

# BLACK HISTORY'S GROUNDBREAKING GENIUSES

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[www.brightstartheatre.com](http://www.brightstartheatre.com)

Thank you so much for joining us for our show! We hope you all enjoyed it and learned about some of the incredible people throughout history. Really quick, who are some of the people you found most interesting? Maybe you'd never heard of them, or learned something new about them, or have loved them all along!

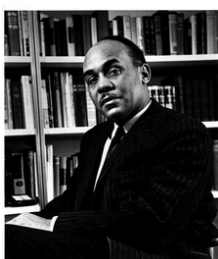
Our objective in creating this production was to offer young audiences the opportunity to meet some of the most significant Black Americans in the last few hundred years! Our format for the show is an interactive approach that reinforces the names of these famous Americans and their contributions to, not only America, but the whole entire the world.

WELCOMES



# THE GENIUSES YOU'LL MEET TODAY

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## **Ralph Ellison**

*Writer*

Writer of the novel *Invisible Man* and many more, influential leader during the Harlem Renaissance.

## **Dorothy Vaughan**

*Mathematician and Astrophysicist*

The human computer, star of *Hidden Figures* (the book and film), and instrumental to America winning the 'Space Race'



## **Mae Jemison**

*Astronaut, Doctor, Scientist*

First black woman in space, worked for years with doctors without borders, a talented ballerina



# HOW TO MAKE A PLAY:

01

## The script

Before you can make a play, you have to have a script. A script is all the lines (words spoken by the characters) and stage directions (physical descriptions of what happens on stage) all written down. Maybe you find a script or write your own!

02

## Find your cast

Make sure every character has an actor to play them! Maybe every actor has a part, or maybe every actor plays multiple parts!

03

## Practice your show

This is the most important step! In the early rehearsals (which is practicing for the play) you decide everyone's blocking (where they stand and move) and how everyone should say their lines.

04

## Practice your show

Oh, did I already say this one? Well, that's because it's so important! Practice makes perfect. The more times you go through a scene, the more things you will try, and the better it will be!

05

## Add the technical elements

Acting isn't the only part of a show. The last week of rehearsal is when you get to add the cool technical things like lights and costumes! It can be a long process, but it's always worth it!

06

## Perform

Now for the fun part! The hard part is over and you get to show your friends and family how hard you've worked! And, have fun while you're at it!





# FUN ACTIVITIES FOR AFTER THE SHOW

Just because the show's over doesn't mean the fun is! There's still so much black history to talk about that we didn't mention. And each of the people we talked about led such rich and nuanced lives that each could have a two hour film dedicated just to them! Here are some ideas to keep your students engaged and interested in these historical figures, even after the curtains close:

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## **Create your own Hall of Fame!**

01

Have the students each pick a figure from black history. They could be someone we discussed in the show, someone the student is interested independently, or even someone they've never heard of before! Have the students prepare a speech as if they were that person, discussing the highlights and why they're here in the Hall of Fame.

## **Social Media Management**

02

Have the students each pick a person from Black History and create a "social media account" for that person using paper and crayons. Have them advertise the person's accomplishments, draw pictures for their page, and see how many likes they get from the class by the end!

## **Guess who!**

03

Have a series of people from black history and assign everyone in the class one person. Then pair students off and have them each ask questions to try and guess who the other person is!



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# NEXT STEPS



The importance of history and art doesn't stop outside the classroom.

Students should be encouraged to visit their local libraries to learn more about important people in our world.

And visit their local community theatres for ways to get involved in the arts!

*Find out  
more at*

[brightstartheatre.com](http://brightstartheatre.com)  
[josh@brightstartheatre.com](mailto:josh@brightstartheatre.com)

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