



NEWSTAGEEd

Touring Productions 2023-2024

Janet Langhart Cohen's

Anne & Emmett

Study Guide

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Arts in Education Production

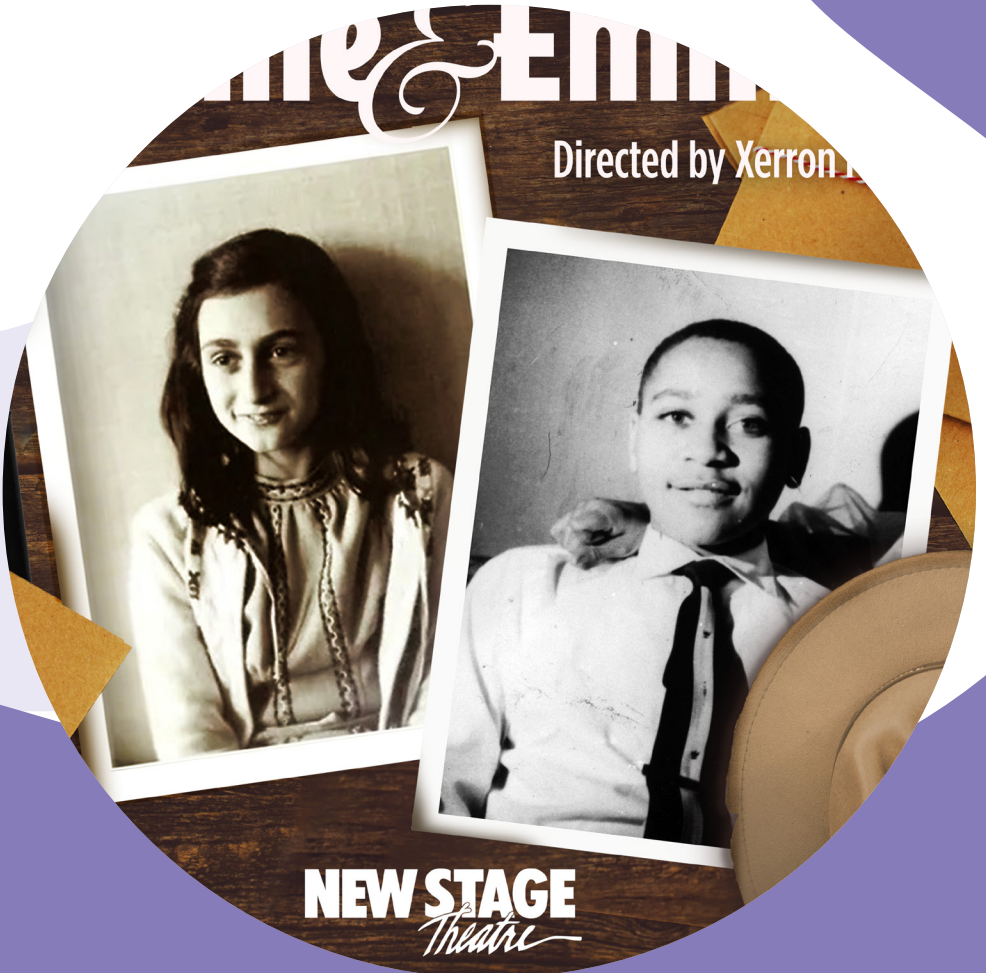
Directed by Xerron Mingo

NEW STAGE
Theatre

newstagetheatre.com/educate



1100 Carlisle
Jackson, Mississippi 39202



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Janet Langhart Cohen's

Anne & Emmett

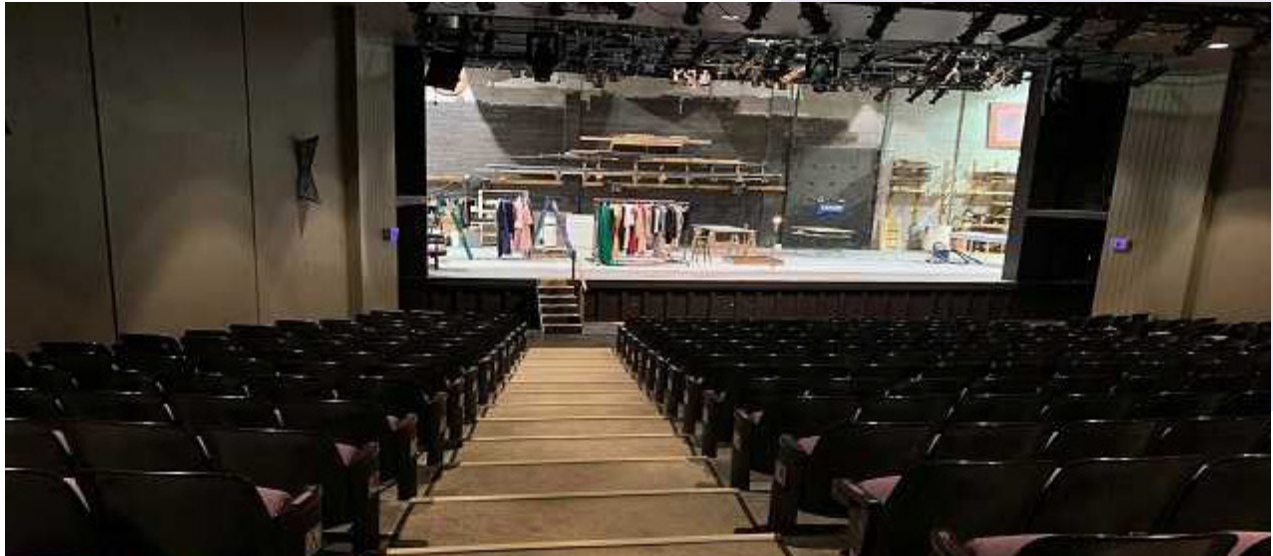
Written by Janet Langhart Cohen

Through an imaginary conversation between two iconic figures of civil rights history, *Anne & Emmett* examines the innocence of children thrust into the most horrific of circumstances. This play is a history lesson about the importance of tolerance, compassion, and justice, to be acted on in life. Though worlds away from each other, both Anne Frank and Emmett Till were just 14 years old when they fell victim to hate and intolerance. Together both Anne and Emmett speak as teenagers do. Although isolated from the violence of their lives in the place called Memory, both discuss the injustices they faced and the actions that lead to their horrible ends recognizing the similarities between them.

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* Sections provided courtesy of the St. Louis Black Rep, who produced Anne and Emmett at the Grandel Theatre, October 26 – November 4, 2012.

Audience Etiquette



For many of your students, *Anne and Emmett* may be their first theatre experience. It may be helpful to discuss with them the expected behavior of an audience. New Stage asks that prior to the performance, students are made aware of the following:

- Stay with your group at all times and pay attention to your teachers and chaperones.
- Be sure to go to the bathroom before the performance begins. It is hard to leave once the performance begins.
- Make yourself comfortable while keeping movement to a minimum.
- Please do not stand up, walk around or put your feet on the seat in front of you.
- Absolutely no gum chewing, eating or drinking in the theatre.

Noise

Live theatre means live actors who can hear not only what is happening on the stage, but in the audience as well. While laughter and applause at appropriate time are appreciated by the actors, excessive noise and talking is not. Even whispering voices can be distracting to the actors and others in the audience.

