

2015-2016

DISCOVERY



Resource Guide



Book and Lyrics by
Douglas Jones

Music by
Ron Barnett

HARRIET TUBMAN AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

FEBRUARY 5, 2016

9:30 & 11:30 A.M. • VICTORIA THEATRE

Theatre IV

Bruce Miller, Artistic Director

Phil Whiteway, Managing Director

The Frank M. *Cait* FOUNDATION
Discovery Series

**VICTORIA
THEATRE**
ASSOCIATION
www.victoriatheatre.com

Welcome to the 2015-2016 Frank M. Tait Foundation Discovery Series at Victoria Theatre Association. We are very excited to be your partner in providing professional arts experiences to you and your students!

Harriet Tubman's life continues to be an inspiration to everyone. Born into slavery in Maryland in the 1820s, she escaped to freedom after which she devoted the rest of her life to fighting for equality and civil rights. She is well-known for being a "Conductor" on the Underground Railroad helping slaves escape to freedom. However, she also became a spy, a scout, and a nurse for the Union Army during the Civil War. She also fought for women's suffrage, and late in her life, helped open a home for elderly African-Americans in New York. Harriet Tubman, though humble in her life, is a true American Heroine.

The information and activities in this resource guide have been carefully crafted to help you and your students explore the many ways a live theatre experience can open up learning opportunities. Grade level icons will help you determine which activities are good for students, too. And don't forget to take advantage of the local resources listed inside to extend the play-going experience and make even more curricular connections for you and your students. Thank you again and welcome!



Gary Minyard
*Vice President of
 Education & Engagement*

You will find these icons listed in the resource guide next to the activities that indicate curricular connections. Teachers and parents are encouraged to adapt all of the activities included in an appropriate way for your students' age and abilities. *HARRIET TUBMAN AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD* fulfills the following Ohio and National Education Standards and Benchmarks for Grades 3-12.

English/Language Arts Standards

- Grade 3-** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.6
- Grade 4-** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.7
- Grade 5-** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.9
- Grade 6-** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.7
- Grade 7-** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.7
- Grade 8-** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.9

Ohio Department of Education Drama/Theatre Standards

- Grade 3-** 1CE-5CE, 1PR-6PR, 1RE-5RE
- Grade 4-** 1CE-6CE, 1PR-7PR, 1RE-5RE
- Grade 5-** 1CE-5CE, 1PR-5PR, 1RE-5RE
- Grade 6-** 1CE-5CE, 1PR-5PR, 1RE-7RE
- Grade 7-** 1CE-5CE, 1PR-5PR, 1RE-7RE
- Grade 8-** 1CE-6CE- 1PR-5PR, 1RE-5RE

High School-

- I- 1CE-5CE, 1PR- 7PR, 1RE-6RE
- II- 1CE-5CE, 1PR-5PR, 1RE-6RE
- III- 1CE-5CE, 1PR-7PR, 1RE-7RE

National Core Arts Theatre Standards:

Grades 3-8 and HS Proficient, Accomplished, & Advanced: CREATING, PERFORMING, RESPONDING, CONNECTING Anchor Strands 1-11

For more information on the

National Core Arts Theatre Standards [click here](#)

Ohio's New Learning Standards for Social Studies

Civic Participation and Skills (Grades 3-8)
 American History & American Government (Grades 9-12)



This resource guide was created by Elaine Stoughton. All activities are available for distribution and use in the classroom or at home.

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About the Play

HARRIET TUBMAN AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

HARRIET TUBMAN AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD begins as Harriet's friend Sarah Bradford, author of *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman*, is persuading a publisher to print her book. As the story unfolds we learn of Harriet's early years as a slave, her escape to freedom, and her time as a conductor on the Underground Railroad. During the Civil War, Harriet becomes a spy for the Union Army, and later a nurse and scout. The North wins the war bringing emancipation to the slaves but that does not end Harriet's struggle for freedom. She turns her attention to women's suffrage and continues fighting for everyone who suffers inequality. As Harriet says, "What we are fighting now is ignorance."

