

MEDIA KIT

DREAMS OF EMMETT TILL

EXPLORING THE IMPACT
OF HIS MURDER TODAY

GLORIA J. BROWNE-MARSHALL, PLAYWRIGHT
BOBBY FIELD, DIRECTOR



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Deidre Malone
The Carter Malone Group LLC, dmalone@cmgpr.com or 901.278.0881

**The Play "Dreams of Emmett Till" Premieres on April 8th
*Exploring the Impact of His Murder Today***

(New York, NY- April 2, 2021) The world premiere of "Dreams of Emmett Till" will explore the 1955 murder of Emmett Till through a present-day drama between Carolyn Bryant, the accuser, her son and the spirit of Emmett. The play was written by Playwright **Gloria J. Browne-Marshall**, a professor of constitutional law at John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY), author, and civil rights attorney.

The virtual play will air on **April 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. (PST), 7:30 p.m. (CST), and 8:30 p.m. (EST) with free admission. Registration is required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-world-premiere-of-dreams-of-emmett-till-tickets-145932824005>. Following the premiere, there will be a Town Hall discussion on the impact of Emmett's murder on society today. The live event will feature noted civil rights leaders and historians.**

"The story of the savage lynching of young Emmett Till is widely known as it should be; however, I wrote Dreams of Emmett Till from the perspective of Elderly Carolyn Bryant, the accuser, who later recanted the story which led to Emmett's murder," said Browne-Marshall. "The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and hundreds of others force us to understand how current acts of violence connect to the past and what we can do about it, which is why we must continue the discussion."

"Dreams of Emmett Till" is directed by **Bobby Field**, an experienced actor, writer, producer, director. "We have selected a group of talented actors for Dreams of Emmett Till, and they come to each rehearsal ready to bring life to this tragic story," said Field. "My hope is that the combination of Gloria's powerful script, and the actor's performances, will engage and move audiences."

Field has garnered numerous awards on the film festival circuit, including Best Actor from the Westwood International Film Festival for his performance in Guy In Row Five, which also earned the Audience Award at the Cinequest International Film Festival, and Best-in-the-Fest at The So Cal International Film Festival and is currently set for a worldwide release in 2022.

Jaiden Kwiseka (Emmett Till), 14, of West Jordan, Utah, has been acting professionally for about three years but has always loved to entertain people with his outgoing personality. He has performed in a wide range of projects from print ads, commercials, music videos, film, and theatre. A few of Jaiden's projects include EA Madden NFL Sports, Role of Young Darnell in a feature entitled Trace, Kaden in Our Father's Keeper, Sundance film Legend of Diaz, and Adidas print.

Peter Breitmayer (Roy Bryant, Jr.) has an extensive body of work on screen, as he has had recurring roles in the award-winning series' Fargo, The Middle and has appeared in various television hit shows such as Mad Men, NCIS, Grey's Anatomy, and CSI. Breitmayer also played in many films such as Fantastic Beasts, Clint Eastwood's Changeling, and the Coen brothers' A Serious Man.

Jayne Taini (Elderly Carolyn Bryant) started in guerrilla street theatre against the Vietnam War and ended up with a 20-year career in regional theatre, including the Seattle Rep, The Empty Space, Denver Center, Hartford Stage, Cleveland Play House, Pasadena Playhouse, Portland Center Stage, B Street Theatre, Mixed Blood and the Mark Taper Forum. Currently, Taini is a recurring character on ABC's Station 19 and the highly-acclaimed Netflix's Unbelievable.

J Taylor D'Andrea (Young Carolyn) has appeared in many short films and provided the English voice for some popular international series, including Netflix's Vampires. Most recently, she helmed the New England premiere of This Girl Laughs with Wellesley Repertory Theatre.

About The Law and Policy Group, Inc.

Gloria Browne-Marshall is Founder/Director of The Law and Policy Group, Inc., a 501(c)3 organization and 'think tank' for the community which produced the play "Shot-Caught A Soul" and publishes "The Report on the Status of Black Women and Girls," the only ongoing report on the state of Black females in America.