- Do not talk during the performance.
- Cell phones are prohibited in the theatre. If you have one turn it off and put it away and do not bring it out during the performance.

Applause

Applause is used to acknowledge the performers and to voice appreciation or approval. Traditionally, applause comes before intermission and during curtain call which happens at the end of a performance when the cast returns to the stage for bows.

Pre-play Discussion

1. Have you ever heard of Anne Frank or Emmett Till?
2. Where did they live? What time period?
3. What historical events/movements are Anne & Emmett associated with?
4. What do you think Anne and Emmett have in common?
5. What else do you know about Anne Frank and Emmett Till?





BAXTER EVANS III (Emmett Till) is an actor and combatant from Clinton, Miss. where he went to Hinds Community College, and performed in shows called **Water Engine** and **Bus Stop**. Evans then moved to Hattiesburg, Miss. to study theatre at the University of Southern Mississippi, performing in the shows **Once in a Lifetime**, **She Kills Monsters**, **The Addams Family**, and **Macbeth**. While at USM, Evans received a KCATCF nomination, allowing him to travel to the KCATCF Region IV back in February 2023. He also served in Alpha Psi Omega, Harlem (a BIPOC theatre club), and Skip the Script (an improv club). Evans is excited to come back home to learn more and to work for a professional theatre company and is excited for what comes!



MORGAN MCKAY (Anne Frank) is a recent graduate from Liberty University with a BFA in musical theatre, where some of her favorite roles included Harriet Smith in the musical **Emma**, Charlotte in **Oliver!**, and Rebecca Gibbs in **Our Town**. In 2022, she was the co-director of creative and performing arts at Sandy Hill Summer Camp, and this past summer she was an actor and improv teacher at WinShape Camps for Girls in Georgia. She is looking forward to working with such a wonderful group of artists at New Stage Theatre. She would like to thank her parents for all of their love and support, and God for His unconditional love and the gifts and passion He has given her.

