

ROSA PARKS

I'M NOT GETTING ON UNTIL JIM CROW GETS OFF

8th Annual American Spirit Series



“**Rosa Parks - I’m Not Getting On Until Jim Crow Gets Off,**” is an opportunity to listen to and participate in a thought-provoking, stirring discussion and performance featuring Awele Makeba as Rosa Parks, Claudette Colvin, Mary Louise Smith, and Jo Ann Robinson. On stage Awele weaves together the voices of these four key women who acted in defiance of the Jim Crow laws during the Montgomery (Alabama) Bus Boycotts in 1955.

This two hour interactive living history presentation will inspire new questions and present “important lessons-ones that continue to challenge us today-about participation as a responsible citizen in a democracy and about lessons of courage and faith. In bringing this untaught history to the stage and, indeed, to life, Makeba also reminds us of empathy and the capacity to understand and how history helps us realize the best in ourselves.” Margot S. Strom, ED, *Facing History and Ourselves*

This program is an interactive theatre performance about the teen and women activists in the Montgomery Bus Boycott. It is based on oral histories and primary source documents. The presentation format is a talking timeline presented for the audience to experience the Montgomery Bus Boycott and its significance in advancing democracy in the United States. Awele steps in and out of character, while weaving a historical narrative. She interacts with the audience as she explores the complexities of this time. Links are also made to contemporary themes and issues in the 21st century.

This event will be held Thursday, February 19, 2009 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The event location is the New Hope Baptist Church located at 3701 Colorado Blvd., Denver, Colorado.

Sponsorships begin from \$2,500. This will include admission to a private, pre-event reception where guests can engage Rosa Parks. Sponsors will have reserved seating at the presentation.

General Admission Tickets are \$20. Purchase tickets via credit card online at coloradohumanities.org (link to Blacktie-Colorado.com) or by phone at 303-894-7951 X10.

Colorado Humanities (CH) was established in 1974 and is one of 56 state humanities councils affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. CH is a 501c3 organization. In April 2004, Colorado Humanities merged with the Colorado Center for the Book (CCFTB) an affiliate of the Library of Congress, whose mission is to encourage a love of reading and books among children and adults of all ages through diverse cultural activities. The American Spirit Series supports CH and all programs including Young Chautauqua, where Colorado K-12 students build self-esteem, leadership and presentation skills through researching and portraying historical characters.

Colorado Humanities mission is to inspire the people of Colorado to explore ideas and to appreciate our diverse cultural heritage. Our goal is to enrich community life, and improve the lives of our citizens through educational programs.



For more details about our Black History Live School Programs February 16-19, call 393-894-7951 x17

For more general information visit coloradohumanities.org or call 303-894-7951 x16 Pat Kelly

This event is possible through the generous support of



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Awele Makeba

as Rosa Parks, Claudette Colvin, Mary Louise Smith, and Jo Ann Robinson

The Chautauqua Format

The Chautauqua (shu-taw'-kwa) first-person dramatizations of today borrow from a rich oral history tradition in America dating back to the late 1800s.

Each presentation consists of three equally important parts:

1. The Chautauquan delivers an unscripted, dramatic monologue in costume and in character.
2. In character, the Chautauquan answers audience questions about the life and times of his/her character.
3. The Chautauquan "breaks character" and, as a humanities scholar, engages the audience in additional commentary and Q&A.

Founded in 1974, Colorado Humanities has presented the American Spirit Series since 2002. This living-history event features a scholar who gives a live Chautauqua style performance of a notable character from our country's history. In the past, Colorado Humanities has presented such noteworthy luminaries as Thomas Jefferson, John and Abigail Adams, Theodore Roosevelt, Benjamin Franklin and Mark Twain.

This year, we are pleased to present Awele Makeba as Rosa Parks, Claudette Colvin, Mary Louise Smith, and Jo Ann Robinson. On stage Awele weaves together the voices of these four key women who acted in defiance of the Jim Crow laws during the Montgomery (Alabama) Bus Boycotts in 1955.

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