SPOTLIGHT ON HARRIET TUBMAN

Harriet Tubman, an icon of American History, was an illiterate runaway slave who became known as the "Moses of her people." Harriet (given the name Araminta at birth) was born into slavery around 1820 in Dorchester County, Maryland. She was one of eleven children born to her parents, Harriet and Benjamin Ross. In 1844, Araminta Ross married John Tubman, a free African-American man. She took his last name and changed her first name to Harriet to honor her mother.

In 1849, Harriet Tubman became worried that she and the other slaves on the plantation where she worked were going to be sold, so she ran away. Harriet believed she had two choices: Freedom or Death. Setting out with her two brothers and travelling by night with the North Star as their guide, Harriet reached Philadelphia alone. Her brothers had become frightened and turned back.

Once in Philadelphia, Harriet joined the Abolitionist Movement and became a conductor on the Underground Railroad, a secret network of safe houses where runaway slaves could stay on their journey north to freedom. Over the next ten years, and at great personal risk, Harriet made 19 trips back and forth to Maryland and helped over 300 slaves escape to freedom along the Underground Railroad.

During the Civil War (1860-1865), Harriet served as a scout, spy, and nurse for the Union Army in South Carolina. In 1863, she became the first woman in American history to originate and lead a combat unit in an armed assault.

After the Civil War ended, Harriet remarried, this time to a man named Nelson Davis. They were married for twenty years until his death. Together they adopted a daughter named Gertie. Harriet Tubman also continued the struggle for freedom as a leader in the Women's Suffrage Movement until she died in 1913.



Harriet Tubman, Nelson Davis, and Gertie Davis



Ohio Spotlight

HISTORICAL OHIO'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

The state of Ohio played a large role in the Underground Railroad. Several prominent abolitionists were from Ohio such as Levi Coffin, John Rankin, and John Parker. These three men brought hundreds of escaped slaves across the Ohio River in boats. Before and during the Civil War there were approximately 3000 miles of Underground Railroad trails in Ohio. Many spots are now official historical landmarks in our state. You can visit many houses in Cincinnati that have been linked to the Underground Railroad including the homes of Harriet Beecher Stowe, John Parker, and John Ripley. For more information, please visit <http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/underground/states.htm>



COMPREHENSION

Important Vocabulary to Know

ENGLISH/
LANGUAGE
ARTS

SOCIAL
STUDIES

GRADES
4-5

GRADES
6-8

Plantation (noun): An agricultural estate (large farm) located in the South. These farms were cared for by slaves. Harriet Tubman was born and worked at a plantation until she escaped to Philadelphia. The working conditions for slaves on a plantation were extremely harsh.



Wye River Plantation in Maryland

Abolitionist (noun): A person in favor of getting rid of slavery in America.

To Emancipate (verb): To free a person from slavery.

Emancipation Proclamation

(noun): A statement made by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 that, "All persons held as slaves within any State, or designated part of a state, the people whereof shall be in rebellion against the United States, shall be there, thenceforward, and forever free."

13th Amendment (noun): This amendment to the Constitution was approved by President Abraham Lincoln on February 1, 1865, and ratified by a majority of States by December 1865. The 13th Amendment formally abolished slavery in the United States of America.

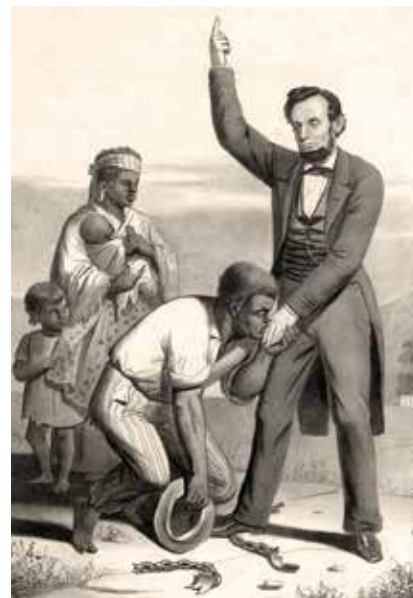


Underground Railroad (noun): A secret network of cooperation whereby slaves were helped to reach the North or Canada, where they could be free.



