

The Color of Courage

A Two-Man Theatrical Experience

By Mitchell G. Capel



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Approximately 180,000 African Americans, comprising 163 units served in the Union Army during the American Civil War. In general, it was believed that “black men” lacked the ability to fight, and fight well. However, those ideas were quickly dispelled by the gallantry and bravery that African American soldiers displayed in every battle in which they participated. Mitchell Capel and Sonny Kelly are “a force to be reckoned with” as they bring to life a fraction of the untold stories of the hundreds of thousands of unsung heroes...heroes whose glory and honor have remained unspoken for entirely too long. With its powerfully poetic embodiment of these rare stories, framed by a multi-media presentation, this experience leaves audiences breathlessly enlightened and ultimately encouraged. Featuring the original work of Paul Laurence Dunbar, William Cullen Bryant, Raymond Garfield Dandridge, and others, this work brings to life an array of African American soldiers, their stories and their struggles.



The Color of Courage is currently available for booking!



Currently, scheduled performances:

January 29th (7pm) The Arts Council of Fayetteville, NC
February 6th (7pm) Redeemed Christian Church, Fayetteville, NC
February 18th (6pm) Tryon Palace, New Bern, NC
March 7th (11am) Fayetteville Tech. Comm. College Auditorium
March 8th (7pm) Sonja Haynes Stone Center at UNC Chapel Hill
April 8th Phoenix Academy High School, Chapel Hill, NC.
May 20th (7:30pm) Sunrise Theater in Southern Pines, NC

This project is a recipient of the UNC Chapel Hill *Performing Arts Special Activities Fund* grant and the *Fayetteville Technical Community College Foundation* grant. Presentations are modular and highly flexible. They can be effectively produced on main stages and in smaller venues. To book a performance in your community email sonnykelly2000@yahoo.com or call (210)793-5241.

The Color of Courage Cast:



Mitch Capel (also known as "Gran'daddy Junebug") is an award winning storyteller, writer, actor and poet from Southern Pines, NC. He has been described by major publications as "word magician", a "national treasure" and "unexpectedly powerful". Seven years after attending A&T State University and Howard University, Mitch began his career as a storyteller in 1985 specializing in the works of Paul Laurence Dunbar. He now has over 33 hours of stories stored to memory with over 90% of them in rhyme. Mitch is co-founder of The African-American Storytellers Retreat and has performed both nationally and internationally at thousands of venues including the Kennedy Center, The International Folk Festival, The Inauguration of President Barack Obama and (for the past 27 years) at The National Black Storytelling Festival. Visit www.gjbug.com for more.



Sonny Kelly is a professional performer, storyteller, motivator, speaker, and scholar. Currently pursuing a PhD in Communication at UNC Chapel Hill, Sonny is a graduate of St. Mary's University (MA, Communication Studies, '08) and Stanford University (BA, International Relations, '98). Sonny has been a professional actor on stage and television for over 25 years. He has served our nation as a U.S. Air Force officer, and his community as a non-profit organization program director, a youth worker and church minister. Sonny has worked with the United Way of Cumberland County, schools and non-profits across the nation, Beasley Broadcasting, the North Carolina Juvenile Services Association, the National Association of Black Storytellers and the Black Storytellers' Alliance to share his love for others through storytelling. Visit www.sonnykelly.com for more.

REVIEWS

"I defy anyone not to be moved by these soldiers, black or white. These two are a FORCE!"
~ Bo Thorp, Founding AD, Cape Fear Regional Theatre

"Phenomenal! I don't think that I have ever been in a better theatrical presentation, ever!!"
~ Duane Reynolds, Executive Director of Boys & Girls Clubs of Coastal Carolina

"...the actors held the students rapt as they wove poetry and song together to tell the story of the 180,000 black soldiers who fought for the Union in the Civil War."
~ Raleigh News & Observer

"A theatrical tour de force for these two amazingly gifted artists...history and artistry intersect for a great evening of theater!"
~ Deborah Mintz, Executive Director, Arts Council of Fayetteville, Cumberland County

"So full of heart and closeness with the texts and the multiple layers of meanings...Thanks for bringing these important stories alive at this crucial time in history."
~ Patricia Parker, PhD, Chair of the Department of Communication, UNC Chapel Hill

"A very powerful piece of work!"
~ Professor Phoebe Hall, Fayetteville State University, Performing & Fine Arts