



I AM TROY DAVIS

A THEATRICAL PROTEST TO THE DEATH
PENALTY AND STATE VIOLENCE
PERFORMED BY THOSE MOST IMPACTED



SUNDAY, DEC 8, 3-5P
RATTLESTICK
PLAYWRIGHTS THEATER

MESSAGE

FROM THE FAMILY OF

TROY DAVIS

On September 21, 2011, my brother Troy Davis was killed by the state of Georgia, despite a mountain of evidence pointing towards his innocence. Hundreds of thousands of people signed petitions for Troy, demonstrated on his behalf, and carried signs, wore T-shirts, or chanted: "I Am Troy Davis!"

We chanted "I Am Troy Davis" then, to underscore that if the system could kill an innocent man, no one of us is safe.

We chanted "I Am Troy Davis" to emphasize the common humanity that connects us all.

We chanted "I Am Troy Davis" to motivate our ongoing struggle for a world where the lives of all of our loved ones are equally valued in the eyes of the state and in the eyes of society.



The moment the I Am Troy Davis rallying cry was born



Demonstration for Troy September 21, 2011

The individuals performing my family's story have been at the heart of that struggle. The system that killed Troy is the same system that wrongfully landed Sabrina Butler, Lawrence Hayes, Shujaa Graham, Louis Castro Perez and Billie Allen on death row. It's the reason why Yusef Salaam and the other four Central Park 5 exonerees spent a combined 44 years in prison. The legal lynching that claimed my brother's life shares deep roots with the lynching that took the life of 14-year-old Emmett Till in 1955, the violent racism that led to the murder of 17-year-old Jordan Davis in 2012, and the police violence that led to the murders of Oscar Grant in 2009 and Eric Garner in 2014. Troy's suffering is connected to the torture endured by 16-year-old Kalief Browder, who was held in pre-trial solitary confinement at Rikers for years, for allegedly stealing a backpack.

MESSAGE FROM THE FAMILY OF TROY DAVIS

My sister Kimberly, nephew De'Jaun, daughter Kiersten, and I are so proud to be here this afternoon with all the performers who represent so many years of struggle and resistance. We are honored for our family's story to be connected to theirs. When we chant "I Am Troy Davis" today, it is in solidarity with everyone on stage, and all those with similar stories of injustice. We chant so that our stories become an urgent call to resist all forms of state and racial violence, and to build together a society that is based in true justice, compassion and freedom.



Martina Davis-Correia at a rally

In a phone call to student activists a few years before he was killed, Troy said, "Everything we do today is going to clear the way for a better tomorrow. Everything is coming to a head and people are starting to wake up more and more...it really gives me hope that things are gonna change. That this is just the beginning of something that's about to blow up to the point where we're going to see some sort of success. We're going to win this fight, we're going to continue to open these eyes, we're going to continue to open these prison doors, we're going to continue to hold accountable all those who are in charge of these unjust systems...We can correct all the wrongs if we just continue to stand together. And that's what's most important. We need to continue to stand together and educate each other, and don't give up the fight."

We ask all of you here this afternoon to stand with our family, with the families of everyone you saw perform today--and to join our fight.

With love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ebony Davis".

Ebony Davis, on behalf of the Davis family



The Davis family visiting Troy

I AM TROY DAVIS

BY PHILLIP MONTGOMERY

BASED ON THE BOOK
BY JEN MARLOWE & MARTINA DAVIS-CORREIA
WITH TROY ANTHONY DAVIS

PERFORMERS

AIRICKCA GORDON-TAYLOR
AISHA SALAAM-MALONE
AKEEM BROWDER
CEPHUS "UNCLE BOBBY X" JOHNSON
DELIA PEREZ MEYER
ERIC TAYLOR
GWENN CARR
LAWRENCE GHANA HAYES
LEE WENGRAF
PHYLLIS PRENTICE
RON DAVIS
SABRINA BUTLER
SERA-LYS MCARTHUR
SHUJAA GRAHAM
YVETTE ALLEN

DIRECTORS

HEATHER HOLMES
LACHRISHA BROWN

PRODUCER

JEN MARLOWE

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

NANCY NORDHOFF
LYNN HAYS
KATHLEEN CHALFANT
HENRY CHALFANT
ANDY SHALLAL
AMELIE RATLIFF
D'VORAH KOST

EDUCATION CONSULTANT

CIARA TAYLOR

FACILITATORS

BRITTANY KING
CHERRELL BROWN

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

TARA TEE

MUSIC COURTESY OF SONGS IN THE KEY OF RESISTANCE (SKOR)

