Blood Done Sign My Name

Based on the book by
Dr. Timothy Tyson

Adapted and performed by
Mike Wiley

September 10 – 27, 2020
Cast of Characters
(race listed for clarity)

Older Tim (White Male)  Thad Stem Jr. (White Male)
Boyhood Tim (White Male 10-12yr old) Rosanna Allen (Black Female)
Robert Teel (White Male) Boo Chavis (Black Male)
Eddie McCoy (Black Male) Dickie (Black Male)
Martha Tyson (White Female) Golden Frinks (Black Male)
Judy Teel (White Female) Eveline Downey (Black Female)
Boyhood Gerald Teel (White Male) Hugh Currin (White Male)
Vernon Tyson (White Male) Herman Cozart (Black Male)
Francis Taltton (White Female)

Where
Oxford, North Carolina

When
1970

Obituary

Mr. Henry Doctress Marrow, Jr., son of the late Henry D. Marrow, Sr., and surviving Ivey Hunt Marrow, was born in Granville County, N.C., Jan. 8, 1947 and died May 12, 1970 at Duke Medical Center, Durham, N.C.

He attended the public schools of Oxford, N.C., and two years at Kittrell College, Kittrell, N.C. He later entered military service where he distinguished his service in the Air Force, attending sniper-marksmanship school and received a Certificate of Accomplishment in the field of Radio and Television repairing.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Willie Mae Sidney Marrow; two daughters, Tammy and Tasha Marrow, all of the home; his mother, Mrs. Ivey Hunt Marrow of Newark, N.J.; one sister, Miss. Deborah Marrow, Newark, N.J.; maternal grandmother, Mrs. Amanda Allen of Oxford; paternal grandmother, Mrs. Nannie Marrow of Oxford; four uncles, Ivory Marrow of Oxford, Ralph Hunt of Durham, Talmadge Hunt of Norfolk, Va., and John H. Hunt of Newark, N.J.; four aunts, Mrs. Mildred Ellebee, Mrs. Joyce Shepard, Mrs. Wilma Taylor, all of Newark, N.J., and Mrs. Polly Slaughter of Oxford; father and mother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Sidney of Oxford, and numerous nieces and nephews, relatives and friends.
The Performance

In the best-selling book Blood Done Sign My Name, author and historian Tim Tyson recounts the 1970 murder of Henry “Dickie” Marrow in Oxford, NC and the events that followed. Marrow, who was black, was chased from a local store by three white men after he reportedly made a crude remark to one of the men’s wives. They brutally beat Marrow then killed him with a bullet to the head in view of multiple witnesses. Despite the eyewitness reports, an all-white jury acquitted the men. The town’s black community responded to the events with an uprising that destroyed downtown businesses and several tobacco warehouses holding millions of dollars in harvested crops. Tyson, who was a ten-year-old child in Oxford at the time, recounts how the conflagration of events shaped his life and offers all of us an opportunity to examine our own roles in the complex and often confusing racial fabric of America.

Mike Wiley Productions
Booking information:
goingbarefoot
919.614.1235
goingbarefoot.com
mikewileyproductions.com

Timothy B. Tyson (Book Author) is senior research scholar at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University and adjunct professor of American Studies at the University of North Carolina. His most recent book, The Blood of Emmett Till, won the 2018 Robert F. Kennedy Book Award; made the “long list” of ten books for the 2017 National Book Award, and was named Best Book of 2017 by both the Los Angeles Times and National Public Radio. The Atlanta Journal-Constition named it Best Southern Book of 2017. Vann R. Newkirk of The Atlantic writes that The Blood of Emmett Till manages to turn history into prophecy and demands that we do the one vital thing we aren’t often enough asked to do with history—learn from it. Tyson is also the author of Blood Done Sign My Name, finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, winner of the Southern Book Award for Nonfiction and the Grawemeyer Award in Religion. Tyson was executive producer of Mike Wiley’s 2008 play and writer-consultant for Jeb Stuart’s 2010 feature film adaptation by that title. His 1999 book, Radio Free Dixie: Robert F. Williams and the Roots of Black Power, won the James Rawley Prize for best book on race and the Frederick Jackson Turner Prize for best first book in U.S. History from the Organization of American Historians (OAH); it was also the basis for Negroes with Guns: Rob Williams and Black Power, which the OAH awarded the 2006 Eric Barnou Prize for best historical film. He is co-editor with David Cecelski of Democracy Betrayed: The Wilmington Race Riot of 1898 and Its Legacy, which won the 1998 Outstanding Book Award from the Gustavus Meyers Center for Human Rights in North America and author of Ghosts of 1898: Wilmington’s Race Riot and the Rise of White Supremacy, which won 2007 Excellence Award from the National Association of Black Journalists. He serves on the executive board of the North Carolina NAACP, Repairers of the Breach, and the UNC Center for Civil Rights.
Cast

Mike Wiley is a North Carolina-based actor & playwright whose compelling works of documentary theatre yield powerful journeys through milestones and turning points of a shared American history. With a remarkable ability to inspire dialog, his creative vision and talents are broad and magnetic, leading audiences and communities to begin to peel layers and barriers to true “community.” When a curtain comes down on a Mike Wiley performance, the experience has far from “ended.”