The Cast of Anne and Emmett

Associate Artists 2023-2024



PAUL PELLETIER JR (Otto Frank) is an actor, singer, playwright, and combatant. Pelletier is also a graduate of The University of Central Florida, having graduated with a BFA in acting. Over the course of his 7+ year career in the theatre, Pelletier has been a part of several fantastic productions. Ranging from spectacular musicals like **RENT**, **Little Women the Musical**, and **Into The Woods**, to classic pieces such as **As You Like It**, **Much Ado About Nothing**, and **Indecent**. Pelletier is also a huge advocate for new voices and pieces in the

theatre, having been both a playwright and actor for companies such as Project Spotlight and The Orlando Fringe Festival, organizations that help produce first time playwrights and independent company's works. Pelletier seeks to bring laughter to those he meets, both on stage and off it, with a quick joke and chipper outlook on life. When not on the stage, he is an avid Dungeons & Dragons player, having been in games lasting over four years. Pelletier is incredibly grateful to be a part of the New Stage Artist Associate program, and can't wait to make new and exciting art with such amazing individuals! www.paulpelletierjr.com



JADE KRYSTAL DYER (Mamie Till) is a graduate of Florida State University with a bachelor of arts in theatre on a performance track. Some of her performance experience includes **Hair the Musical**, **Julius Caesar**, **Sweet Charity**, and **The True Story of the Three Little Pigs**. When not on stage, Dyer also enjoys taking on other roles in entertainment, such as writing, producing, and directing an original Choreopoem titled **Dear, [BLANK]; Love, Anonymous** as well as acting as an associate producer and production coordinator on an indie television series called **Tri-County**. As an actor and a person, Dyer prioritizes kindness, respect, and enjoyment for all! She is ecstatic to be a part of the New Stage team, and all of the wonderful things that are yet to come! You can find her on Instagram @jade.krystalll

A magical place called **Memory**

“Let’s start from scratch in thinking about what memory is for, and consequently, how it works. Suppose that memory and conceptualization work in the service of perception and action. In this case, conceptualization is the encoding of patterns of possible physical interaction with a three-dimensional world. These patterns are constrained by the structure of the environment is determined by the types of bodies we have. Such a memory would not have associations. Instead, how concepts become related (and what it means to be related) is determined by how separate patterns of actions can be combined given the constraints of our bodies. I call this combination ‘mesh.’

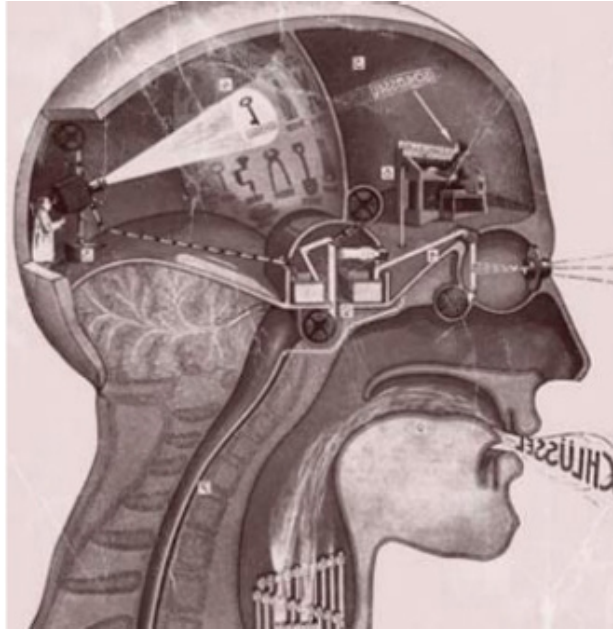
To avoid hallucination, conceptualization would normally be driven by the environment, and patterns of action from memory would play a supporting, but automatic role. A significant human skill is learning to suppress the overriding contribution of the environment, to conceptualization. The effort used in suppressing input from the

environment pays off by allowing prediction, recollective memory, and language comprehension. I review the theoretical work in cognitive science

and empirical work in memory and language comprehension that suggest that it may be possible to investigate connections between topics as disparate as infantile amnesia and mental-model theory.”
–Arthur M. Glenberg

“Memory refers to the processes that are used to acquire, store, retain and later retrieve information. There are three major processes involved in memory: encoding, storage and retrieval. In order to form new memories,

information must be changed into a usable form, which occurs through the process known as encoding. Once information has been successfully encoded, it must be stored in memory for later use. Much of this stored memory lies outside of our awareness most of the time, except when we actually need to use it. The retrieval process allows us to bring stored memories into conscious awareness.” – Kendra Cherry



memory (noun)

The mental capacity or faculty of retaining and reviving facts, events, impressions, etc., or of recalling or recognizing previous experiences.

The Characters of Anne and Emmett



Emmett Louis Till a 14-year-old African American boy was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. During summer vacation in August 1955, he was visiting relatives near Money, Mississippi, in the Mississippi Delta region. Emmett was abducted, tortured, and lynched in Mississippi in 1955, after being accused of offending a white woman, Carolyn Bryant, in her family's grocery store. The brutality of his murder and the fact that his killers were acquitted drew attention to the long history of violent persecution of African Americans in the United States. Till posthumously became an icon of the civil Right Movement.