I AM TROY DAVIS

SPECIAL GRATITUDE FOR SUPPORT

THE GENEVIÈVE MCMILLAN-REBA STEWART
FOUNDATION
ANNE POSEL
CHRIS & BILL MARKS
CYNTHIA BEARD
CYNTHIA & JOEL DAVIS
FRANCES POSEL
HARRY MATTISON & CAROLYN FORCHÉ
JENIFER WICKS
MARES HIRCHERT
MARTIN & ANNE EMANUEL

SPECIAL THANKS

ABE BONOWITZ
CARA KOVALOVICH
DANIELLA TOPOL
KERRY KING
KRISTINA ROTH

LEE WENGRAF
LUMUMBA BANDELE
SCOTT LANGLEY
THENJIWE MCHARRIS

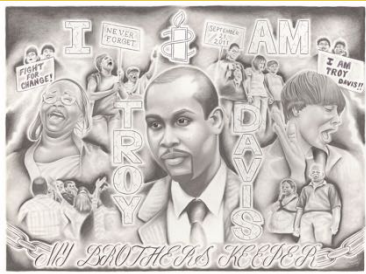
PHOTOS COURTESY OF
THE DAVIS FAMILY

LIVE-STREAMING COURTESY OF
SPARK STREET DIGITAL

DEATH PENALTY PHOTOGRAPHY
DOCUMENTARY PROJECT

Donkeysaddle Projects is producing the *I Am Troy Davis* event in partnership with Amnesty International USA, Blackbird, Death Penalty Action, the Jordan Davis Foundation, Legal Defense Fund, the Mamie Till Mobley Foundation, the People's Forum, Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre, Sankofa, and Witness to

Innocence.



From Kenneth Foster
serving a life sentence in TX



7 of 9 eye witnesses in Troy's case later
recanted

I AM TROY DAVIS

PRODUCTION TEAM



PHILLIP MONTGOMERY

(Screenwriter)'s directing work includes numerous critically acclaimed film and TV projects. In 2012, he made his feature documentary debut with #ReGENERATION, exploring the state of activism in today's youth. Narrated by Academy Award Winner Ryan Gosling, the film was released theatrically in over 20 cities.



JEN MARLOWE

(Author/Producer) wrote the book *I Am Troy Davis* with Troy and his sister Martina. She's an author, documentary filmmaker, journalist, playwright and founder of Donkeysaddle Projects. Each and every day she's inspired by the memory of three warrior-angels: Troy, Martina, and their mother Virginia.



LACHRISHA C. BROWN

(Director) is an Actor and Teaching Artist in NYC. Specializing in Mindfulness practices, she collaborates with schools, churches, community centers and theaters throughout NYC. She is a pioneer developing new works and facilitating safe spaces for political conversation inspired by Social Justice Theater through her work with Donkeysaddle Projects and Colab Arts.



HEATHER HOLMES

(Director) Eternal, loving gratitude to my elder warriors: Grams for being a teacher, guide, and advocate; Grandpa for being an independent thinker and "self-made man;" Grandmommy for being a teacher and wise card-sharp; Granddaddy for being an educator, reformer, and a "first." Each one an artist, each one an activist. Amen.



BRITTANY KING (BK)

(Facilitator) is a poet, writer, actor and community organizer living in Miami, FL. Bk is co-director of Donkeysaddle Projects; their work lies at the intersection of 'Artivism' which fuses art, storytelling and activism. Through the cultivation of music, poetry, storytelling, and theatre, Bk is helping to transform her community one story at a time.



CHERRELL BROWN

(Facilitator) Hey, I'm Rell, a community organizer and social justice educator from Atlanta. I came to movement work a decade ago working at the intersections of anti-Black State violence and environmental justice, and to end the Death Penalty. I was a student organizer during the Troy Davis campaign. I now serve as Lead Organizer for 350.org.

I AM TROY DAVIS

PERFORMERS



AIRICKCA GORDON-TAYLOR

is a cousin to Emmett Louis Till and his mother, Mamie Till Mobley. Airickca travels the country as a human rights activist promoting racial reconciliation and social justice. Airickca is the co-founder of Mamie Till Mobley Memorial Foundation established to honor the inheritance of her legacy and continue the foundation's mantra of Remembering the Past and Educating the Future.



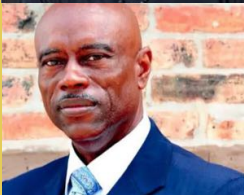
AISHA SALAAM-MALONE

is a staunch advocate for racial equality. Mother's Day, May 10, 2020 her organization Justice 4 the Wrongfully Incarcerated will march from Harlem to Albany to help gain support for bills #A3798a / #S2074a. She is also the sister of Yusef Salaam, who was wrongfully convicted in the Central Park 5 case.



