization from New York), and Andrew Goodman (a white volunteer from New York) were arrested by Deputy Cecil Price of Neshoba County, a member of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, on trumped up charges of speeding. They were held until nightfall and denied the opportunity to call for assistance, while an ambush was set up. They were released and ordered out of town, where they were once again arrested and held until the local Klan chapter arrived. James Chaney was brutally beaten, and then all three men were shot to death. Their bodies were buried in an earthen dam and their car was set on fire and driven into a swamp.

Mississippi refused to investigate, and it was only when President Lyndon B. Johnson put direct pressure on J. Edgar Hoover that the FBI became involved. Johnson also used national outrage over the murders to bring about the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 on July 2.

In the end, only 1,600 of the 17,000 Mississippi blacks that tried to register to vote succeeded. But it helped publicize the institutionalized persecution of black voters in the South and transformed the lives of all who took part.

A TIMELINE OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

(more detailed timelines can be found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_African-American_Civil_Rights_Movement and http://www.outreach.olemiss.edu/Freedom_Riders/Timeline.html)

1492 – Columbus “discovers” America. Over the next half-millennium, the indigenous population of the Americas was over-run, massacred, put in reservations and marginalized.

1607 – Virginia is settled by the English. The agricultural South requires vast labour pools, first supported by indentured servants, and then by slavery.

1619 – The first record of African slavery in Colonial America, when a Dutch ship trades a cargo of 20 captured slaves for repairs and supplies.

1654 – John Casor is deemed the property for life of black colonist Anthony Johnson, the first legally recognized slave in the United States.

1705 – A Virginia slave code states that all servants brought into the country that were not born Christian are slaves.

September 9, 1739 – South Carolina slaves start the Stono Rebellion, marching south to Spanish Florida, burning seven plantations en route. The rebellion was suppressed in a day and the surviving slaves were decapitated and their heads placed on pikes.

July 13, 1787 – The Northwest Ordinance bans the expansion of slavery into territories north of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi.

September 1829 – Publication of the abolitionist pamphlet *Walker’s Appeal*.

August 1831 – Nat Turner leads a slave rebellion resulting in several hundred deaths, during the rebellion and in the violent backlash after it was suppressed.

1847 – Frederick Douglass begins publishing the abolitionist newspaper the *North Star*.

March 6, 1857 – In *Dred Scott vs. Sandford*, the Supreme Court rules that people of African descent imported into the United States as slaves, and their descendants, could never be citizens. The ruling was intended to settle the question of slavery, particularly in terms of expansion into new territories, but only strengthened the abolition movement.

1861 – The American Civil War begins, a conflict over state’s rights that focussed on slavery.

September 22, 1862 – Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all slaves in states currently in rebellion.

December 18, 1865 – The Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution abolishes slavery in the United States.

April 9, 1866 – The Civil Rights Act (I) is passed by Congress, making all persons born in the United States citizens, regardless of race, but with the exception of “Indians not taxed.”

July 9, 1868 – The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution requires states to provide equal protection under the law to all citizens.

February 3, 1870 – The Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution guarantees the right of all male citizens to vote regardless of race.

February 25, 1870 – Hiram Rhodes Revels becomes the first black member of the Senate.

December 11 – P.B.S. Pinchback becomes the first black member of Congress.

March 1, 1875 – The Civil Rights Act (II) is passed, guaranteeing that everyone, regardless of race, was entitled to the same treatment in “public accommodations.” It is found unconstitutional in 1883.

1875 – The Mississippi Plan is formulated by white Democrats to undermine the Republic Party by suppressing black voting.

1876 – The first Jim Crow laws are passed, state and local laws that mandated segregation in public facilities.

February 12, 1909 – The first meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), an inter-racial civil rights group.

1929 – The League of United Latin American Citizens is founded to fight for the rights of Hispanic Americans.

April 15, 1947 – Jackie Robinson becomes the first African-American to play a major league baseball game in 60 years.

September 4, 1952 – Eleven black students attend Claymont High School, becoming the first students in the 17 segregated states to integrate into a white school.

May 17, 1954 – Brown vs. Board of Education ends segregation in public schools. The Supreme Court decision states that state laws that established separate schools for black and white students deny black students the right to equal educational opportunities.

1954 – The Supreme Court rules that Mexican Americans and all racial groups in America are entitled to equal protection under the 14th Amendment in Hernandez vs. Texas.

1955 – Emmett Till, a black teenager is murdered for flirting with a white woman in Mississippi. His public, open-casket funeral increases support for the civil rights movement.

December 1, 1955 – Rosa Parks is arrested for refusing to give her bus seat up to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama, sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott and a string of non-violent protests against segregation.

1956 – 19 Senators and 81 Congressmen from the south sign the Southern Manifesto, opposing integration of schools.