ABE LINCOLN LITHOGRAPH

This lithograph was created by artist Currier & Ives in 1863 to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.



COMPREHENSION

Pre-Show Conversation Starters

ENGLISH/
LANGUAGE
ARTS

SOCIAL
STUDIES



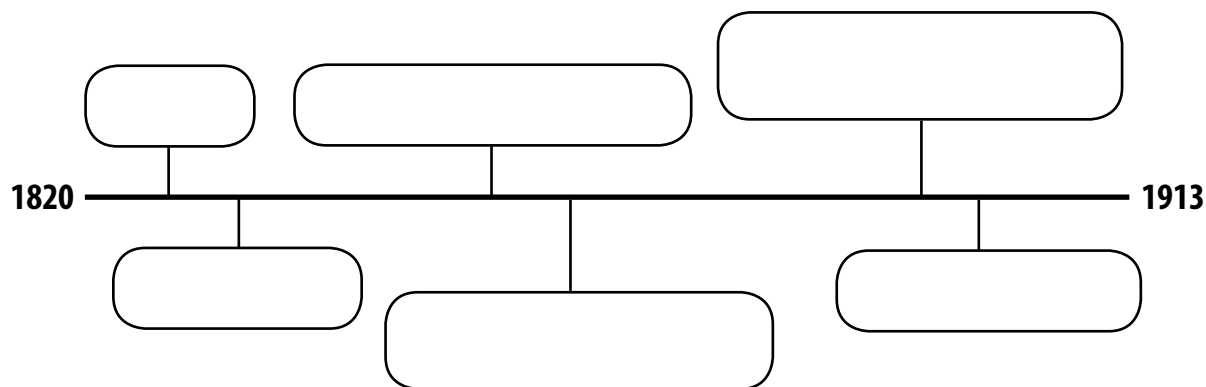
Harriet Tubman is a true American hero! She was selfless and brave during a time when she had every right to be scared. Use the conversation starters below to set up a framework before you attend *HARRIET TUBMAN AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD* at the Victoria Theatre.

PRE-SHOW DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When Harriet escaped to freedom in 1849, she began the journey north with her brothers. Before they made it to safety her brothers turned back. Why do you think they chose to return to their plantation? Why would choosing to escape have been such a difficult decision for a slave?
2. Harriet Tubman lived from around 1820 until 1913. This was a time of great changes in the United States. In what ways do you think this time in history would have been different if Harriet Tubman had never lived?
3. Abolitionists who ran the Underground Railroad system were following their personal beliefs that slavery was wrong instead of their own country's laws. Throughout history, people have used passive non-violent disobedience to protest laws and enact change. In your opinion, is civil disobedience ever justified? Why or why not?
4. In what ways do you see non-violent civil disobedience being enacted in our society today?

HARRIET TUBMAN TIME LINE

Using the short biography on page 2 in addition to your own research, create a timeline of important events in Harriet Tubman's life. Feel free to add additional boxes if you need to!



COMPREHENSION

Timeline of the Civil War

SOCIAL
STUDIES



The American Civil War was fought between the southern states and the northern states. The southern states didn't want the North telling them what to do or making laws they didn't want especially when it came to States' representation in Washington, D.C. and the owning of slaves. As a result, many southern states decided to break away and form their own country called the Confederacy. The North, however, wanted to stay as one united country; and so a war began. The Civil War, and the major events leading up to the war, lasted from 1860 to 1865.

Before the Civil War

Harpers Ferry Raid (October 16, 1859) - Abolitionist John Brown attempted to start a slave rebellion by taking over the Harpers Ferry arsenal in West Virginia. The uprising was quickly put down and John Brown hanged for treason. Many people in the North, however, considered him a hero.

Abraham Lincoln Elected President (November 6, 1860) - Abraham Lincoln was from the northern part of the country and wanted to put an end to slavery. The southern states didn't want him to be president or making laws that would affect them.

South Carolina Secedes (December 20, 1860) - South Carolina became the first state to secede or leave, the United States. They decided to make their own country rather than be part of the USA. Within a few months several other states including Georgia, Mississippi, Texas, Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana also left the Union.