It’s more likely that light may have seeped through, that a stubborn door may have just nudged open.

His ensemble and solo-actor plays include The Parchman Hour, Downrange: Stories From The Homefront, Dar He: The Story Of Emmett Till, the theatrical adaptation of Tim Tyson’s Blood Done Sign My Name, the epic Leaving Eden, Breach Of Peace and more. The film adaptation of Wiley’s Dar He, in which he portrays 30+ roles, received more than 40 major film festival awards around the globe. The Parchman Hour was selected as the closing event of the official 50th year anniversary commemoration of the Freedom Riders in Jackson, MS and his plays have been selected for showcase by juries at a majority of performing arts conferences across America. His ensemble plays have been produced by major regional theatres in the US including Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, Hatiloo Theatre in Memphis, Playmakers Repertory Company in Chapel Hill, NC, Virginia Stage in Norfolk and Cape Fear Regional Theatre in Fayetteville, NC.

Wiley has more than fifteen years credits in documentary theatre for young audiences plus film, television and regional theatre. An Upward Bound alum and Trio Achiever Award recipient, he is an M.F.A. graduate of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and is a former Lehman-Brady Visiting Joint Chair Professor at Duke University’s Center for Documentary Studies. He has conducted numerous educational residencies funded through grant programs of the North Carolina Arts Council and has performed across the US and in Canada. He is a 2017 recipient of the University of North Carolina’s Distinguished Alumni Award. His most recent large-scale ensemble-cast plays are Leaving Eden and Peace Of Clay (co-written with Howard Craft.) Wiley’s overriding goal is expanding cultural awareness for audiences of all ages through dynamic portrayals based on pivotal moments in African-American history and, in doing so, helping to unveil a richer picture of the total American experience.
Mary D Williams has traveled to hundreds of colleges and universities, several hundred public schools, hundreds of churches, libraries, and several Civic Education Consortium trainings, and Programs for the Humanities & Human Values for public school teachers’ institutes, several of them week-long training sessions for teachers. Performances for the United States Congress, lecture/performances for Civil Rights symposiums in Montpelier, France, concerts in the North Carolina State Capital as well as concerts for men and women that are incarcerated in the State and County penitentiaries, benefit performances for Cancer patients, domestic violence and homeless victims.

Along with colleague Dr. Timothy B. Tyson teach a college course, “The South in Black and White: History, Culture and Politics in the 20th Century South.” Mary is a public educator, with a BA in American Studies with a double minor, History and African American Diaspora from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Mary completed her graduate studies with a MA in Folklore from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC. Mary continues to study North Carolina history facilitating graduate seminars at Duke and has been doing scholarly explorations of the history and theory of gospel music with Professor Jerma Jackson at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Mary has performed and provided her voice to the soundtrack for the Hollywood movie, directed by North Carolina’s own Jeb Stuart, Blood Done Sign My Name, (February 2010). As well as the television movie The Wronged Man a lifetime movie premiering, November, 2009. Mary will star with Mike Wiley, an African-American genius playwright and actor, in his play Blood Done Sign My Name, which opened at Shafer Theatre at Duke on November, 2009. In addition a concert featuring Mary, The North Carolina State Capitol for the 150th year of the 13th Amendment. February 2016 Song and Narrative of the Black South, The North Carolina State Capitol. Recently, Mary was featured on Dick Gordon’s show, The Story, on National Public Radio, a program which called upon mind, memory and singing voice: “When you listen to Mary D. Williams,” Professor Werner continues, “you’re hearing the voice of a great singer, but you’re also hearing the voices of the elders and the ancestors.” Mary has received many prestigious honors and awards and is currently working on her first children’s book, Gonna Move On Up A Little Higher.

Website: www.marydwilliams.com
About The Clayton Center

The Clayton Center is located in the heart of historic downtown Clayton, North Carolina, 20 minutes east of Raleigh in Johnston County. Enhancing the quality of life in Clayton by providing state-of-the-art meeting and entertainment facilities, The Clayton Center supports and promotes the arts in the local community and surrounding regions through engaging, enriching, and educating individuals by presenting a diverse array of high-quality artists.

Between 1999 and 2002, the Clayton Cultural Arts Foundation led an extraordinary fund raising effort and the Town of Clayton put forth significant investment in a historic renovation that transformed the old school buildings into The Clayton Center – a unique, multipurpose space that is home to a 600-seat performing arts auditorium, a comfortable conference center for public and private events, and office space for town government operations.

The Clayton Center officially opened on the night of New Year’s Eve 2002 and continues today to serve the communities of Clayton, Johnston County, and the greater Triangle area as the result of a successful public-private partnership between individuals committed to preserving the past, honoring the present, and looking toward the future.

www.theclaytoncenter.com

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Camera Operators: Nader Aboulhosn, Ethan McKenzie, Scotty Henley
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