1957 – The Southern Christian Leadership Conference is formed with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as chairman.

September 1957 – The National Guard is sent in to ensure that Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas is integrated.

1957 – Civil Rights Act (III) becomes the first civil rights legislation passed by Congress since Reconstruction. It is designed to safeguard voting rights for African Americans.

February 1, 1960 – Four black students sit at the Woolworth’s lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, beginning a six-month sit-in campaign.

April 1960 – The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee is founded to coordinate civil rights actions and protests.

May 6, 1960 – Civil Rights Act (IV) is signed and establishes penalties for the obstruction of voting rights.

December 5, 1960 – Boynton v. Virginia outlaws racial segregation in bus terminals.

May 4, 1961 – The first group of Freedom Riders begins testing desegregation rulings on interstate bus travel.

September 30, 1962 – James Meredith becomes the first black student to enrol at the University of Mississippi, resulting in a riot.

November 20, 1962 – President John F. Kennedy signs an executive order banning segregation in Federally funded housing.

1963 – 80,000 blacks are registered to vote in Mississippi as part of a test project.

August 28, 1963 – The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, a political rally attracts 200,000 to 300,000 participants. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers the “I have a dream speech.”

September 15, 1963 – The 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama is bombed by members of the Ku Klux Klan, killing four black girls.

June 1964 – Freedom Summer in Mississippi is launched to register black voters for the 1964 presidential election.

June 21, 1964 – Three civil rights workers disappear in Neshoba County, Mississippi, and are later found murdered.

July 2, 1964 – Civil Rights Act (V) is signed, outlawing racial segregation in schools, public places and employment, as well as prohibiting discrimination based on sex. It is upheld by the Supreme Court in *Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States*.

December 10, 1964 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

August 6, 1965 – The Voting Rights Act is signed, outlawing discriminatory voting practices, in particular the literary tests that had been used by southern states to disenfranchise African Americans.

August 11, 1965 – The Watts riots erupt over six days in Los Angeles, resulting in 34 deaths, more than 1000 injuries, and 4000 arrests.

June 12, 1967 – The Supreme Court rules in *Loving v. Virginia* that prohibiting interracial marriage is unconstitutional.

June 13, 1967 – Thurgood Marshall becomes the first African American appointed to the Supreme Court.

April 4, 1968 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is shot and killed in Memphis, Tennessee.

April 11, 1968 – Civil Rights Act (VI) is signed, including the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing.

1969 – Congress passes the Indian Civil Rights Act, extending to Native Americans the rights first guaranteed to whites in the Bill of Rights (1791).

February 27, 1973 – A 71-day standoff begins at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, between federal authorities and members of the American Indian Movement.

1991 – Civil Rights Act (VI) is passed, providing the right to trial by jury on employment discrimination claims.

April 22, 1992 – The Los Angeles riots erupt after four police officers videotaped beating Rodney King are acquitted.

November 4, 2008 – Barack Obama is elected the first Africa-America president of the United States.

IDEAS AND EXPLORATIONS

Adapt

Miss Julie: Freedom Summer is a free adaptation of the original play by August Strindberg. Other examples in this genre would include *West Side Story*, a free adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* or the movie *Clueless*, a free adaptation of *Emma*. All three of these adaptations take the original story out of time and place, while maintaining the essential plot.

Can you think of another classic story that might work in a different time and place? What makes some stories more universal than others? Many of Shakespeare's histories have been successfully transposed to a different era to make a specific political or historical statement – for example, Richard Eyre (in a version later adapted for the screen by Sir Ian McKellan) set *Richard III* in a quasi-fascist England of the 1930s.

Choose a favourite play, novel, or movie and explain how and why you would transpose it to a different time. What aspects of the original would have to be altered? What themes would be emphasized, what themes might be altered in a different time and place?

Civil Rights

Choose an event from the timeline of the civil rights movement (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_African-American_Civil_Rights_Movement) and prepare a short research paper describing what happened and how it influenced (or constrained) the fight for freedom and equality.

Civil and human rights are still an issue around the world. Go to the Amnesty International website and choose a human rights topic. In what parts of the world is that issue still a problem? What is Canada's record on human and civil rights? Keep in mind that women only received the right to vote in Quebec in 1940 and the right to vote was only extended unconditionally to First Nations people in 1960.

2008 marked the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted on December 10, 1948. It was the first global expression of the rights to which all humans are inherently entitled, and is made up of thirty articles. Choose one article and discuss the inherent right it outlines.

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

“Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains.” Jean-Jacques Rousseau

“I say to you that our goal is freedom, and I believe we are going to get there because however much she strays away from it, the goal of America is freedom. Abused and scorned though we may be as a people, our destiny is tied up in the destiny of America.” Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.” I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state, sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. 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. I have a dream today.” Martin Luther King, Jr.