The Confederation is Formed (February 9, 1861) - The southern states formed their own country called the Confederate States of America. Jefferson Davis was elected as their president.

The Civil War

The Civil War Begins (April 12, 1861) - The South attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina and started the war.

More Southern States Left the Union (April 1861) - Within a short period of time Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas all left the Union to join the Confederacy.

Many Battles of 1861 and 1862 - Throughout 1861 and 1862 there were many battles where lots of soldiers from both sides were wounded or killed. Some of the major battles included the First and Second Battles of Bull Run, The Battle of Shiloh, The Battle of Antietam, and the Battle of Fredricksburg. There was also the famous sea battle between two ironclad battleships: the Monitor and the Merrimac. These ships had iron or steel plates on their sides that served as armor making them much stronger and changing war on the seas forever.

Emancipation Proclamation (January 1, 1863) - President Lincoln issued an executive order freeing many slaves and laying the groundwork for the Thirteenth Amendment.

The Battle of Gettysburg (July 1, 1863) - A major battle where the North not only won the battle, but started to win the Civil War.

Sherman Captures Atlanta (September 2, 1864) - General Sherman captured the city of Atlanta, Georgia. Later in the year he marched to the Atlantic ocean and captured Savannah, GA. On his way he destroyed and burned most of the land his army passed through.

The Civil War Ends

General Robert E. Lee Surrenders (April 4, 1865) - General Lee, the leader of the Confederate Army, surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at The Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

President Lincoln is Assassinated (April 14, 1865) - While attending Ford's Theatre, President Lincoln was shot and killed by John Wilkes Booth. He was succeeded as President by Andrew Johnson who would oversee Reconstruction of the South through 1877.

In total an estimated 620,000 men lost their lives fighting in the Civil War. In the mid-1800s this equated roughly to 2% of the US population.

CONNECTION

Timeline of the Civil War (Cont.)



CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

Be an eye-witness reporter! Choose one of the events on the timeline and take on the roll of a first-hand witness reporter. Write a news article documenting the events—WHAT happened? WHO was there? WHEN did it occur? WHY is this important?

CONNECTION

Then and Now



HARRIET TUBMAN AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD takes place in the mid-1800s — Around 150 years ago! Use the columns below to compare and contrast life in the 1800s versus life now. While much has changed, you might find that many aspects of society have stayed the same.

MID-1800s

2016

DIFFERENCES

SIMILARITIES

	MID-1800s	2016
DIFFERENCES		
SIMILARITIES		

CONNECTION

Lyrics as Primary Sources



The American folksong *Follow the Drinking Gourd* was first published in 1928. *The Drinking Gourd* song was supposedly used by supporters of the Underground Railroad operative to encode escape instructions and a map. These directions then enabled fleeing slaves to make their way north from Mobile, Alabama to the Ohio River and freedom. Taken at face value, the “drinking gourd” refers to the hollowed out gourd used by slaves (and other rural Americans) as a water dipper. But here it is used as a **code name for the Big Dipper star formation, which points to Polaris, the Pole Star, and North.**

Read the lyrics below and listen to the song in your classroom. Many versions can be found online. Then complete the grade specific activities at the bottom of the page.

FOLLOW THE DRINKING GOURD

Follow the drinking gourd,
Follow the drinking gourd,
For the old man is waiting
For to carry you to freedom
If you follow the drinking gourd.

When the sun comes back,
And the first quail calls,
Follow the drinking gourd.
For the old man is waiting
For to carry you to freedom
If you 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 waiting
For to carry you to freedom
If you follow the drinking gourd



Read or listen to *Follow the Drinking Gourd*—there are many versions on YouTube. Discuss how music played an important role in communication along the Underground Railroad. In what ways do people communicate in 2016? How is communication different? How is it the same?



Read or listen to *Follow the Drinking Gourd* and discuss. What do you think is meant by the terms “drinking gourd” and “old man” in the song? Think about the imagery in this song and then illustrate what comes to mind.



Read or listen to *Follow the Drinking Gourd*. Think about the changes our society has seen since this song was written. As a class, list some of these changes. Then talk to your parents or other adults about the changes they have witnessed in their lifetimes. Create a journal entry or short essay predicting how life may change in your lifetime.



