

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 a formerly impenetrable wall, that a stubborn rigid door may have just been nudged open...

"I've never found any other artist who (1) delivers more valid educational content, (2) involves and connects with school audiences more successfully, or (3) is more pleasant to work with. He has a knack for taking sensitive and sometimes painful topics, and making them accessible in non-threatening — even humorous — ways. You will not regret bringing him to your school."

- Christian B. Rothwell,
Chorus/Drama Specialist, Apex NC

goingbarefoot

a presenter's point of view ... an artist's standard of performance

MikeWileyProductions.com

Mike Wiley Productions has been represented by Stephen Barefoot at goingbarefoot in Durham, NC for more than ten years.
www.goingbarefoot.com | 919.489.1541 | stephen@goingbarefoot.com



**MIKE
WILEY
PRODUCTIONS**

"There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in." - Leonard Cohen
"You've got to be taught to hate and fear... you've got to be carefully taught." - Rodgers & Hammerstein
"Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced..." - James Baldwin

I know I'm a very lucky guy to be working with Mike Wiley.
What makes it even better is that other people tell me how lucky I am...

But it's the audiences, the students and the teachers who are the luckiest ones in the mix.

That's because Mike Wiley changes the space we all share. In his performances onstage, in his post-show talkbacks or workshops and residencies, he shares a sometimes painful truth, yet inspires a larger hope and a sense of oneness. His stories offer testimony to a history that we all share. In all of those things, Mike Wiley is an artist who opens doors to dialog -- and light gets through. It's the illumination that can be life-changing.

"Nothing can be changed until it is faced."

"This is more than mere versatility – it's virtuosity." - American Theatre Magazine

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"We still can't get over Mike Wiley's incredible and important performance. Mike breathed life, accuracy and humanity into each of the many characters he portrayed with such a seamless embodiment of physicality and an overarching narrative skill within his engaging one-man storytelling. Mike and his art definitely make an impact on all who experience it. The DAR HE premiere performance for a Chicagoland audience was nothing short of magical. Afterwards, I've never witnessed a more powerfully engaging Q&A. With members from Emmett Till's family, other family of characters portrayed in the piece, and several first-hand witnesses from Till's Chicago viewing in attendance, the Q&A got flipped on its head and you saw Mike's utter devotion, respect for the significance of this history and the desire to further enhance his performance as he instead asked these folks for more detail on what it was like and how they felt. The ways in which Mike connected with our audience left us speechless. More than one staff person who was here for the show has come up and said that it made them proud to work here. I could not agree more."

D. Vish, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie IL

The compelling works of documentary theatre from Mike Wiley have been shared across the U.S., Canada, South Africa and

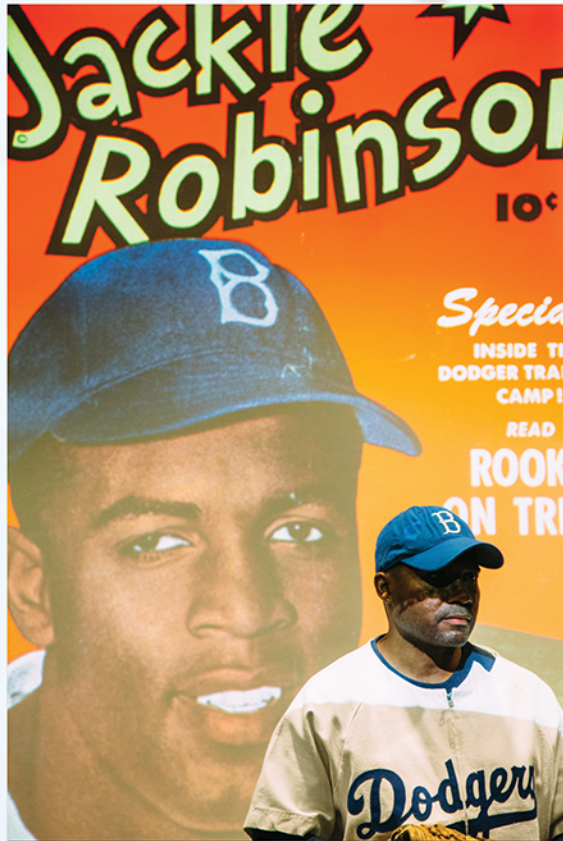
beyond. His ensemble dramas have been produced in multi-week runs on stages including the Guthrie Theatre, Playmakers Repertory Company and Cape Fear Regional Theatre. His plays have been seen in settings ranging from Arena Stage in Washington, DC to the official finale of the Freedom Riders 50th Reunion in Jackson, MS. He has performed at the Bridge Crossing Jubilee in Selma, AL, in a 20-venue tour across Ontario, and conducted repeated multi-day residences at numerous universities. His impressive repertoire has reached adult audiences at performing arts centers large and small, college and university students, and thousands of secondary school students from 3rd grade through high school. The present-day

