



*What does a daddy say to his baby boy when the boogie man is real? Confronted by a surge in White supremacist activity and Confederate nostalgia in the nation that he calls home, one father struggles to explain an apparent wave of hatred and bigotry to his son. In HAUNTED, actor and playwright, Sonny Kelly takes on the voices of historians, ancestors, preachers, politicians, pundits, and poets, as he traces the roots and routes of modern-day anti-Black violence and racial division in America. Kelly recounts the roots of hatred and fear embedded in the story of the 1898 lynching of Manley McCauley in Orange County, North Carolina. He also tracks the routes of racialized violence in America as manifested in the colonial justice system, the Wilmington Massacre of 1898, the 2015 shooting at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, and the 2020 lynching of Ahmaud Arbery in Brunswick, Georgia. Kelly digs deep to examine the impact that racial violence has historically had on our minds, bodies, and souls in the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

**This work has three 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 into a complicated, but loving, family where we are all encouraged to imagine new possibilities together.*

**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.sonnykelly.com](http://www.sonnykelly.com) and click on the "Contact Us" link.**

# HAUNTED

## THE 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.sonnykelly.com](http://www.sonnykelly.com)

# HAUNTED

*A One-Man Theatrical Storytelling Experience*  
By Sonny Kelly



## **What HAUNTED 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



*A One-Man Theatrical Storytelling Experience*  
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## **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: 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**

\$5,000 + 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.

**HAUNTED is currently available for booking!**

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