

**Press Release for Roll Call USCT**

**VFTE and M.T. Pockets Theatre Presents An Exciting Night of Theater**

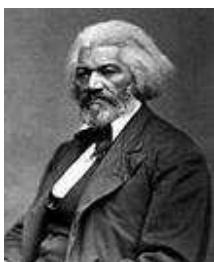
***Roll Call USCT: Stories of the Brave Black Regiments of the Civil War* by VFTE**

The voices of Frederick Douglass, Maj. Martin Delaney, Robert Smalls, and Capt. Luis Emilio take us back in time to reveal the contributions of African Americans in the fight for freedom during the American Civil War in *Roll Call USCT*, a story theatre performance running September 26, 27, and 28 at 8 pm at M.T. Pockets Theatre. This new work by Voices From the Earth, a traveling historical theatre company, commemorates the 150<sup>th</sup> year since the American Civil War and honors the United States Colored Troops. Tickets are \$9, \$12.50, and \$14.50, and may be purchased at:

<http://mtpocketstheatre.com/reservations.html> Doors open at 7:30. M.T. Pockets Theatre is located at 1390 ½ University Ave. Morgantown, WV 26505.

Laughter and tears, riddles and puzzles, and tales of glory and terror highlight this historical evening opening doors to the past to reveal hidden thoughts, covert actions, secrets and loyalties that remained untold. As western Virginians pursued a new state, African American men were asked to pursue the cause of freedom and to join the Federal Army infantry, cavalry, artillery and navy. Hand in hand, the new state of West Virginia and African Americans entered into an era of independence and self-determination. The storytelling scholars include Capt. Hari Jones, Col. James Armstead, Professor Charles Everett Pace, Baba Jamal Koram and Joey Madia.

VFTE a "travelling" theater, under the direction Ilene Evans, brings historical events directly you. VFTE's Chautauqua-style programs use historical portrayals, storytelling, and songs to recapture the chilling and inspiring exploits of some of the most famous men and women in America. Their unique theater presentations bring history to life by allowing the audience to take part by interacting with the storytellers who are renowned scholars on their character's life and times. The interactive dialogue invites an ongoing inquiry into historical issues that continue to shape us today. To learn more about VFTE and their unique storytelling style, visit their website at: [www.vfte.org](http://www.vfte.org).



Charles Everett Pace  
As Frederick Douglass



Col. James Armstead  
as Maj. Martin Delaney



Baba Jamal As Koram  
as Robert Smalls



Joey Madia  
as Capt. Luis Emilio

## **About Voices From the Earth Chautauqua**

**V**OICES FROM THE EARTH CHAUTAUQUA (VFTE CHAUTAUQUA) brings history and culture to life through creating humanities programs which invite lifelong learning, inquiry, and critical thinking. In this way we strengthen and preserve the best of our Appalachian and Affrilachian community. VFTE emphasizes the diversity and history of American culture through storytelling and scholarly presentations. Scholars do extensive research of primary source documents, journals and diaries to reveal the wealth of our American history and bring that history to life in the form of first person narratives and historical portrayals, seminars, workshops and symposiums. VFTE pursues the opportunity for ongoing civil discourse about freedom, justice, and equality in America. Our current theme is the Journey of Freedom in America.

### **VFTE CHAUTAUQUA**

VFTE Chautauqua revives culture and community through humanities programs. VFTE Chautauqua's mission: to educate, to enlighten and to empower through scholarly presentations, community conversations and cultural experiences.

### **THE VFTE CHAUTAUQUA SCHOLAR/STORYTELLERS**

Chautauqua Scholars are seasoned professors and teachers as well as engaging storytellers and actors. The topical material selected by Chautauqua Scholar may be presented as an historical portrayal, lecture, story, or monologue. It becomes the basis of a structured discussion first in small groups and then in a large group. The Chautauqua Scholars panel is led by a moderator who interviews and Historical figures from 1864 and facilitates the audience in conversation with them.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR VFTE CHAUTAUQUA PROGRAMS**

- Introduce audience to race, class and gender diversity issues in Civil War Appalachia
- Introduce biographical story as a significant component of Affrilachian/Appalachian culture
- Demonstrate ways stigmatized individuals or groups address cultural bias, discrimination and stereotyping
- Provide opportunity to explore diversity and cultural differences through stories presented in first person narrative
- Introduce audience to impact of culture race, class and gender expectations and stereotypes

### **VFTE CHAUTAUQUA 2013 THEME AND SETTING**

The timing of the presentation is set to commemorate a significant date in American history: September 22, 1862, the date 151 years ago when President Abraham Lincoln signed the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

## **VFTE CHAUTAUQUA PROGRAMS DESCRIPTION**

A scholar will portray a figure from the past telling their story in first person – stepping into the role of storyteller. Then they will then take time to answer questions of the audience as that character may have, using their knowledge of the person, their life and times as well as their circumstances. Then the scholar will step out of the role of the historical personage to answer questions that that person may not have been able to answer.

## **THE VFTE CHAUTAUQUA SYMPOSIUMS**

VFTE Chautauqua symposiums are designed to encourage, stimulate, and give participants the opportunity to practice civil discourse, to think and engage different ideas in a civil manner.

## **THE VFTE CHAUTAUQUA SCHOLARS PANEL**

### **Roll Call Port Royal**

The setting for the symposium is Port Royal, SC, September of 1864, one year after President Lincoln signed the emancipating proclamation into law followed by even stronger language bringing men of African descent into the federal military and arming them. The Department of the South became the staging ground for a radical rehearsal for reconstruction of the social and moral fabric of the South. The Treasury Department called it “The Port Royal Experiment.” The Port Royal Experiment was the test trial for equality and justice, social and political independence and true democracy; the opportunity for Abolitionists to prove that a free labor system was superior to a slave labor system both morally and economically. Have the ideals which created the Port Royal Experiment proven themselves to be sound? What happened between September of 1862 and September of 1864? Have you ever wanted to listen in on the conversation of famous people from the past? Here is your chance.