

Mike Wiley Productions'
**ONE NOBLE JOURNEY:
A BOX MARKED FREEDOM**

“In my 31 years in education, I cannot remember any performance that matches this wonderful blend of humor, history, reflection, student involvement, and lasting impact. In just a matter of minutes, Mike Wiley won the undivided attention of every child in the room, and taught more history in forty minutes that could be taught in a week...His ability is truly a gift.”

Dr. Barry Redmond, Superintendent,
Newton-Conover City Schools, Newton, NC



“Shipping and handling” had a very different meaning...

ONE NOBLE JOURNEY: A BOX MARKED FREEDOM



One Noble Journey: A Box Marked Freedom tells the true story about Henry “Box” Brown, an African American who was born a slave in 1816 in Louisa County, Virginia. At the age of thirty-three, he was bequeathed to his master's son, who sent him to work in his tobacco factory in Richmond. When Brown witnessed his wife and children taken from him and sold to another state, he reached his breaking point and devised an escape plan that would have him sealed in a small wooden box and shipped to friends and to freedom in Philadelphia.

In Mike Wiley's original historical drama, Brown's life unfolds like a Mark Twain adventure, perilous and somber at times while humorous and heroic throughout. As is almost a trademark of Mike Wiley's one-person, multi-character theatre works, audience members join Wiley on stage, quickly and comfortably becoming pivotal players who help propel the historic action. **One Noble Journey** is available in a 50-minute student version with study guide for grades 3-up, in addition to a 90-minute full-length adaptation for general adult audiences.

Mike Wiley, Playwright and Actor

Actor and playwright Mike Wiley spent the first decade of his professional career fulfilling a focused mission to bring educational theatre to young audiences. His acclaimed work has now expanded to include audiences at performing arts centers and universities nationwide. In the early days of his career, Wiley found few theatrical resources to shine light on key events and figures in black history. To bring these often ignored stories to life, Wiley started his own production company. Through his work, he has introduced countless students to stories and legacies of Emmett Till, the Tuskegee Airmen, Henry “Box” Brown and more. Mike Wiley holds a Masters of Fine Arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and has appeared on the Discovery Channel, The Learning Channel and the National Geographic Channel. Profiled in *Our State* magazine, Wiley is currently gaining additional acclaim and multiple “Best Actor” awards at film festivals in the US and Europe for the impressive Rob Underhill film *EMPTY SPACE*. Wiley is currently the Lehman Brady Visiting Professor at Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies and was featured at the 2009 Black Theatre Festival. He has been jury-selected for professional industry showcases by both the Midwest Arts Federation and South Arts. *BLOOD DONE SIGN MY NAME* is directed by Serena Ehardt.



Wiley's professional touring productions include **Dar He: The Story of Emmett Till**, the riveting **Blood Done Sign My Name** based on the bestseller by Tim Tyson, and five additional original one-person/multi-character works. In 2011, Wiley debuts his play **The Parchman Hour**, an ensemble performance commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Riders.

“An intensely physical actor and writer who can turn on the charm like nobody’s business... When it comes to working a crowd, Wiley makes Bill Clinton look like a wallflower.”

Independent Weekly