Anne Frank was a young Jewish girl who kept a diary of her family's time spent hiding from the Nazi's in Amsterdam. In their hiding place was the Frank family - her father Otto, her mother Edith, and her sister Margot - Herman and Auguste van Pels and their son, Peter, and Fritz Pfeffer. They were found by the Gestapo in 1944, where the people in the Annex were transported to concentration camps. Anne died at Bergen-Belsen. After his release, Otto Frank - Anne's father - found her diary after the war, which he published. It went on to become a best-seller, highlighting the Jewish experience during the Holocaust.



Otto Frank was a German Businessman, who also lived in Switzerland and the Netherlands. Father of Anne and Margot Frank, and a husband to Edith Frank. He was the only member of his family to survive the Holocaust. He adapted Anne's diary into manuscripts after their death, when he miraculously discovered her diary upon his return to the Annex. He served as a humanitarian, and voice for peace and change until he died in 1980.



Mammie Till was born November 23, 1921. She was born in Mississippi and when she was two years old her family moved up North to Chicago. She was the mother of Emmett Till. She was the first African American to make the A honor roll and graduated top of her class in a predominantly white Community college. She was an educator and an activist after the tragic death of her son Emmett Till, who was killed for supposedly whistling at a white woman in Money Mississippi. Telling her son story was the best way for her to process his tragic death. She soon became a teacher and continue that career up until her retirement in 1983.

Symbols of Separation

The Star of David and Skin Color

Anne and Emmett both share the similar pain of racism. What would you say the most important thing they have in common is that even you share with them? Create an Acrostic poem using the word that describes what you have in common with them.



Star of David

The *Magen David* (shield of David, or as it is more commonly known, the Star of David) is the symbol most commonly associated with Judaism today, but it is actually a relatively new Jewish symbol. It is supposed to represent the shape of King David's shield (or perhaps the emblem on it), but there is really no support for that claim in any early rabbinic literature. In fact, the symbol is so rare in early Jewish literature and artwork that are dealers suspect forgery if they find the symbol in early works.

jewishvirtuallibrary.org



Tattoos were issued as identification to the majority of Jews in German concentration camps.



Various skin colors.

Racism exists when one ethnic group or historical collectivity dominates, excludes, or seeks to eliminate another on the basis of differences that it believes are hereditary and unalterable. An ideological basis for explicit racism came to a unique fruition in the West during the modern period. No clear and unequivocal evidence of racism has been found in other cultures or in Europe before the Middle Ages. The identification of the Jews with the devil and witchcraft in the popular mind of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries was perhaps the first sign of a racist view of the world. Official sanction for such attitudes came in sixteenth century Spain when Jews who had converted to Christianity and their descendants became the victims of a pattern of discrimination and exclusion.

pbs.org

Who is a "Jew"?

- In the Bible, Jews were called the Hebrews or Children of Israel
- The terms "Jew" and "Judaism" come from the tribe or kingdom of Judah
- "Jew" now refers to all physical and spiritual descendants of Jacob
- A person can be Jewish by birth or by conversion. Traditionally, Jewish status passes through the mother, not the father

jewfaq.org

Timeline of Events

The Holocaust was the murder by Nazi Germany of six million Jews. While the Nazi persecution of the Jews began in 1933, the mass murder was committed during World War II. It took the Germans and their accomplices four and a half years to murder 11 million including six million Jews. They were at their most efficient from April to November 1942 – 250 days in which they murdered some two and a half million Jews. They never showed any restraint, they slowed down only when they began to run out of Jews to kill, and they only stopped when the Allies defeated them. The crime of being a Jew

Timeline of the Frank Family

1929: Anne Frank is born in Frankfurt, Germany

Summer 1933: Alarmed by Nazi actions in Germany, Otto Frank begins the process of moving his family to safety in the Netherlands

1941: Growing Nazi restrictions on the daily lives of Dutch Jews force the Frank girls to attend an all-Jewish school.



1934: Anne starts kindergarten at the Montessori school in Amsterdam.

June 12, 1942: Otto gives Anne a diary for her thirteenth birthday.

July 6, 1942: The Franks go into hiding after receiving an order for Margot to report to a forced labor camp. They hide in the attic rooms above Mr. Frank's workplace with the help of close friends. Another family, the Van Pels (called the "Van Daans" in her dairy), joins them, followed by Fritz Pfeffer ("Dussel"), months later.

1930

1935

1940

Timeline of World War II Events



January 1933: Adolf Hitler comes to power in Germany. Over the next few months, all political parties, except the Nazi Party, are banned. Jews are dismissed from medical, legal, government, and teaching positions.

1935: the Nuremberg Laws are passed in Germany, stripping Jews of their rights as German citizens. Laws passed over the next several years further isolate Jews, including the requirement to wear a yellow Star of David.



September 1, 1939: Germany invades Poland, triggering the beginning of World War II.

May 1940: the Nazis invade the Netherlands. Once in control, they set up a brutal police force, the Gestapo, to administer laws to isolate Dutch Jews from the rest of the Dutch population.



