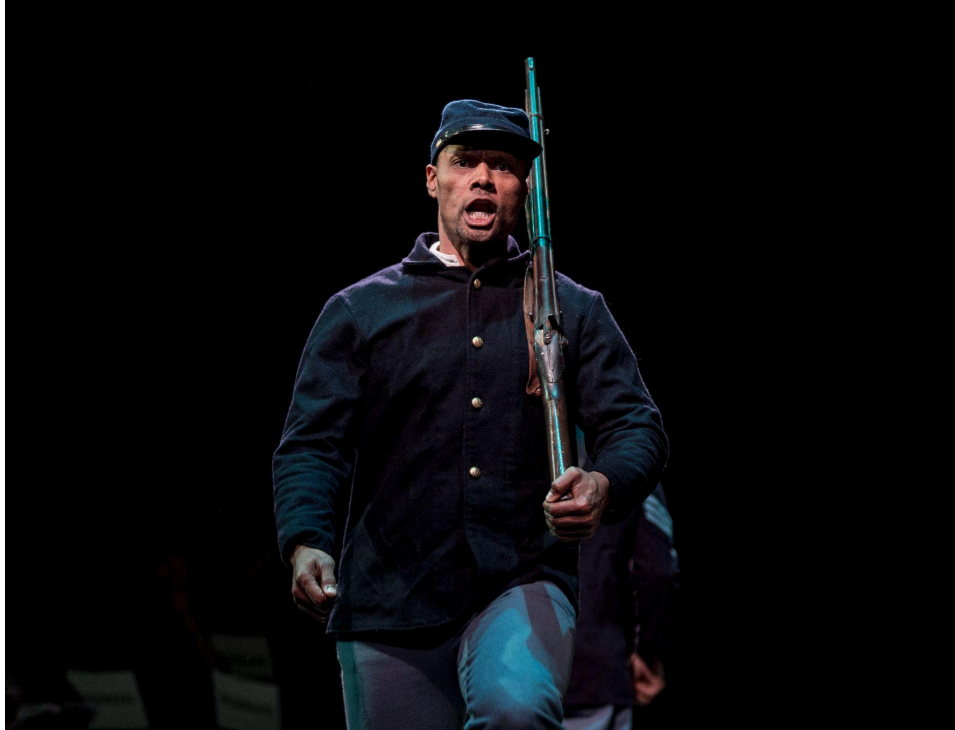


The Colored Soldiers



Stories from the Fight for Freedom Dr. Sonny Kelly | Performer, Educator & Founder, Legacy Heirs Productions, Inc. For enslaved people throughout the history of North Carolina and America, freedom was not something that was simple or gained overnight. From the enslaved people who freed themselves and the free and enslaved people who assisted them, to the Black people who joined the USCT to fight for freedom on the battlefields, to the rich and complex communities that were formed, a wholly accurate understanding of the period of enslavement must include attention to the various ways Black people strove to experience varied concepts of freedom. Dr. Kelly will offer performance excerpts and considerations of these themes, leading us to ultimately consider the individual and collective agency, resistance, and resilience of Black people throughout the period of enslavement and Civil War. POC's: Christie Hinson Norris & Sharon Bryant (Tryon Palace)

Objectives:

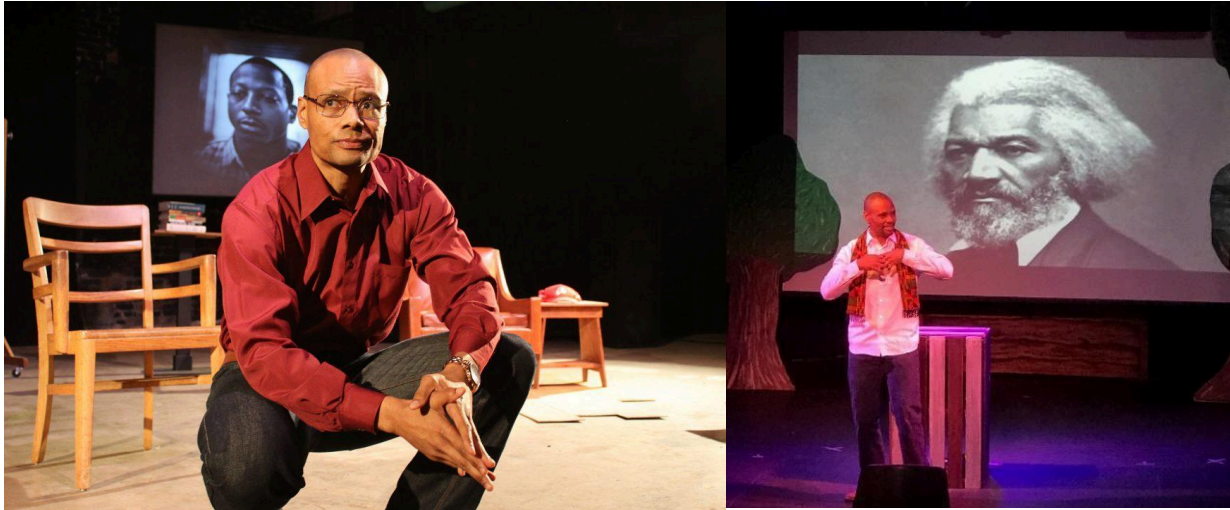
- To connect to audiences in a visceral way that will bring history to life while honoring the sanctity of familial relationships, human dignity, and love.
- To enrich audience members' perspectives, inciting action toward more just, equitable, and honest conversations about our past and our present.
- To reflect on America's history in a holistic, honorable, and honest manner.