About SPARK Theatrical

SPARK Theatrical develops and produces daring plays that provide a lens into the human condition. Currently, SPARK Theatrical has multiple projects under development in Los Angeles and New York. SPARK Theatrical connects plays with non-profits that share a common vision, providing audiences the opportunity for education and action.

About Gloria J. Browne-Marshall

Gloria J. Browne-Marshall is a playwright of seven produced plays. Her plays include "SHOT: Caught a Soul," about a Black teen haunting the White officer who killed him. "CLASS" is about the racial fight over the American Dream. Her screenplay "Sergeant Freeman" was a Finalist and Official Selection at national and international film festivals. Gloria attended the MFA program at Sarah Lawrence College and the CTI Broadway Producing program. She is the author of "She Took Justice: The Black Woman, Law, and Power," "Race, Law, and American Society" 1607 to Present," "The Voting Rights War," and several poems including "white privilege."

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(New York, NY- March 12, 2021) Violence against African Americans has a long history. The world premiere of "Dreams of Emmett Till" will explore the 1955 murder of Emmett Till through a present-day drama between Carolyn Bryant, the accuser, her son and the spirit of Emmett. The play will take place virtually on **April 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. (PST), 7:30 p.m. (CST), and 8:30 p.m. (EST) with free admission.**

Emmett Till, a 14-year old African American boy from Chicago, was murdered while visiting relatives in Money, Mississippi. Emmett went into a country store to buy candy; two days later, he was murdered. The world was shocked by Emmett's murder and grotesquely beaten body taken from the Tallahatchie River. Carolyn's husband, Roy Bryant, and Roy's half-brother J.W. Milam admitted to killing Emmett but, unfortunately, were found not guilty.

"The killing of 14-year old Emmett Till is among America's most controversial murders," said Playwright Gloria J. Browne-Marshall. "Dreams of Emmett Till" highlights the legacy of lynching and current racialized murders and our unceasing demand for answers and justice."

"Dreams of Emmett Till" fast forwards to today, and the now elderly Carolyn must face what really happened on that hot summer day in 1955 when Emmett was accused of accosting her. Los Angeles-based director Bobby Field will direct the play.

"We have selected a group of talented actors for Dreams of Emmett Till, and they come to each rehearsal ready to bring life to this tragic story," said Field. "My hope is that the combination of Gloria's powerful script, and the actor's performances, will engage and move audiences. It's certainly been an emotional piece to work on."

The Law and Policy Group, Inc. is producing the event and will host a panel discussion focused on the Emmett Till story and the aftermath of his murder immediately following the play. If interested in attending, please register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-world-premiere-of-dreams-of-emmett-till-tickets-145932824005>.

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“DREAMS OF EMMETT TILL” CAST BIOS



GLORIA J. BROWNE-MARSHALL

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BOBBY FIELD

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JAIDEN KWISEKA

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PETER BREITMAYER

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JAYNE TAINI

Jayne Taini (Elderly Carolyn Bryant) started in guerrilla street theatre against the Vietnam War and ended up with a 40-year career in regional theatre, including the Seattle Rep, The Empty Space, Denver Center, Hartford Stage, Cleveland Play House, Pasadena Playhouse, Portland Center Stage, B Street Theatre, Mixed Blood and the Mark Taper Forum. Currently, Taini is a recurring character on ABC's Station 19 and the highly-acclaimed Netflix's Unbelievable.

J TAYLOR D'ANDREA

J Taylor D'Andrea (Young Carolyn) has appeared in many short films and provided the English voice for some popular international series, including Netflix's Vampires. Most recently, she helmed the New England premiere of This Girl Laughs with Wellesley Rep.



"SCENES FROM THE PLAY"



Emmett Till in a scene from the play "Dreams of Emmett Till."



Young Carolyn Bryant in a scene from the play "Dreams of Emmett Till."



Roy Bryant, Jr. and his mom Carolyn Bryant in a scene from the play "Dreams of Emmett Till."