Timeline continued

was so great, that every single one had to be put to death. Most of the Jews of Europe were dead by 1945. A civilization that had flourished for almost 2,000 years was no more. The survivors – one from a town, two from a host – dazed, emaciated, bereaved beyond measure, gathered the remnants of their vitality and the remaining sparks of their humanity, and rebuilt. They never meted out justice to their tormentors – for what justice could ever be achieved after such a crime? Rather, they turned to rebuilding: new families forever under the shadow of those absent; new life stories, forever warped by the wounds; new communities, forever haunted by the loss.

August 4, 1944:
The hiding place of the Franks is discovered and the families are arrested.

September 3, 1944:
All eight of those who hid in the attic are deported from the Netherlands to Auschwitz death camp.

March 1945:*
Anne and Margo die of the disease typhus in the Bergen-Belsson concentration camp.

1947: Anne's diary is published in Dutch. Over the next few years it is translated and published in France, Germany, the United States, Japan, and Great Britain.



1960: The hiding place of the Franks is converted into a permanent museum that tells the story of Anne and those who hid with her.

1945

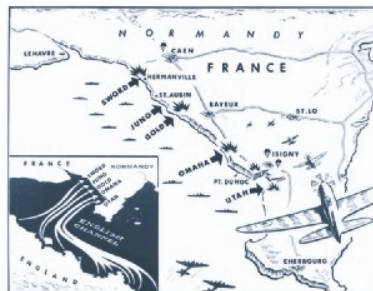
1950

1955

1960

January 1943:
The Battle of Stalingrad marks the turning of the tide against the Nazis.

June 1944: The Allies carry out a successful invasion of France. Their success gives many who live under Nazi occupation hope that the end of the war is near.



May 1945: The Allies win as the war in Europe ends.

1960: Adolf Eichmann, one of the last major Nazi figures to be tried, is captured and put on trial in Israel. He is convicted and executed for his role in arranging the transport of Jews to concentration camps and ghettos, where an estimated six million Jews died.



* **Estimate.** Exact date unknown

1955

May 7

The Reverend George Lee, a grocery owner and NAACP field worker in Belzoni, Mississippi, is shot and killed at point blank range while driving in his car after trying to vote. A few weeks later in Brookhaven, Mississippi, Lamar Smith, another black man, is shot and killed in front of the county courthouse, in broad daylight and before witnesses, after casting his ballot. Both victims had been active in voter registration drives. No one will be arrested in connection with either murder.

August 19

A day before her son is to leave for a summer stay with family in Mississippi, Mamie Till gives Emmett the ring once owned by his father, Louis Till. It is inscribed with the initials L.T.



August 20

Mamie Till rushes her son Emmett to the 63rd Street station in Chicago to catch the southbound train to Money, Mississippi.

August 21

Emmett Till arrives in Money, Mississippi, and goes to stay at the home of his great uncle Moses Wright.

August 24

Emmett joins a group of teenagers, seven boys and one girl, to go to Bryant's Grocery and Meat Market for refreshments to cool off after a long day of picking cotton in the hot sun. Bryant's Grocery, owned by a white couple, Roy and Carolyn Bryant, sells supplies and candy to a primarily black clientele of sharecroppers and their children. Emmett goes into the store to buy bubble gum. Some of the kids outside the store will later say they heard Emmett whistle at Carolyn Bryant.

August 28

About 2:30 a.m., Roy Bryant, Carolyn's husband, and his half brother J. W. Milam, kidnap Emmett Till from Moses Wright's home. They will later describe brutally beating him, taking him to the edge of the Tallahatchie River, shooting him in the head, fastening a large metal fan used for ginning cotton to his neck with barbed wire, and pushing the body into the river.

August 29

J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant are arrested on kidnapping charges in LeFlore County in connection with Till's disappearance. They are jailed in Greenwood, Mississippi and held without bond.

August 31

Three days later, Emmett Till's decomposed corpse is pulled from Mississippi's Tallahatchie River. Moses Wright identifies the body from a ring with the initials L.T.



September 1

Mississippi Governor Hugh White orders local officials to "fully prosecute" Milam and Bryant in the Till case.

September 2

In Chicago, Mamie Till arrives at the Illinois Central Terminal to receive Emmett's casket. She is surrounded by family and photographers who snap her photo collapsing in grief at the sight of the casket. The body is taken to the A. A. Rayner & Sons Funeral Home.

The Jackson [Mississippi] Daily News decries the "brutal, senseless crime" but complains that the NAACP is working "to arouse hatred and fear" by calling Till's murder a lynching.

In Belgium, the newspaper *Le Drapeau Rouge* (the Red Flag), publishes a brief article entitled: "Racism in the USA: A young black is lynched in Mississippi."