**With this work, Sonny invites audience members to travel through time, and put themselves in the shoes of those who helped make America what it is today.*

Presentations are modular and highly flexible. They can be produced on main stages and in smaller venues. To book a performance in your community email, visit www.legacyheirsproductions.com and click on the "Contact Us" link.

The Colored Soldiers

CAST



Sonny Kelly Sonny Kelly is a scholar, performer, story teller, motivator, speaker, and comedian. Dr. Kelly earned his PhD in Communication at UNC Chapel Hill. He is also a graduate of Currently, his research is focused on seeking performance centered practices to name and address the issues that divide Americans. Sonny has served as a U.S. Air Force officer, a non-profit organization director, university admissions counselor, award winning pharmaceutical salesman, college communications instructor, and a church youth pastor. He teaches courses in Public Speaking and Intercultural/ Interpersonal Communication at Fayetteville Technical Community College. Sonny has also acted professionally on stage and television for over 20 years. Sonny is currently performing his original one-man shows *The Talk* and *HAUNTED* that grapple with the talks that parents of color must have with their children, and that we must begin to have as Americans about surviving and thriving in a divided America. Sonny's dissertation, *Pipelines to Pathways: Reframing and Reclaiming Black Youth Identity through Performance*, mobilizes performance-centered pedagogy, ethnography, and participatory action research toward hope, unity, equity, and inclusion. empowering others is unmistakable! Learn more at www.legacyheirsproductions.com.

Legacy Heirs Productions Inc has conducted performances, lectures, and workshops for hundreds of satisfied clients like: **GlaxoSmithKline, QIAGEN, The Association of Community Health Workers, Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs, HMA Community Strategies, RTI, Sentara Health, The USO, The Junior League, Cumberland County Arts Council, Duke University, Syracuse University, UNC Chapel Hill, UNC Greensboro, Fayetteville State University, Georgia Tech University, St. Andrews University, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Sandhills Community College, Durham Technical Community College, The Levin Jewish Community Center** as well as numerous churches, community organizations, and K-12 schools across the nation.

The Colored Soldiers

What *The Colored Soldiers* offers audiences:

- Depth of inquiry, that links un(der)told history, personal narratives, and performance ethnography with our contemporary questions on race and representation in the US.
- Combines interactive theater with vibrant storytelling and exquisite character acting for an overwhelmingly engaging experience.
- Profound emotional and physical resonance as a live performance piece, based in rigorous research, as well as critical ethnography and autoethnography, that is mindfully, respectfully, and artfully done.
- Exposure to classic and contemporary poetry and narratives by Sonny Kelly, Langston Hughes, Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells, Maya Angelou, John Adams, and more.
- Expands our notions of equity, justice, The American Dream and community through embodied memory, for the sake of personal connection.
- Reverent reflection on U.S. history and contemporary race relations, with special attention paid to abiding challenges that disproportionately affect marginalized peoples.
- A candid community conversation like the one we had at the Arts Center in Carrboro, NC on March 27, 2021. Watch it here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FE5Loxvyhyc&t=93s>

References:

- Renée A. Price, Commissioner/Vice-Chair, Orange County Board of County Commissioners, 200 South Cameron Street, Hillsborough, NC 27278; 919-593-1904
- Katie Murray, Director, Orange County Arts Commission, 200 S. Cameron St., Hillsborough, NC 27278, 919-245-2335
- Joseph Megel, Artist in Residence, UNC Chapel Hill Communication Department, Phone: (919)843-7067; E-mail: megel@email.unc.edu
- Dr. Lloyd Kramer, Director of Carolina Public Humanities
Phone: (919) 962-5553; E-mail: lkramer@email.unc.edu

RIDER

- 1 Tall table (4 feet high, 3 ft by 3 ft)
- 1 solid chair
- 1 large projector screen
- 1 projector that can project a PowerPoint slideshow
- Audio system that allows for sound cues to be projected in the performance area (all sound files are MP3 files) *This show can be run with one technician if the audio and visual equipment can be collocated.

TIMING

Run time: 60 - 90 minutes without Q & A. Can be adjusted according to needs.

SPACE

Minimum of 10ft X 6ft playing space, preferably on an elevated stage.

COST

\$5,500 + travel and lodging costs for one full performance, followed by an optional additional hour of Discussion and Q & A.

*Additional cost of \$500 per performance + travel if technicians are not provided.

\$2,500 + travel and lodging costs for excerpts of the performance and the facilitation of interactive community discussions and workshops for up to three hours. (\$500 per additional hour)

\$1,500 for the rental of an online video version of the full performance.

*Prices for additional performances in the same area during the same visit are negotiable.

The Colored Soldiers is currently available for booking!

Presentations are modular and highly flexible. This performance can be produced on main stages and in smaller venues. To book a performance visit www.legacyheirsproductions.com and select "Contact Us."