AKEEM BROWDER

works to honor the legacy of his brother Kalief Browder, a teenager held for years in pre-trial solitary confinement at Rikers. Browder works with elected official and community members to change laws and policies that devastate communities impacted by mass incarceration and solitary confinement. He's the founder of Shut Down Rikers, and the Kalief Browder Foundation.



CEPHUS "UNCLE BOBBY X" JOHNSON

the uncle of Oscar Grant, is a social justice activist at the forefront of ending police violence in America. Cephus has founded four grassroots social justice organizations, the Oscar Grant Foundation, Love Not Blood Campaign, California Families United 4 Justice, and a National Families United 4 Justice Network. Cephus has received many prestigious awards for his social justice and police accountability work.



DELIA PEREZ MEYER

has a background in Bilingual Education, Cultural Arts, International Business, and Human Rights activism focusing on the death penalty. Her brother Louis Castro Perez is an innocent man on Texas' Death Row. When Louis was wrongfully convicted 21 years ago, "our family embarked on the most incredible journey of our lives - trying to save an innocent man from death row in Texas."



ERIC LAWRENCE TAYLOR

is an Actor/ Writer/Director and graduate of Fordham University. Since then he has performed at La Mama, Abrons Art Center and the University Settlement. His work spans from movement, and spoken word to music and film.

I AM TROY DAVIS

PERFORMERS



GWEN CARR

is an activist working to change laws to prevent the inhumane treatment of our Black and Brown children and to combat police misconduct through legislation. She is the mother of Eric Garner, who was killed by the NYPD in 2014.



LAWRENCE GHANA HAYES

is a former death House Prisoner from New York State. He's a founding member of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty and former Black Panther. Lawrence has spoken in many colleges and universities; including in the UK, Italy and Canada.



LEE WENGRAF

is a writer, activist, and former Board member of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty. She is the author of *Extracting Profit: Imperialism, Neoliberalism and the New Scramble for Africa* (2018) and numerous articles.



PHYLLIS PRENTICE

has been active in many different social movements beginning in college. She became involved in prison reform in 1971. She now advocates against the death penalty with her partner, Shujaa Graham, a death row exonoree.



RON DAVIS

became a steadfast activist working to prevent "Stand Your Ground" laws to justify unprovoked killings after his son Jordan Davis' tragic death. In 2013, he established (and is president of) The Jordan Davis Foundation, a non-profit organization aiming to provide financial assistance for children for exposure to cultural initiatives through travel and education.



SABRINA BUTLER

is a Mississippi woman, who was eventually exonerated from Mississippi death row in December of 1995 of all wrongdoing, after initially being wrongfully convicted as a teenager for the alleged murder and child abuse of her nine-month-old son.

I AM TROY DAVIS

PERFORMERS



SERA-LYS MCARTHUR

is an actor/activist & producer of stage and screen. Sera-Lys was raised in Saskatchewan, Canada and is of Nakota and settler descent. She has been acting professionally since she was 13 years old. As a producer, her work raises awareness about various issues affecting First Nations people, most notably Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2 Spirit people.



SHUJAA GRAHAM

was wrongfully convicted and sent to death row in California in 1976 for a crime he didn't commit. Since his exoneration in 1981, he has worked tirelessly to abolish the death penalty.



YVETTE ALLEN

is the sister and advocate of Federal Death Row prisoner, Billie Allen. Yvette has been relentless in her fight to prove Billie's Innocence and has made Billie's fight for justice her own as well.



Troy spends time with his nephew De'Jaun and his newborn niece, Kiersten.

Sept 2008: The Davis family and supporters celebrate a stay of execution granted by the U.S. Supreme Court 90 minutes before Georgia intended to kill Troy.



MESSAGE

FROM

BILLIE ALLEN

AN INNOCENT MAN ON FEDERAL DEATH ROW

My name is Billie Allen. I'm a loving, loyal son, brother, uncle, cousin, nephew, as well as a good friend. I'm also an artist, writer and playwright. Unfortunately, alongside all this, I have been the property of the U.S. Government for the last 20+ years. I have been falsely imprisoned on Indiana's Terre Haute Federal Death Row for a robbery-murder that I did NOT commit. I was forced to embark on an involuntary journey that in no way is for the faint-hearted, nor for one who lacks faith. It is my faith and my art that has sustained me all of these years.