September 3

Emmett Till's body is taken to Chicago's Roberts Temple Church of God for viewing and funeral services. Emmett's mother decides to have an open casket funeral. Thousands of Chicagoans wait in line to see Emmett's brutally beaten body.

September 6

Emmett Till is buried at Burr Oak Cemetery. The same day, a grand jury in Mississippi indicts Milam and Bryant for the kidnapping and murder of Emmett Till. They both plead innocent. They will be held in jail until the start of the trial.



September 15

Jet magazine, the nationwide black magazine owned by Chicago-based Johnson Publications, publishes photographs of Till's mutilated corpse, shocking and outraging African Americans from coast to coast.

September 17

The black newspaper *The Chicago Defender* publishes photographs of Till's corpse.

September 19

The kidnapping and murder trial of J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant opens in Sumner, Mississippi, the county seat of Tallahatchie County. Jury selection begins and, with blacks and white women banned from serving, an all-white, 12-man jury made up of nine farmers, two carpenters and one insurance agent is selected.

Mamie Till Bradley departs from Chicago's Midway Airport to attend the trial.

September 20

Judge Curtis Swango recesses the court to allow more witnesses to be found. It is the first time in Mississippi history that local law enforcement, local NAACP leaders and black and white reporters team up to locate sharecroppers who saw Milam's truck and overheard Emmett being beaten.

The French daily newspaper *Le Monde* runs an article reporting that the American public is following the Till case "with passionate attention."

September 21

Moses Wright, Emmett Till's great uncle, does the unthinkable -- he accuses two white men in open court. While on the witness stand, he stands up and points his finger at Milam

and Bryant, and accuses them of coming to his house and kidnapping Emmett.

September 23

Milam and Bryant are acquitted of murdering Emmett Till after the jury deliberates only 67 minutes. One juror tells a reporter that they wouldn't have taken so long if they hadn't stopped to drink pop. Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam stand before photographers, light up cigars and kiss their wives in celebration of the not guilty verdict.

Moses Wright and another poor black Mississippian who testified, Willie Reed, leave Mississippi and are smuggled to Chicago. Once there, Reed collapses and suffers a nervous breakdown.

September 26

In Belgium, two left-wing newspapers publish articles on the acquittal. *Le Peuple*, the daily Belgian Socialist newspaper, calls the acquittal "a judicial scandal in the United States." *Le Drapeau Rouge* (the Red Flag) publishes: "Killing a black person isn't a crime in the home of the Yankees: The white killers of young Emmett Till are acquitted!"

In France, *L'Aurore* newspaper publishes: "The Scandalous Acquittal in Sumner" and the daily newspaper *Le Figaro* adds: "The Shame of the Sumner Jury."

September 27

The French daily newspaper *Le Monde* runs an article: "The Sumner Trial Marks, Perhaps, an Opening of Consciousness."

September 28

In Germany, the newspaper *Freies Volk* publishes: "The Life of a Negro Isn't Worth a Whistle."

In France, the French Communist Party newspaper *L'Humanité* writes: "After the Mockery of Justice in Mississippi: Emotion in Paris."

September 30

Milam and Bryant are released on bond. Kidnapping charges are pending.

October 15

The Memphis Commercial Appeal publishes an article reporting that Louis Till was executed by the U.S. Army in Italy in 1945 for raping two Italian women and killing a third. Mississippi Senator James O. Eastland has leaked the information to the press.

October 22

The American Jewish Committee in New York releases a report urging Congress to bolster Federal Civil Rights legislation in light of the Till case. Their report includes quotes from newspapers in six European countries expressing shock and outrage after the Till verdict.



November 9

Returning to Mississippi one last time, Moses Wright and Willie Reed testify before a LeFlore County grand jury in Greenwood, Mississippi. The grand jury refuses to indict Milam or Bryant for kidnapping. The two white men go free.

December 5

One hundred days after Emmett Till's murder, Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a city bus, launching the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott and the civil rights movement. The boycott will last 381 days.

1956

January 24

Look magazine publishes an article written by Alabama journalist William Bradford Huie, entitled *The Shocking Story of Approved Killing in Mississippi*. Huie has offered Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam \$4,000 to tell how they killed Emmett Till. Milam speaks for the record.

1957

January 24

William Bradford Huie writes another article for *Look* magazine, "What's Happened to the Emmett Till Killers?" Huie writes that "Milam does not regret the killing, though it has brought him nothing but trouble." Blacks have stopped frequenting stores owned by the Milam and Bryant families and put them out of business. Bryant takes up welding for income, and both men are ostracized by the white community.

April 1959

Three days before his scheduled trial, Mack Charles Parker, a 23-year-old African American truck driver, is lynched by a hooded mob of white men in Poplarville, Mississippi. Parker had been accused of raping a pregnant white woman and was being held in a local jail. The mob takes him from his cell, beats him, takes him to a bridge, shoots and kills him, then weighs his body down with chains and dumps him in the river. Many people know the identity of the killers, but the community closes ranks and refuses to talk. Echoing the Till case, the FBI will investigate and identify at least 10 men involved, but the U.S. Department of Justice will rule there are no federal grounds to make an arrest and press charges. Two grand juries— one county and one federal—will adjourn without indictments.