CONNECTION

An Acrostic Poem Full of Character



An ACROSTIC poem is a type of poetry that describes an object by using each of the letters in the word as the beginning of a line of poetry. For example, an acrostic poem for the word ACROSTIC would look like:

An acrostic poem
Creates a challenge
Random words on a theme
Or whole sentences that rhyme
Select your words carefully
To form a word from top to bottom
Is the aim of this poetry style
Choose a word then go!

Get it? Now try your hand at writing your own acrostic about Harriet Tubman based on what you have learned about her.

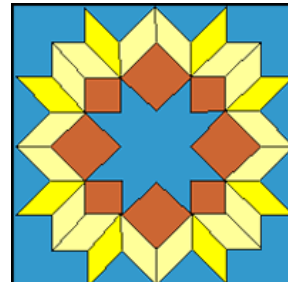
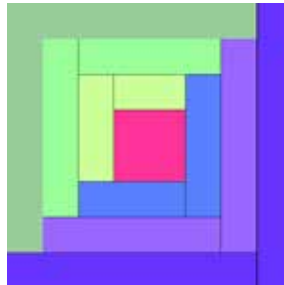
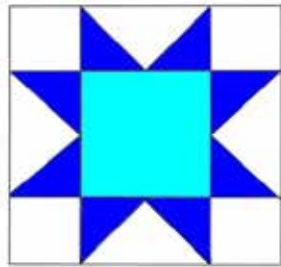
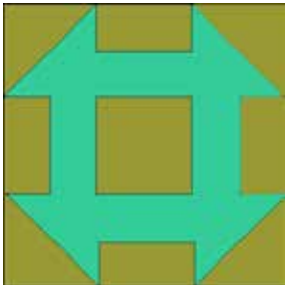
H _____
A _____
R _____
R _____
I _____
E _____
T _____

CREATIVITY

The Secret Language of Freedom Quilts



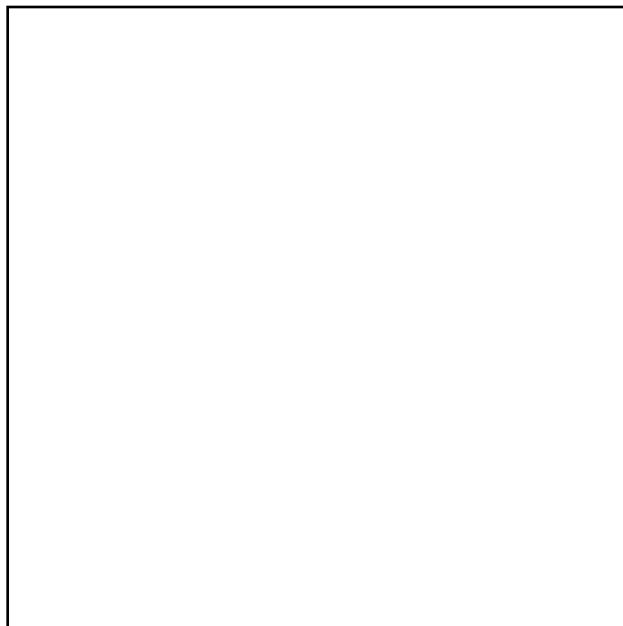
Supporters of the Underground Railroad did not just use songs like *Follow the Drinking Gourd* to relay secret messages—some may have also used quilt patterns. Various quilt squares, when used in a certain order, related messages to slaves who were preparing to run away. Each pattern had a different meaning. Some of the most common were: “Monkey Wrench,” “Star,” “Log Cabin,” and “Wagon Wheel.”



Quilts slung over a fence or windowsill, seemingly to air out, passed on the necessary information to knowing slaves. Airing out quilts was a normal practice, so this would not have aroused suspicion. At houses and towns along the Underground Railroad, homeowners sympathetic to escaping slaves might have also used this quilt system to signal that their house was safe.

