

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

THE STORY

In 1962 in Choctaw County, Alabama, an 18-year-old black man was questioned by an older white man; but when responding, young Carl Ray failed to address the man as "sir" as was then customary when speaking to white men. The man severely beat Ray for being disrespectful. Still enraged, the man later showed up at Ray's home, and shot his father eight times on his front porch steps; murdered him in cold blood as the terrified youth looked on helplessly. During the farce of a murder trial that followed, the white man's lawyers blamed Ray for causing his own father's death because he had failed to be respectful. In 1984 Ray came to forgive his father's murderer. Ray attributes the act of forgiving the man to have been his own life saver. Forgiveness released Carl Ray from his self-imposed prison.
-- a true story

THE PLAY — "THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS" (FORMERLY "A KILLING IN CHOCTAW")

directed by Anne Johnson, written & performed by Carl Ray

In 1999, San Jose, Calif. educator, activist and former stand-up comic Carl Ray began telling the compelling story of witnessing his father's racially motivated murder in the form of an acclaimed one-man, single-act play "A Killing in Choctaw." Ray has relived the painful day more than 250 times performing live in theaters, museums, community centers, churches and colleges throughout the U.S.

THE DOCUMENTARY — "A KILLING CHOCTAW: THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS"

directed by Chike C. Nwoffiah, Exec. Director, Oriki Theatre

performed, written and produced by Carl Ray; a Della Productions film; USA: color, 86 minutes

The film documentary debuted September 2004 at Montgomery Theater, San Jose, CA. Besides screenings at numerous theaters, churches and schools, the film screened and took awards at:

- 🎬 Oct. 2005 – **U.S. Virgin Island International Film Festival, St. Croix**
- 🎬 June 2005 – **San Francisco Black Film Festival**
- 🎬 May 2005 – **Black International Cinema Festival in Berlin, Germany**
- 🎬 May 2005 – **Stanford University "Reel Black" Independent Black Film Festival**

THE PBS-TV EDU. PROGRAM — "WHY HISTORY MATTERS: THE CHOCTAW PROJECT"

directed by Brian Heffron; starring Carl Ray; produced by KLCS-TV/DT

Los Angeles Public Broadcasting Station KLCS-TV/DT created a set replicating the porch where Ray's father was murdered and the Alabama courtroom where the actual trial took place. They filled the courtroom with jurors and spectators, then the studio taped Ray's live performance for airing on its program "Facing History and Ourselves" and for Los Angeles School District curriculum. KLCS Channel 58 aired the film documentary and the play "WHY HISTORY MATTERS: the Choctaw Project" in October 2005. Subsequently, the program won several distinguished awards:

- 🎬 Nov. 2006 - Silver **Davey Award - Award of Excellence "Social Issues"**
- 🎬 Nov. 2006 - Silver **Davey Award - Award of Excellence "Education"**
- 🎬 May 2006 - **Aurora Award - "Platinum Best of Show" for "Directing"**
- 🎬 May 2006 - **Videographer Award - Award of Excellence "Creativity in Cinematography"**
- 🎬 March 2006 - **Silver Telly Award, the highest award for "Cultural Programming"**
- 🎬 March 2006 - **Bronze Telly Award for achievement in "Set Design"**

THE BOOK — "CURED: THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS"

written by Carl Ray with J. Toye Snipes

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