December 1980

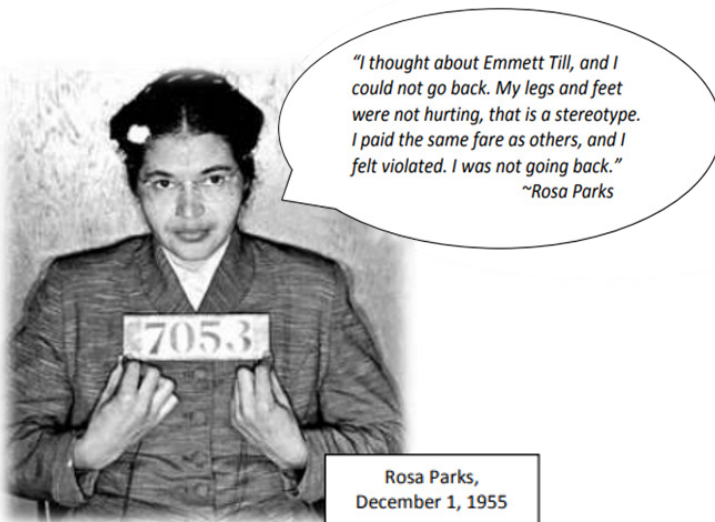
J. W. Milam dies in Mississippi of cancer.

September 1990

Roy Bryant dies in Mississippi of cancer.

January 2003

Mamie Till Mobley dies of heart failure, at age 81. Her death comes just two weeks before *The Murder of Emmett Till* is to premiere nationally on PBS.





Mrs. Cohen was also a mentee of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and was active during the Civil Rights Movement.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Cohen interviewed many major newsmakers and leaders of the 20th century. Among the prominent people she interviewed are President Bill Clinton, who acknowledged her during the last State of the Union address, President Jimmy Carter, Margaret Thatcher, Rosa Parks, Mel Gibson, Bill Cosby, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Denzel Washington, Dan Rather, Oprah Winfrey, Whoopi Goldberg, Barbara Walters and Larry King as well as David Duke former head of the KKK.

Janet Langhart Cohen has also worked as a columnist for the Boston Herald, U.S. News and World Report and served as spokeswoman for Avon Cosmetics. She has been a judge for the White House Fellows Program and served as a judge for the Miss America Organization an unprecedented 4 times.

Mrs. Cohen is the wife of former Secretary of Defense Williams S. Cohen. She was known as "First Lady of the Pentagon," due to her active and visible public role to support the military and their families while her husband was in office.

She wrote her first book, a memoir entitled, *From Rage to Reason: My Life in Two Americas* in 2004. In 2007, she and her husband co-wrote *Love in Black and White*, a memoir about race, religion, romance and the bonds Langhart and Cohen share over similar life circumstances and backgrounds. She was also awarded with an Honorary Doctorate from Emerson College.

Most recently, Mrs. Cohen has written a one-act play—*Anne and Emmett*—an imagined conversation between Nazi child victim, Anne Frank, and child victim Emmett Till, of the Jim Crow southern United States. She also is actively involved in the provision of higher education for underprivileged children.

About the Playwright

Janet Langhart Cohen

Janet Langhart Cohen, President of Langhart Communications, is an Emmy-nominated journalist, author and playwright.

Janet began her television career on CBS in Chicago. During her 25-year career, Mrs. Cohen has appeared on ABC, CBS, NBC and BET; hosted ABC's "Good Day in Boston;" covered special assignments for Entertainment Tonight; and produced several programs, including "On Capitol Hill with Janet Langhart." As an overseas correspondent, she covered news in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

anneandemmett.com

The Creative Team

behind Anne and Emmett

XERRON X. MINGO (Education Director/Director) is a graduate of Florida A&M University. Born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and recently resided in New York City where he worked as a health & safety manager for productions on Apple TV and HGTV. He also worked as a testing secretary and production coordinator for television shows with LIONSGATE and Apple Music Reviews. For the past ten summers, Mingo has worked at Raquette Lake Camps teaching musical theatre to students from all across the world. He recently made a return to the stage and served as choreographer while playing the role of Fezziwig in *A Christmas Carol* at New Stage in 2021. He has worked professionally at a plethora of regional theatres in a handful of states. Some of his past credits include *Matilda* (Rudolph/Choreographer), *Hell In High Water* (Cephus), *Sister Act* (TJ), *Shakespeare in Love* (Wabash/Frees), and Disney's *Beauty & The Beast* (Monsieur Dar'que). Moreover, *The Wiz* (The Lion) and *The Hot Mikado* (Pooh-Bah) at the GLOW Lyric Theatre in Greenville, S.C. He was in *Black Nativity* (Narrator) at Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, *The Great Society* at Asolo Rep, and *Hairspray* (Gilbert) at American Stage. Mingo continues to live in the Light and could not be more blessed to do so as he embarks on this new journey as education director at New Stage Theatre.