There is still some controversy among historians and scholars over the quilt code theory, and whether or not escaping slaves actually used codes concealed within quilt patterns to follow the escape route of the Underground Railroad. As oral histories leave no written record, there is no concrete proof that codes in quilt patterns ever existed. What remains are the stories passed down through generations from the slaves themselves.

Create a quilt pattern of your own to relay a secret message to your class.



CREATIVITY

Resources for Students & Adults

Additional Books for Students:

Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent: How Daring Slaves and Free Blacks Spied for the Union During the Civil War, Written by Thomas B. Allen. National Geographic Children's Books: 2006.

What Was The Underground Railroad, Witten by Yona Zeldis McDonough and Illustrated by Lauren Mortimer. Grosset & Dunlap: 2013.

Publications for Teachers and Parents:

Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad, Written by Eric Foner. W.W.Norton & Company: 2015.

The Underground Railroad: Authentic Narratives and First-Hand Accounts, Compiled and Edited by William Still and Ian Finseth. Dover Publications: 2007.

Organic Creativity in the Classroom: Teaching to Intuition in Academics and the Arts, Written by Jane Piirto. Prufrock Press: 2013.

Nurturing Creativity in the Classroom, Edited by Ronald A. Beghetto and James C. Kaufman. Cambridge University Press: 2010.

Signs of Change: New Directions in Theatre Education, Written by Joan Lazarus. Intellect Ltd; Revised and Amplified Edition: 2012.

Theatre for Change: Education, Social Action, and Therapy, Written by Robert Landy and David T. Montgomery. Palgrave Macmillan: 2012.

Play: How it Shapes the Brain and Invigorates the Soul, Written by Stuart Brown and Christopher Vaughn. Harvard University Press: 2009.

Websites:

<http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/aa/tubman>: The Library of Congress website features articles, pictures, and more detailing the life of Harriet Tubman.

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/99/railroad/j1.html>: National Geographic has created an interactive computer game suitable for students in grades 6-10. Explore the Underground Railroad and learn more about this important time in American history.

<https://www.victoriatheatre.com/education-engagement/about-education/>: During the 2014-2015 Season, the Education & Engagement Department at Victoria Theatre Association hosted over 200 events and worked with over 100,000 members of the Dayton community. That's a lot! Stay up-to-date on exciting information like Summer Camps, Free Master Classes, Adult Education Opportunities, Backstage Tours, and more!

<http://www.americansforthearts.org/>: American's for the Arts is another great website full of research and information about the importance of Art in the classroom. Check out their amazing reports, and then use #ArtsTransform to share your personal stories.

Victoria Fuse's Local Resource Discovery



A short hour-long drive from Dayton will take you to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati. Opened on the banks of the Ohio River in 2004, the mission of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center is to reveal stories of freedom's heroes, from the era of the Underground Railroad to contemporary times, challenging and inspiring everyone to take courageous steps of freedom today. A history museum with more than 100,000 visitors annually, it serves to inspire modern abolition through connecting the lessons of the Underground Railroad with today's freedom fighters. The center is also a convener of dialogue on freedom and human rights. For more information visit www.freedomcenter.org



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Theatre IV: a division of Virginia Repertory Theatre (Producer), Theatre IV in Richmond, Virginia has merged with Barksdale Theatre to become Virginia Repertory Theatre. Since 1975, Theatre IV has toured from Wisconsin to Florida and Texas to Maine, and provides outstanding educational entertainment designed to tour and innovative instructional programs that enrich our nation's schools. Theatre IV performs live before over 1/2 million children, teens, parents and teachers across the America every year.

www.theatreiv.org



HAPPY 150th BIRTHDAY
VICTORIA THEATRE!

Did you know that on January 1, 2016, The Victoria Theatre turned 150! All year long we are celebrating and we need your help! We are collecting stories from patrons about how attending shows at the Victoria Theatre impacted their lives. If you've been inspired by a Discovery Performance over the years, we want to hear it! Please contact Elaine Stoughton at 937-228-7591, ext. 3039 for information on how to share your story!

DON'T FORGET

All schools that receive scholarships for a show and/or transportation are asked and encouraged to create thank-you letters or cards for our sponsors. Please address your students' thank-you notes to:

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