

APOLLO EDUCATION

School Day Live presents

MARCH ON!

WRITTEN BY DANIEL CARLTON

CONCEIVED BY STEPHANIE BERRY DIRECTED BY JEFFREY THOMPSON

Tuesday, February 15, 2018

11:30 a.m.

Grades 5 - 12

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing world class entertainment and education through the arts, the Apollo Theater Education Program is pleased to present Blackberry Productions' play, *March On!*, as part of our 2017/18 School Day Live series.

March On! takes place over the course of the day of the iconic March on Washington, August 28, 1963. Over 250,000 people were estimated to have attended the event over the course of the day. We follow the journey of four of the marchers from their arrival in Washington at the start of the day to the moment that Martin Luther King, Jr. took to the stage in front of the Lincoln Memorial to deliver his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech.

The storytellers are:

Don Quinn Kelley, age 17 from Chicago

Carl Berry, age 28 from New York City

Ellen Frankel, age 22 from Massachusetts

Don, Ellen, and Carl's words were transcribed from actual oral history interviews conducted by *March On!* Playwright Daniel Carlton, with some poetic license taken with Ellen's story, with her permission.

Other characters in the play include:

Elizabeth Eckford, age 14 (one of the Little Rock Nine from Birmingham, Alabama)

Claudette Colvin, age 15

Mamie Till (mother of Emmett Till)

A *Fictional Reporter*, age 35, narrates the events of the day

To help you and your students prepare for the performance on February 15th, we created a Study Guide which provides essential information on the period discussed in *March On!* The Study Guide can be used as both a pre- and/or post-performance tool and features a link to [interactive timeline](#) which provides more information on people and topics pertinent to the Civil Rights Movement and the 1963 March on Washington. [Once you access the timeline, click the "3d" icon in the lower left hand corner to switch to the three dimensional mode.]

As oral history was central to the creation of *March On!*, we have provided a section in the guide on conducting oral history interviews for students. If you are considering incorporating oral history into your classroom curriculum, check out the guide [Principles and Best Practices for Oral History Education](#), co-written by the Apollo's Associate Director of Education, Debbie Ardemendo.

Finally, the poignant stories told in *March On!* are enveloped by music from the period. As much as the oral histories and historical documentation featured in the play, the music also has a significant role in the recounting of the historical impact of the march and of the Civil Rights Movement overall. Songs of protest, Negro spirituals, and Folk music were all featured at the march and a wide range of musicians representing diverse genres, lent their voices in support of the event.

A Spotify playlist of music can be found [here](#).

Playlist Songs:

Oh, Freedom

Performed by Joan Baez

This Little Light of Mine

Performed by Sam Cooke

America The Beautiful

Performed by Ray Charles

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Performed by Melinda Doolittle

Strange Fruit

Performed by Billie Holiday

Mississippi Goddamn

Performed by Nina Simone

He's Got the Whole World in His Hand

Performed by Odetta

How I Got Over

Performed by Aretha Franklin

We Shall Overcome

Performed by Pete Seeger

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around

Performed by The Freedom Singers

Blowin' in the Wind

Performed by Bob Dylan

A Change is Gonna Come

Performed by Sam Cooke

If I Had a Hammer

Performed by Peter, Paul and Mary

People Get Ready

Performed by The Impressions

We look forward to seeing you at the world famous Apollo on February 15th.
Enjoy the show!

Shirley C. Taylor
Director of Education
Apollo Theater