In my art, I find relief. Art is my voice, my eyes, and my hope. It is a mirror of my truth. It is a result of what happens when my emotions escape from the place within me, where I've kept them prisoner. Their cries; some in pain, anger, resentment, frustration, and on rare occasions joy, will erupt onto paper, canvas, or whatever material that's been chosen as the arena for their voices to be heard. The colors scream of the emotions that I have longed to set free! At times my brushstrokes are calm, while at others, they are bold or wildly controlled, leaving an undeniable impression of a soul that has suffered, and somewhat shattered, but not yet broken, but barely holding together!

I am fighting for my freedom by trying to expose my truth and what the government wants to suppress. My case involves so many hallmarks of the injustice in our system: Trial attorneys who did not do their job, exculpatory evidence being unheard, false testimony and finality over fairness. And, with the possible resumption of federal executions, my case is more urgent now than ever. This fight is not over, and with your help, it can be won!

MESSAGE FROM BILLIE ALLEN

AN INNOCENT MAN ON FEDERAL DEATH ROW

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

1. Visit www.freebillieallen.com to learn more about my case, see the evidence yourself so that you can educate others. You will also have the opportunity to see some of my art and poetry!
2. Pass out flyers and make my case known through social media. (We can provide flyers via email and/or mail)
3. Help us find opportunities to collaborate with activists, organizations to share my story through my art or speaking events
4. Host an event/speaking engagement
5. Sign my Change.org petition, started by my sister—and share it with family, friends, neighbors, churches, etc to help get signatures: <http://chnge.it/b527czTb>

Thank you for your support!

-Billie Allen, an innocent man on federal death row



"Innocent" by Billie Allen



"America" by Billie Allen

MESSAGE FROM LOUIS CASTRO PEREZ

AN INNOCENT MAN ON TEXAS DEATH ROW

Hello! First and foremost I would like to say 'thank you' to everyone who is present today! I have been living on death row in Texas as an innocent man for over 21 years. Despite my situation, I have tried to remain the same person I was out there as I am in here. I cannot allow this place to change who I am. Like Troy Davis, we remain strong, true to ourselves and our convictions for peace, justice, and freedom. Troy's struggle... his fight...all his let downs...EVERYTHING, I'm going through them right now. Reading about all the things Martina had gone through for her brother is such a carbon copy of what my sister Delia is doing for me. What REALLY caught my attention was that throughout his ordeal...Troy was still able to have contact visits with his family. THAT made me both feel really good for him and jealous too. Here in Texas, Death Row doesn't allow contact visits. After reading *I Am Troy Davis* and then going back to look at all the photos....I won't lie to you...I shed some tears because I didn't get to hug my mother before she passed. My Grandparents, some cousins and friends either. I want to let the Davis family know: we were there with them when they lost Troy.

I have made many friends here on death row and have learned so much from them - especially as an artist and writer. I have watched hundreds of men being dragged to their death and each one is harder than the last. The resumption of federal executions would be a travesty, unnecessary, and undermine all the work that has been done over the last four decades by abolitionists and human rights champions, like yourselves. We must continue to work towards abolition of the death penalty in our country and around the world. I thank God each day that The Innocence Projects, Witness to Innocence, and my attorney, Marcy Greer, have fought so hard to uncover the truth in my case of wrongful conviction.

And—for more information about my case and to get involved, please watch the documentary film, "The Road to Livingston," or contact Marcy, in Austin, Texas or my sister Delia Perez Meyer at: dmeyer@prismnet.com.

Wishing you a very happy holiday season!
-Louis Castro Perez



*Delia Perez Meyer
with her brother Louis Castro Perez.*

I AM TROY DAVIS

CALLS TO ACTION

The I Am Troy Davis performers have all been directly impacted by the death penalty, mass incarceration, state and racial violence. In some cases, their loved ones are still fighting for their lives. (See messages from Billie Allen and Louis Castro Perez, brothers of Yvette Allen and Delia Perez-Meyer.) These warriors for justice and humanity are calling on us to do the following:

Airicka Gordon-Taylor calls on the audience to stay informed about the upcoming 65 year anniversary of the murder of her cousin, Emmett Till.

Visit www.EmmettTill.com, Twitter: @emmettilltalks, Insta: @_airicka_, Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MamieTillMobleyFoundation/>

Aisha Salaam-Malone calls on the audience to support bills S2074 and A3978, providing compensation, housing and more for the wrongfully incarcerated. On Mother's Day we'll march to Albany to gain support for these bills. We meet every 1st Saturday 10am-12pm, Mt. Morris Ascension Presbyterian Church, 15 Mt. Morris Park West.

Follow us on Facebook: Justice 4 the Wrongfully Incarcerated.