“If you were handed power on a plate you'd be left fighting over a plate.” Tom Stoppard

“Political Freedom without economic equality is a pretense, a fraud, a lie; and the workers want no lying.” Mikhail Bakunin

“We ask justice, we ask equality, we ask that all civil and political rights that belong to the citizens of the United States be guaranteed to us and our daughters forever.” Susan B. Anthony

“The prejudice against colour, of which we hear so much, is no stronger than that against sex. It is produced by the same cause, and manifested very much in the same way. The Negro’s skin and the woman’s sex are both prima facie evidence that they were intended to be in subjection to the white Saxon man.” Elizabeth Cady Stanton

“The feminist agenda is not about equal rights for women. It is about a socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism and become lesbians.” Pat Robertson

“Freedom is just another word for nothing left to lose.” Kris Kristofferson

“I loathe people who keep dogs. They are cowards who haven’t got the guts to bite people themselves.” August Strindberg

RECOMMENDED READING & VIEWING

Miss Julie, August Strindberg

Compare the free adaptation to the original.

The Father, *The Dream Play*, August Strindberg

Two other plays by August Strindberg, one naturalistic, the other symbolic.

Absalom, Absalom!, and *The Sound and the Fury*, William Faulkner

Two novels about the decline of the South, telling the stories of the Sutpen and Compson families.

To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee

A coming-of-age story set around the trial of a black man accused of raping a white woman, it is one of the most widely read books dealing with race – as well as class and gender roles – in America.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain

The adventures of a white boy and a runaway slave as they drift down the Mississippi River in search of freedom.

Howard's End, E.M. Forster

A novel about the difficulties and benefits of relationships between members of different social classes.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Edward Albee

The ultimate battle of the sexes – a husband and wife indulge in constant, vicious one-upmanship.

The Women's Room, Marilyn French

A novel about the feminist movement during the 1950s and 1960s.

Attack on Terror: The FBI vs. the Ku Klux Klan

Mississippi Burning

Murder in Mississippi

Three movies about the murder of three civil rights workers in 1964, an incident referenced in the play.

Eyes on the Prize

A PBS documentary series about the American Civil Rights movement between 1954-1985.

INTERNET SITES OF NOTE

Playhouse Theatre Company

www.vancouverplayhouse.com

Visit the Playhouse website for more information about *Miss Julie: Freedom Summer* and the entire Playhouse season.

August Strindberg: Painter, Photographer, Writer

<http://www.tate.org.uk/modern/exhibitions/strindberg/timeline.shtm>

A timeline of Strindberg's life, compiled as part of an exhibition of his paintings at the Tate Modern.

Miss Julie – a play by August Strindberg

http://www.theatredatabase.com/20th_century/august_strindberg_004.html

An analysis of the original play, first published in *The Social Significance of Modern Drama*

Farmer's Freedom Song

<http://www.freedomssong.net/index.html>

Website for a documentary film about African-American history, including lesson plans and resources.

Freedom Riders: Timeline

http://www.outreach.olemiss.edu/Freedom_Riders/Timeline.html

A comprehensive timeline of civil rights activity in the United States between 1900-1968.

Youtube, MySpace, Google Video links:

Universal Declaration of Human Rights animation

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epVZrYbDVis@feature=related>

Animated representations of the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Civil Rights Timeline

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpYmHxPwOp0@feature=related>

A video timeline of the Civil Rights movement from 1863-present

Martin Luther King "I have a dream"

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbUtL_0vAJk@feature=related

A recording of King's speech in Washington

E-STAGE: PLAYHOUSE YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS

Calling all high school playwrights!

The Playhouse is looking for up to 15 young writers to participate in a new programme aimed at encouraging a new generation of playwrights who reflect the many faces of our community.

The programme, now in its second year, will feature:

- 1) Biweekly group meetings to discuss works in progress with mentors and guest lecturers, such as Kevin Loring (*Where the Blood Mixes*) and Joan MacLeod (*Toronto, Mississippi*)
- 2) The opportunity to attend technical rehearsals and opening nights of Playhouse productions
- 3) An online writing forum, moderated by Playhouse mentors, designed to act as a writers' workshop and blog
- 4) A weeklong workshop over spring break that includes dramaturgy, table work with a professional director and actors, and scene blocking
- 5) A showcase performance of an 8-minute scene from each student on the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre stage.

To apply, submit a one-page sample of your writing, as well as a brief personal history, including cultural background or connections, school name and grade, and writing aspirations.

Send to the attention of:
Meredith Elliott, Education and Outreach
melliott@vancouverplayhouse.com
127 East 2nd Ave.
Vancouver, BC
V5T 1B4
Email submissions preferred
Deadline for submissions: January 9, 2009