

CHILDREN'S THEATRE
NOVEMBER THEATRE / ARENSTEIN STAGE

VIRGINIA
rep



Harriet Tubman

AND THE
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

TAKING PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT YOUR HEALTH

This production will be socially distanced. Only 121 of the 553 seats at the November Theatre are for sale – less than 25% of capacity – to allow for ample distance between patrons.

Face masks are mandatory for staff and audience members (ages 2 and up) while inside the theatre.

Virginia Rep will be following all regulations established by the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Phase 3 guidelines for performing arts venues. We will offer touchless ticketing and playbills, hand sanitizer stations throughout the lobby, and other safety protocols, to ensure the safety of both the audience and performers.

VIRTUAL PLAYBILL

Our **new** virtual playbill allows you to get all the information about the play without the paper copy. Explore the many live links (in blue) in this playbill for more information about the play and Virginia Rep.



VIDEO ON DEMAND

If you would like to watch this musical with those who are unable to come to the theatre, a video of the *Harriet Tubman* performance is available to rent for \$15 at **showtix4u.com**

<https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/40055>

LEADERSHIP



PHIL WHITEWAY

Managing Director

Phil is a key leader in Virginia's nonprofit arts management community. He co-founded Theatre IV in 1975 with Bruce Miller as Virginia's first professional theatre for young audiences. In 2001, he assumed the role of Managing Director of Barksdale Theatre. In 2012, he provided staff leadership as Theatre IV and Barksdale merged to form Virginia Rep, Central Virginia's flagship professional theatre. Under his management, Phil's companies have received the first *Excellence in Instruction Award* from the Virginia Board of Education, the *Dominion Shining Star Award* from Virginians for the Arts, and the *50 for 50 Arts Inspiration Award* from the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

Phil was a founding member of the boards of the Richmond Arts Consortium and the Broad Street Association. Under his staff leadership, Theatre IV purchased and renovated our historic November Theatre, receiving the *Community Builders Award* from the Central Richmond Association for its contribution to downtown revitalization. Phil is a graduate and past board member of Leadership Metro Richmond. He has served on the Governance Board of Partners in the Arts and as treasurer of Virginians for the Arts.

Phil has received the *Voice of the University Award* from his alma mater (University of Richmond), the *Teresa Pollak Lifetime Achievement Award* from *Richmond Magazine*, and the *Governor's Award for the Arts* from Tim Kaine. In 2000, Phil was included by *Style Weekly* among the "100 Most Influential Richmonders of the 20th Century."

Phil consults on arts management both locally and nationally. He is forever grateful for the love and support of his wife, Donna, and their four adult children—PJ, Jennings, Alex, and Gordon.

Managing Director Phil Whiteway
Associate Artistic Director Kikau Alvaro

VIRGINIA rep

Harriet Tubman

AND THE
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

BOOK AND LYRICS BY **DOUGLAS JONES**
MUSIC BY **RON BARNETT**
DEVELOPED BY **VIRGINIA REP**

STAGE MANAGEMENT
Gordon Bass

MUSIC DIRECTION
Anthony Smith

COSTUME DESIGN
Sarah Grady

SCENIC DESIGN
Terrie Powers

DIRECTION
Katrinah Carol Lewis

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VIRGINIA
COMMISSION FOR THE **Arts**

CAST

- Harriet Tubman **Marjie Southerland**
- First Woman **Meghan Norwood Beck**
- First Man **William Anderson**
- Second Woman **Sydnee Graves**
- Second Man **Mackenzie Edwards**

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production or distributing recordings on any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the author's rights and actionable under United States copyright law.

SPIRITUALS

Swing Low Sweet Chariot
Follow the Drinking Gourd
Go Down Moses
Wade in the Water

Download the *Harriet Tubman* Study Guide

Download for more information and learning activities for grades 3-8.
<http://bit.ly/HTubmanGuideQR>.



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COMPANY BIOS



Marjie Southerland (Harriet Tubman) loves to perform whether it be singing or dancing. She also loves to eat cupcakes for breakfast and read comic books. She wants you to remember that history teaches us where we've been, so we know where we need to go. Enjoy the show!



Meghan Norwood Beck (First Woman) has been touring with Virginia Rep since her college graduation in 2017! Her other greatest achievement is watching seasons 1-7 of *Game of Thrones* in 4 days. She would like to thank Wilson and Lincoln for the puppy cuddles and Warren for running lines and providing snacks!! This show is so important in this time and I hope everyone learns something new.



William Anderson (First Man) loves to sing and dance, and will do it almost anywhere he can. When he is not on stage having fun, he is teaching others how to have that same kind of fun. Also, he loves the color blue and his favorite time of year is Fall! Thank you for going on this journey with me, and here's to many more adventures!