Akeem Browder calls on the audience to get involved with the Kalief Browder Foundation (www.kaliefbrowderfoundation.com) whose mission includes dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline.

Cephus "Uncle Bobby X" Johnson calls on the audience to get involved with the Love Not Blood Campaign. We ask for donations to sponsor impacted family of police violence (whether mass incarceration or police murder) to attend "Families United 4 Justice 5th Annual Network Gathering Conference" in Washington DC. To donate: <https://www.lovenotbloodcampaign.com/>

Gwenn Carr calls on the audience to stand with her as she goes forward in seeking justice and accountability for the misconduct of the other officers who were involved in her son (Eric Garner)'s killing, on July 17, 2014.

Lawrence Ghana Hayes calls on the audience to embrace this position: "We aren't just against Executions. We are for America and all societies. To promote Humanity's need to increase Governments Appreciation, Value and Respect for Life. All Life."

Ron Davis calls on the audience to eradicate the money bail system, which serves the rich and devastates the poor. Contact Ron at monvie4u2@gmail.com to invite him to speak on this subject.

I AM TROY DAVIS

CALLS TO ACTION

Sabrina Butler calls on the audience to remember that innocence should be a factor, and should carry as much weight as any evidence against us. It is our right to be given the chance as citizens to be able to show we are innocent.



Martina holds toddler Troy's hand on Easter Sunday.



Martina stands for her brother at a press conference hours before he is killed.



De'Jaun wins statewide social science competition for his project "How does the Troy Anthony Davis case impact Georgia?"



*Sept 21, 2011 11:08 pm
The moment Troy was killed, Martina was enlisting another fighter against the system that killed her brother.*



Families United 4 Justice gathering

I AM TROY DAVIS

DEATH PENALTY IN FOCUS

RACIAL BIAS AND THE DEATH PENALTY:

(Based on Equal Justice Initiative: <https://eji.org/issues/death-penalty/>)

The modern death penalty in America is a “direct descendant of lynching,” mirroring the racial violence of the past. Racial terror lynchings gave way to executions in response to criticism that torturing and killing black people for cheering audiences was undermining America’s image. 2/3 of people executed in the 1930s were black, and the trend continued. African Americans’ share of the South’s population fell to just 22% by 1950, but 75% of people executed in the South were Black.

In 1972, the Supreme Court struck down the death penalty because “If any basis can be discerned for the selection of these few to be sentenced to die,” as the Court wrote in *Furman v. Georgia*, “it is the constitutionally impermissible basis of race.” Southern lawmakers quickly passed new death penalty laws. “There should be more hangings. Put more nooses on the gallows,” proponents of Georgia’s new law insisted. “The Supreme Court upheld Georgia’s new death penalty statute in 1976, and racial bias in the death penalty persisted.

A decade later, the Court considered statistical evidence presented in *McCleskey v. Kemp* showing that GA defendants were more than four times as likely to be sentenced to death if the murder victim was white than if the victim was black. Yet the Court concluded that racial bias in sentencing is “an inevitable part of our criminal justice system.”

The data in GA has actually gotten worse since then: people convicted of killing white victims are 17 times more likely to be executed than those convicted of killing black victims. Illegal racial discrimination in jury selection is widespread, especially in the South and in capital cases—thousands of black people have been illegally excluded from juries.

Southern lawmakers today invoke “states’ rights” to defeat anti-discrimination bills just like they did to block federal anti-lynching laws.

42%

African Americans make up 42% of people on death row and 34% of those executed, but only 13% of the population is Black.

8 in 10

More than 8 in 10 lynchings between 1889 and 1918 and legal executions since 1976 have occurred in the South.

96%

In 96% of states where researchers completed studies on race and the death penalty, they found discrimination based on the victim’s race, the defendant’s race, or both.

166

166 people have been exonerated and released from death row since 1973.

1507

1507 people have been executed in the U.S. since 1973.

I AM TROY DAVIS

"Martina fought so hard. She taught so many people what resistance really looks like and what it means to love somebody. Those fighting to prevent injustices, like Troy's [family], and those who fight after their loved ones have been taken from them: That love sits at the heart of any movement for liberation. It's certainly at the heart of this one."

-Thenjiwe McHarris, Blackbird



WalkWithJordan.org

DEATH PENALTY
ACTION

DeathPenaltyAction.org



rattlestick.org



donkeysaddle.org



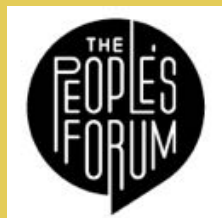
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witness-to-innocence.org



peoplesforum.org



MamieTillMobleyFoundation.org



amnestyusa.org