

The Whipping Man

By Matthew Lopez
Directed by Kwame Kwei-Armah

Apr 4-May 13, 2012

Why is this night different from all other nights? For three Richmond Jews—one a former Confederate soldier, two his former slaves—gathered around a makeshift Seder table at the close of the Civil War, age-old questions of justice and freedom find new and surprising answers.

Digital Program:

<https://issuu.com/centerstagemd/docs/whippingmanprogram?backgroundColor=%23222222>



Throughout the production, CENTERSTAGE will be providing numerous opportunities for audiences to engage in discussion inspired by the themes of the show. Conversations will focus on the notion of inheritance— inherited faiths, political systems, racial struggles, and all of the inherited gifts and issues associated with our multifaceted identities. Prominent leaders of Baltimore’s African American and Jewish communities will participate, to encourage exploration of these two communities’ relationships over time. Theater scholars and artists will also contribute, offering historical and cultural expertise as well as behind-the-scenes insights to enhance audiences’ experiences of *The Whipping Man* and its rich subject matter.

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Ongoing—beginning April 11

The Head Theater Lobby

An exhibition featuring dramaturgical and historical context alongside art from students at the Maryland Institute College of Art and inspired by *The Whipping Man*. In partnership with MICA’s Graduate Dean Emeritus, and Founding Director of the Center for Race and Culture, Dr. Leslie King-Hammond.

Ongoing Series

ForeWords, Pre-performance discussions with CENTERSTAGE Dramaturgy and Artistic staff. Back of The Head Theater: **April 12, 19, 26**

AfterThoughts, Post-show discussions featuring CENTERSTAGE Dramaturgy and Artistic staff. The Head Theater stage:

- **Thursday, April 12**, following 7 pm performance
Featuring Production Dramaturg and University of Maryland professor Dr. Faedra Chatard Carpenter, Assistant Dramaturg Drew Barker, and Assistant Director Jay Gilman.
- **Saturday, April 14**, following the 2 pm performance
Featuring Production Dramaturg Dr. Faedra Carpenter with guests Dr. Jeffrey McCune and Gabriel Peoples of the University of Maryland.
Jeffrey Q. McCune, Jr. is Assistant Professor in American Studies and Women's Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park, Assistant Professor in the American Studies and Women's Studies departments, and a faculty affiliate in the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender Studies program.
Gabriel Peoples is an ABD Doctoral Student in American Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park, who has studied English and African studies at The University of Michigan and Africana studies at Cornell University.
- **Thursday, April 19**, following the 7 pm performance
Featuring Production Dramaturg Dr. Faedra Chatard Carpenter.
- **Sunday, April 22**, following the 2 pm performance
Featuring Assistant Dramaturg Drew Barker and Psyche Williams-Forson, Associate Professor & Co-director of Graduate Studies in the Department of American Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park.
- **Thursday, April 26**, following the 7 pm performance
Featuring Production Dramaturg Dr. Faedra Chatard Carpenter and special guest Dr. Heather Nathans, Professor in Theatre, Dance, & Performance Studies; Associate Director of Theatre at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Salon Chats, The Calvert Room, 6 pm

- **April 18** John "Jake" Oliver Jr., publisher/CEO of *The Afro-American Newspapers* will lead the discussion 'The African American and Jewish Community reaction to the outbreak of WWII as chronicled in the pages of *The Afro*.'
- **April 25** A conversation with Burt Kummerow, President of Maryland Historical Society, and CENTERSTAGE Artistic Director, and production director, Kwame Kwei-Armah.
- **May 2** Racial Unity, Hosted by Park Heights Jewish Community Center
- **May 9** What have you inherited? Do you still want it? CENTERSTAGE's teen afterschool program *Encounter* presents a debate and discussion

Special Engagements

Wednesday, April 11, 6 pm

Pre-Show Discussion, 6th Floor Rehearsal Hall. Bishop Douglas I. Miles of The Koinonia Baptist Church and of Baltimoreans United in Leadership (BUILD) and Rabbi Steven M. Fink of Temple Oheb Shalom will join Marc Steiner for a pre-show discussion prior to the Opening Night performance of *The Whipping Man*, exploring inherited faith and other themes that have shaped relations between African American and Jewish communities.

Sunday, April 15, following the 7:30 pm performance

Post-Show Discussion, The Head Theater. Dr. Raymond A. Winbush, celebrated author and historian, will host a discussion focusing on the legacy of slavery in American: What are the historic and modern implications of slavery in our country? How does it continue to influence race relations and public policy?

Sunday, April 29, following the 2 pm performance

Lea Gilmore performing *Freedom Songs*, The Head Theater. Lea Gilmore is a blues, gospel, and jazz singing civic activist who has lent her voice to advocacy for the underserved of the world. Appointed by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, she served for several years as a member of the Maryland Advisory Board to the United States Commission on Civil Rights, and frequently speaks on the history of African American music; civil and human rights; and women's rights, in addition to their historical and contemporary roles in blues and gospel music. *Freedom Songs* provide us with the history and musical traditions of a culture so complex, the lyrics often mean more than meets the ear.

Sunday, May 6, 6 pm

Pre-Show Discussion, The Andrus Rehearsal Hall. Chef and food historian Michael Twitty, author of *Kosher Soul*, hosts a discussion and book signing. Twitty will discuss being African-American and Jewish and how the food traditions from both cultures can be blended and celebrated. His book will be available both pre- and post-show for purchase, and there will be a post-show book signing in The Head Theater Lobby.

Salon Chat sponsors