Sydnee Graves (Second Woman) is a huge *Harry Potter* fan, and loves to sing at the top of her lungs. This Slytherin is currently learning five languages! She is very excited to be a part of *Harriet Tubman*!



Mackenzie Edwards (Second Man) started his acting career performing and singing in his living room at the top of his lungs. He always loved to perform whether it was in sports or theatre; regardless, anytime he gets to take the stage he can't help but smile ear to ear!

COMPANY BIOS

Katrinah Carol Lewis (Direction) is a director, actor, singer, playwright and teacher. She fell in love with performing as a child! In her free time, she likes to color, dance, play the guitar, practice yoga, and spend time with friends, family and her kitten, Meredith.

Anthony Smith (Music Director) learned to play piano from his mom, who started teaching him when he was three years old! His favorite food is pizza, and he has THREE incredible, amazing dogs.

Terrie Powers (Scenic Design) is happy to help with the presentation of today's story by creating the setting for *Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad*. Terrie likes to draw and paint, hike mountains, and read many, many books - very often, with her beagle Snoopy nearby.

Sarah Grady (Costume Designer) got her start dressing her younger brother in funny clothes and quickly moved onto designing costumes for her Barbie dolls. That childhood passion turned into a full time job and now she has the pleasure of costuming actors!

Gordon Bass (Stage Manager) Favorite roles include Bob the Donkey in *The Brentown Band*, The Wizard in *The Wizard of Oz*, and the Giant in *Jack and the Beanstalk*. He has also played assorted kings, wild and domestic animals and other wonderful characters in his 30+ years with Theatre IV and Virginia Rep. Life in the theatre has been very good to him. He could have not done it without the love and support of his wife of 31 years, Nancy.

VIRGINIA REP'S VIRTUAL OPTIONS

Virginia Rep has many virtual entertainment and learning options available at our website. <https://va-rep.org/virtual.html>

Bedtime Stories

Curl up with your little one as we bring fairy tales to life with local actors telling the stories. The stories are appropriate for children ages 4 - 8.

<https://va-rep.org/aha/bedtime.html>



Hope from Home Monologues

Hosted by the director of *Harriet Tubman*, Katrinah Carol Lewis. We've gathered your stories during the COVID-19 crisis, and our playwrights are shaping them into uplifting messages for our community. The monologues are performed by some of your favorite local actors.

<https://bit.ly/rephope>



A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

To borrow from Tennessee Williams' final lines in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Virginia Rep "always depends on the kindness of strangers." To an even greater extent, like Lennon and McCartney, "we get by with a little help from our friends."

Like all nonprofit professional theatres, symphonies, ballet and opera companies, we need 35% to 40% of our annual operating revenue to come from contributions if we are to remain healthy and strong. Unlimited and creative giving opportunities exist within our annual fund drive and/or our ongoing capital and endowment campaigns.

Whatever your means and giving preferences, we hope you will consider becoming a part of Virginia Rep's family of friends. Please contact **Phil Whiteway at (804) 783-1688 ext. 1116.**

And please know that your support is genuinely needed, will be wisely spent and greatly appreciated.

Spirituals

Songs were used in everyday life by enslaved people. Singing served many purposes, such as providing rhythm for repetitive manual work, as well as being used as inspiration, motivation, and celebration. Singing was also a way to express values and solidarity with one another. Songs were used as tools to remember and communicate, since the majority of the enslaved could not read. Sometimes the songs were called spirituals. The spiritual is the earliest form of African-American religious music to develop in the United States.

Harriet Tubman and other enslaved people used songs as a strategy to communicate in their struggle for freedom. Coded songs contained words giving directions on how to escape; they were also known as signal songs or map songs.

Songs sometimes used Biblical references and analogies of Biblical people, places and stories, comparing them to their own history of slavery. For example, “being bound for the land of Canaan” for a white person could mean ready to die and go to heaven; but to an enslaved person it meant “ready to go to Canada”.