relevance of the stories shared in Mike Wiley's powerful performances can become piercing, and does not go unnoticed. And now, licensed productions of his larger ensemble cast plays are expanding across the US. His newest play LEAVING EDEN: AN AMERICAN FABLE will premiere at UNC-Chapel Hill in spring of 2018.

"... a tour-de-force ... a riveting evening of theater, one of the year's ten best."
Raleigh News & Observer

"A depth and clarity as distinct as an entire cast of players could make them... so packed that we are rapt from the very first word."
Classical Voice of NC

"Intensely researched, brilliantly crafted..."
Independent Weekly



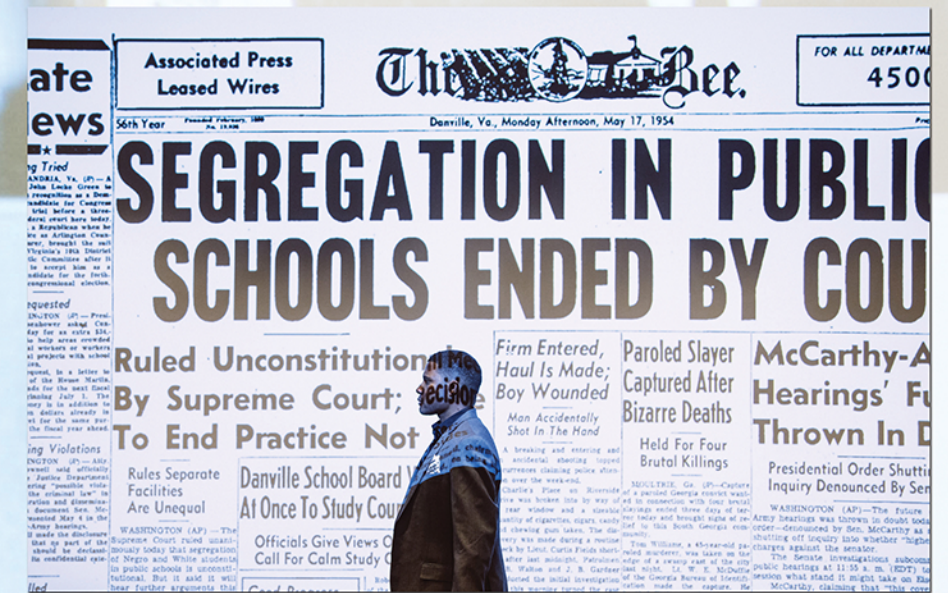
Mike Wiley is an acclaimed North Carolina-based playwright and actor whose compelling works of documentary theatre yield rich and powerful journeys to milestones and turning points of a cultural history. With remarkable ability and broad, focused creative vision, he shares a gift that helps audiences and communities to start to peel layers of misunderstanding and mistrust. Delving into the personal stories and motivations of those who have been both leaders and followers in civil rights struggles in America, Wiley pays tribute to past histories and heroes while giving compelling invitation for his audiences to want to move toward a more enlightened future.



Wiley's career includes fifteen years credits in writing and performing documentary theatre for young audiences, plus acting in 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 where, this year, he receives their University Day's 'Distinguished Alumni Award.' He 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. Wiley's overriding goal is expanding cultural awareness for audiences of all ages through sharing 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.

"You helped our students uncover dimensions within themselves that some of them didn't even know they had. Thank you for being a window into what their future could be... We are changed a bit because of your visit."
Chatham Elementary School, Pittsboro, NC

"In my thirty-one years in education, I cannot remember any performance that matches his wonderful blend of humor, history, reflection, student involvement and lasting impact. Mesmerizing...truly a gift. In a matter of minutes, he won undivided attention and taught more history than could be taught in a week. He is doing very important work."
Dr. B. Redmond, Supt., Newton Conover Schools, NC



Photos by Chris Charles for Creative Silence