

Black Lives Matter Performance Scene

Characters/Potential Cast List

Harriet Tubman- Jerome understudy Zamaria

Claudette Colvin- Kiana understudy Zoe

Malcolm X- David understudy Zacari

Martin Luther King Jr- Jaden- understudy Andrew

Rosa Parks- Tamya- understudy- Kenya

LIGHTS UP: HARRIET TUBMAN(aside to audience, crossing upstage to downstage center)

Hey y'all. I am Harriet Tubman . I planned the map to liberation and freedom in 1850 using the Underground RailRoad, but today I need help. Planning a map is very hard for one person, especially when it has this level of stakes, but some of my fellow civil rights activists may be able to help. I am going to take you with me to visit civil rights activists and see how they mapped out their part in this movement.

(Harriet Tubman walks over to Rosa Parks and Claudette Colvin downstage left- there is a transition to 1955 using music and tableaux. Claudette Colvin and Rosa Parks enter).

HARRIET TUBMAN

(aside to audience)

This is Rosa Parks and Claudette Colvin- who you may not know. They are the reason why black people can sit anywhere on the bus. Let's join them and see what their role is in this movement.

LIGHTS UP: ROSA PARKS and CLAUDETTE COLVIN

sit next to each other in the front of the bus and have a moment of solidarity. Harriet Tubman crosses to sit next to them on the bus).

HARRIET TUBMAN

Hi, I'm Harriet Tubman. I'm a civil rights activist too.

I'm here to ask for your help to plan out my map to liberation and freedom because it's a big task for one civil rights activist. Can you tell me about how you continued mapping out the path to liberation?

CLAUDETTE COLVIN + ROSA PARKS

Sure.

CLAUDETTE COLVIN

It's nice to meet you. I'm Claudette Colvin. I learned about you in my US history class! It's so cool to meet you. I was super inspired by your work.

ROSA PARKS

It's lovely to meet you. I'm Rosa Parks. Claudette and I both refused to give up our seats- she deserves credit too. She was only 15!

HARRIET TUBMAN

Wow, that must have been scary for both of you.

CLAUDETTE COLVIN

It was terrifying but I knew I had to stand my ground.

ROSA PARKS

Young people have always been a part of the movement!

HARRIET TUBMAN

That gives me such hope for the future! Thanks for talking to me- I'm going to meet others who are in the movement just like us.

CLAUDETTE COLVIN

Good luck!

(Harriet crosses to Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr down stage right as Rosa Parks and Claudette Colvin wave goodbye and exit downstage left. We hear transition music).

HARRIET TUBMAN

(Aside)

Black women really make it happen. Let's meet two other important change-makers in this movement for liberation. I have two men I want you to meet: Malcom X-a leader in the civil rights movement and a supporter of black nationalism and Martin Luther King Jr, the man who had a dream.

(Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. enter downstage right).

HARRIET TUBMAN

Hey, friends. I'm Harriet Tubman. I'm here because I need your help mapping out the path to liberation. Can you share a little bit about your work, activist to activist?

MALCOLM X

Yeah, okay. For me, it's most important that: "We declare our right on this earth to be a man, to be a human being, to be respected as a human being, to be given the rights of a human being in this society, on this earth, in this day, which we intend to bring into existence by any means necessary."

HARRIET TUBMAN

I feel that. I'm working for that too.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

I'm with you. "I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by their character.I have a dream today."

HARRIET TUBMAN

I love that dream! It sounds like the path to liberation is clear, especially with your vision.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

I hope so.

MALCOLM X

I know so- black power!

HARRIET TUBMAN

Thanks for sharing your part of the movement with me! I'm going to head out- I have a map of liberation to make.

(Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X exit downstage right while Harriet Tubman crosses downstage as there is a spotlight on Harriet sitting down on the stage downstage left).

HARRIET TUBMAN

Okay that was really inspiring. I think I'm ready to make this map now that I know some of the stories that came after me.

(HARRIET TUBMAN sits down to create the map which is projected behind her: HARRIET TUBMAN, ROSA PARKS, CLAUDETTE COLVIN, MALCOLM X, MARTIN LUTHER KING JR ALL ENTER and cross to center stage. They create a tableaux of liberation and navigation through the railroad).

HARRIET TUBMAN

Find your own path.

CLAUDETTE COLVIN + ROSA PARKS

Sit your ground. No matter your age.

MALCOLM X

We have rights. We are people.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

Chase your dreams.

ALL:

BLACK LIVES MATTER.

End of scene- blackout