These are some coded songs and their meanings:

<i>Wade in the Water</i>	Tubman used “Wade in the Water” to tell the enslaved to get into the water to avoid being seen and smelled or tracked by dogs. This is an example of a map song, where directions are coded into the lyrics.		This song suggests escaping in the Spring as the days get longer. It also refers to quails, birds which start calling each other in April. The “drinking gourd” is a code name for the Big Dipper, which points to the Pole Star towards the north. Moss grows on the north side of dead trees, so if the Big Dipper is not visible, dead trees will guide them north.
<i>Steal Away</i>	This song communicates that the person singing is planning to escape.	<i>Follow the Drinking Gourd</i>	
<i>Sweet Chariot</i>	If an enslaved person heard this song he would know he had to be ready to escape. The Underground Railroad (sweet chariot) is coming south (swing low) to take the enslaved to the north or freedom (carry me home). This was one of Tubman’s favorite songs. ¹	<i>Unnamed Song</i>	This unnamed song was sung by Harriet Tubman when approaching her group after taking a detour to get food for the day. This song lets them know it is safe to approach her. ²
		<i>Go Down Moses</i>	This song was sung by Harriet Tubman when near her group, to let the runaways know it is not safe to come out because there is danger in the way. ³

1. *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman* by Sarah Bradford 2. *Harriet Tubman, the Moses of her People* by Sarah Bradford 3. *Harriet Tubman, the Moses of her People* by Sarah Bradford

Spirituals

Wade in the Water

Tubman used “Wade in the Water” to tell the enslaved to get into the water to avoid being seen and smelled or tracked by dogs. This is an example of a map song, where directions are coded into the lyrics.

Chorus:

Wade in the Water, wade in
the water children.

Wade in the Water. God’s
gonna trouble the water.

Who are those children all
dressed in Red?

God’s gonna trouble the water.

Must be the ones that Moses
led.

God’s gonna trouble the water.

Chorus

Who are those children all
dressed in White?

God’s gonna trouble the water.

Must be the ones of the
Israelites.

God’s gonna trouble the water.

Chorus

Who are those children all
dressed in Blue?

God’s gonna trouble the water.

Must be the ones that made it
through.

God’s gonna trouble the water.

Chorus

Steal Away

This song communicates that the person singing is planning to escape.

Chorus:

Steal away, steal away!

Steal away to Jesus?

Steal away, steal away home!

I ain’t got long to stay here!

My Lord calls me!

He calls me by the thunder!

The trumpet sound it in my
soul!

I ain’t got long to stay here!

Chorus

My Lord calls me!

He calls me by the lightning!

The trumpet sound it in my
soul!

I ain’t got long to stay here!

Chorus

Sweet Chariot

If an enslaved person heard this song he would know he had to be ready to escape. The Underground Railroad (sweet chariot) is coming south (swing low) to take the enslaved to the north or freedom (carry me home).

Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home,
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordan and what
did I see

Coming for to carry me home,
A band of angels coming
after me,
Coming for to carry me home.

If you get there before I do,
Coming for to carry me home,
Tell all my friends that I'm
coming, too,
Coming for to carry me home.

Follow the Drinking Gourd

This song suggests escaping in the spring as the days get longer. It also refers to quails, birds which start calling each other in April. The “drinking gourd” is a code name for the Big Dipper, which points to the Pole Star towards the north. Moss grows on the north side of dead trees, so if the Big Dipper is not visible, dead trees will guide them north.

When the Sun comes back
And the first quail calls
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
For the old man is a-waiting for
to carry you to freedom
If you follow the Drinking
Gourd.

The riverbank makes a very
good road.
The dead trees will show you
the way.

Left foot, peg foot, traveling on,
Follow the Drinking Gourd.

The river ends between
two hills

Follow the Drinking Gourd.

There's another river on the
other side

Follow the Drinking Gourd.

When the great big river meets
the little river

Follow the Drinking Gourd.

For the old man is a-waiting for
to carry you to freedom

If you follow the drinking gourd.

Unnamed Song

This unnamed song was sung by Harriet Tubman when approaching her group after taking a detour to get food for the day. This song lets them know it is safe to approach her.

Hail, oh hail, ye happy spirits,
Death no more shall make you
fear,
Grief nor sorrow, pain nor
anguish,
Shall no more distress you
there.

Around Him are then thousand
angels,
Always ready to obey
command;
They are always hovering
round you,
Till you reach the heavenly land.

Jesus, Jesus will go with you,
He will lead you to his throne;
He who died, has gone before
you,
Through the wine-press all
alone.

He whose thunders shake
creation,
He who bids the planets roll;
He who rides upon the tempest,
And whose scepter sways
the whole.

Go Down Moses

This song was sung by Harriet Tubman when near her group, to let the runaways know it is not safe to come out because there is danger in the way.

Chorus:
Oh go down, Moses,
Way down into Egypt's land,
Tell old Pharaoh,
Let my people go.

Oh Pharaoh said he would
go cross,
Let my people go,
And don't get lost in the
wilderness,
Let my people go.

Chorus

You may hinder me here, but

you can't up there,
Let my people go,
He sits in the Heaven and
answers prayer,
Let my people go!

Chorus

OUR MISSION

Our Mission: To entertain, challenge and uplift our communities through the power of live theatre.

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