

2017 – 18 Juneteenth Parade and Festival National Voting Theme Announcement

The Fannie Lou Hamer Story 100th Anniversary Birthday Celebration with the musical production of

The Fannie Lou Hamer Story; “I’m Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired”

Celebration Info - 347-395-0259

Juneteenth



The most important news for captured and enslaved Black African people in America was the announcement of their freedom. Voting rights represented their first and most momentous action to test and push the boundaries of their freedom. The Black Africans’ plight has required changing oppressive and cruel policies at all levels of government to guarantee what should be an “inalienable birthright”. Institutionally suppressive policies remain in our political system today altering the right to a basic quality of life. Two incredibly dynamic women who were the

foundational source of inspiration during the abolitionist movement in America that emboldened the rising indomitable spirit of Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer were Sojourner Truth, “I will not allow my life's light to be determined by the darkness around me” and Harriet Tubman, “I freed a thousand slaves, I could have freed a thousand more if only they knew they were slaves.”

Juneteenth or June 19, 1865 is officially recognized as a state holiday or Special Day of Observance in 45 states and the District of Columbia. Legislation to establish Juneteenth as a National Day of Observance in America will be re-introduced for passage in the United States Senate, United States House of Representatives and on to the desk of the President of the United States. Our project supports the campaign to make Juneteenth a National Day of Observance in America representing the consummation of President Abraham Lincoln’s executive order, the Emancipation Proclamation. www.nationaljuneteenth.com Juneteenth is when approximately 2,000 Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas to force Confederate slaveholders to comply with the presidential executive order decreed two and one-half years earlier, January 1, 1863. Freedom offered by the European American oppressor was limited for Black Africans and their ancestors who arrived bound and chained during the [Maafa](#).

The European American oppressors drafted and signed the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776 to officially liberate themselves of the financial tyranny of Great Britain. However, many of the founding fathers were slaveholders living in contradiction and creating policies designed to limit the dignity and freedom of Black Africans, called “Negro”. Benjamin Banneker, African scientist, astronomer and surveyor and free born descendant of slaves was hired to survey the heavens to aid in the design of America’s [U.S. Capitol and its \["White" House\]](#) built by Black African slave labor. [Egypt on the Potomac](#)

Why Celebrate Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer as the National Theme for Juneteenth?



Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer was born October 6, 1917 and raised in very harsh and impoverished living conditions sometimes going days without food as the twentieth child of James and Ella Townsend. Her parents migrated from one Mississippi Delta sharecropper plantation to another seeking higher wages in an impossible attempt to find a better quality of life. Fannie Lou Hamer became, “Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired” by deciding to take control of her life through voting out institutionally oppressive policies.



The late Lawrence Guyot was a friend and civil rights activist beaten and jailed alongside Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer for registering to vote. He stated in response to a Clarion-Ledger interview, “there is talk of building a statue of Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer and rightfully so... I will say that only three things should appear on her statue, **a bible**, ... Fannie Lou once said I can’t hate White people and expect to see the face of Jesus, **a ballot box**, {her spiritual songs inspired the courage of many to risk their lives to register to vote} and **a picture of her testifying** at the 1964 Democratic National Convention.



Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer rose from slaving on sharecropping plantations to lead the charge as the spokesperson for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Held national college student training camps at Miami University in Oxford, OH for the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer Voter Registration Campaign. She founded the Mississippi Freedom Farms initiative to feed the impoverished. She founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party to challenge the incumbent European American oppressors by running for congress. Her credentials committee testimony at the 1964 Democratic National Convention caused a seismic shift on the socio-political landscape of America which became the catalyst to the passage of the Voter’s Rights Act of 1965.

She picked up the inspirational torch of Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman to become the undisputed Mother of Voter Registration for the Negro in America. Celebrating her 100th anniversary birthday is the most poignant light for the National Theme of Juneteenth 2017 – 18. Time has come to stake our claim to [reparations](#) reinforced by a recent [United Nations panel report](#) as we move towards our next election cycle.

The National Juneteenth Educational Tour of The Fannie Lou Hamer Story



Healing Through the Sound of Music produces this mesmerizing performance by Mzuri Moyo Aimbaye to increasingly sold-out audiences nationwide. Currently, a focused group has put together a budget to produce an off - off Broadway run. This production which revisits the Civil Rights movement, hauntingly mirrors today's socio-political climate.

We are proud to announce the launch of **The Fannie Lou Hamer Story 100th Anniversary Birthday Celebration as the National Juneteenth Parade and Festival Theme for 2017 – 18 and National Juneteenth Educational Tour**. Ms. Aimbaye channels Mrs. Hamer transfixing the audience in a riveting 60-minute journey of storytelling showered with eleven inspiring songs and a video montage of the Civil Rights movement. Ms. Aimbaye has the power of a warrior when she speaks and the voice of an angel when she sings evoking emotions with tears of joy and pain as well as sorrow and laughter. A critic once wrote, “When Ms. Mzuri sings God smiles and angels flap their wings”. The audience will experience the courageous spirit and determination of Mrs. Hamer’s emotional twists and turns in her triumphant quest for human dignity and freedom.

Born in Paterson, New Jersey, Mzuri Moyo Aimbaye is an internationally acclaimed playwright, actress and singer of the multi-award winning one-woman play, *The Fannie Lou Hamer Story* www.thefannielouhamerstory.com. Her talents combine the presence of a movie star with a booming vocal range and the versatility of an opera singer. She has been enthusiastically received on cabaret and concert stages both nationally and internationally. Her Swahili name, Mzuri Moyo Aimbaye means Mzuri (beautiful) Moyo (heart) Aimbaye (who sings). She lived and sang briefly in Paris and Rome. Upon returning from Europe, she trained as an actress at HB Studio, New York City. She performed in small productions in the NY/NJ area and was later **casted as Lucy for the first African American film depicting a slave revolt, “SANKOFA.”**

Brochure - [The Fannie Lou Hamer Story Brochure](#)

Notable Credits

- 2017 - - National Black Theatre Festival, 4 sold-out performances, Winston-Salem, N.C.
- 2016 - - 2013, 2012 - - African American Civil War Museum, D.C.
- 2016 - - Power Networking Conference, Prince George County, MD
- 2016 - - Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral fundraiser performance, Jamaica, NY
- 2015 - - National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Harriet Tubman Theatre Cincinnati, OH
- 2015 - - Atlanta Black Theatre Festival - Best Play, Best Actor and Best Producer, unprecedented three awards
- 2014 - - Teamsters National Black Caucus annual convention, Philadelphia, PA
- 2014 - - Ohio Statehouse Civil Rights Commission’s Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
- 2011 - - 10th year commemoration of 9/11 at the United Nations with the New York City Symphony
See performance: [United Nations Performance](#)
- 2008 - - Sojourner Truth bust installment in Constitution Hall, D.C., commissioned by National Congress of Black Women chairperson, Dr. E. Faye Williams to write a short play, song and perform
- 2007 - - Three Sopranos for Peace New York City Symphony Tour in Paraguay, South America
- 2002 - - Viv “Audelco” (Black Tony) award for best solo performance just one year after writing

COORDINATE YOUR TOUR DATE REGIONALLY NOW!

National Tour Production Company – Healing Through the Sound of Music

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