VERNELL ALLEN (Directing Associate) is a New York based producer, director, writer, and stage manager originally born in Mississippi. He's directed and managed two touring shows, Theatre for Young Audiences, community theatre, and collegiate plays, the most recent being *All American Boys* by Jody Alperin and Vicky Crouch. He also served as second AD for Wes Miller's *A Day to Die* starring Bruce Willis and Dallas Jackson's *The System* starring Tyrese Gibson. Allen is an alumnus of Mississippi State University and the Mississippi School of the Arts, and remains a student of the game.

DEONICA DAVIS (Costume Designer) is from Pearl, MS with her BFA from The University of Southern Mississippi. She is a graphic designer by day and seamstress and maker by night. She makes her own costumes and props for holiday parties and recently brought her talents back to the local theater scene. She has held the position of wardrobe mistress for Pearl Community Theater's production of *The Drowsy Chaperone* and assisted New Stage Theater with costume needs for shows such as *Clue* and *The Sound of Music*. Most recently she completed her first opportunity as a costume designer for the New Stage's touring production of *Anne and Emmett*.

ALBERTO MEZA (Resident Sound and Projection Designer) is a graduate of Belhaven University with a BFA. He is from Brandon and is excited to continue doing theatre near his hometown. He has been with New Stage Theatre since *Matilda* The Musical in January 2020. He has had the chance to work on multiple shows during the pandemic ranging from educational shows to virtual theatre play readings. Some of his regional design credits include: *Pipeline*, *Debate for Democracy*, *Rising Towards a New Day: A Musical Revue*, *Shrek Jr.: The Musical*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *A Christmas Carol*. Meza was also the streamer and editor behind the *Thursday Night Virtual Plays*, *Conversations*, & *Cocktails* that was presented over the virtual season at New Stage Theatre.

RICHARD LAWRENCE (Technical Director/Set Designer) serves as the vice president of Fondren Theatre Workshop and has appeared in *A Christmas Memory* at New Stage, FTW's *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Buck Nekkid for Jesus*, directed FTW's *Every Christmas Story Ever Told*, and most recently appeared as Trekkie Monster in *Avenue Q*. He was also the director of the widely successful productions of *Cabaret* and *Company*, which were joint productions of FTW and Actor's Playhouse of Pearl, with support from New Stage. Lawrence has been seen in New Stage productions of *The Trip to Bountiful* and UnFramed's *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *The Weir*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, and *Dublin Carol*. Lawrence has won two "Best Set" awards at Mississippi Theatre Association conferences.

BETTY WONG (Box Office Assistant/Education Assistant) begins her 18th season at New Stage. She continues to enjoy traveling to schools and towns throughout the state with the Professional Apprentice Company to provide live theatre experiences for students and adults of all ages. When not on the road, you can find her in the box office. She has also served for many years as a volunteer in other areas of the theatre. Her professional work experiences in education and her passion for live theatre have contributed to the growth and expansion of New Stage's Education Department. She has served as a consultant to school districts throughout the state of Mississippi. Wong has a B.S. in Educational Psychology from Mississippi State University, a M.Ed. from Delta State University, and recently won the 2019 Exemplary Arts Service Award from the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education.

Post-Show Discussion

1. What are the similarities between Anne Frank and Emmett Till's experiences?
2. Though Mamie and Otto had many differences, what did their prayers uncover about their feelings for their children?
3. How were the lives of Anne Frank and Emmett Till made known to the world? Is there a story of a place, event, or person that you think the world could learn from?
4. Fear is a main theme of this play. Which characters exhibited fear and what were they fearful of?
5. The groups persecuting Anne & Emmett also had fear. What do you think those hate groups were fearful of?
6. Anne and Emmett's stories are only two examples of many who experienced similar situations. Why do you think governments and general population turned a blind eye to people like them?
7. Have you ever been a bystander in a situation in which you witnessed hate towards someone? If you could go back, would you change how you reacted?
8. How do we keep Anne and Emmett's memory alive as they expressed in the play?
9. Why should we remember the past? In what ways are past historical events relevant in your life?
10. How do you want to be remembered?

Evaluation Form for Students

1. What was your overall reaction to the play?
2. What was your reaction to the acting?
3. What was your reaction to the scenery, costumes, etc. of the play?
4. What was your favorite part of the play?
5. Did you learn anything from this production? If so, what?
6. What other stories would you enjoy seeing staged by live actors?

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Send us your feedback!

Please send you feedback and thoughts to us! Return form to:

New Stage Theatre, ATTN: Education Director, 1100 Carlisle Street, Jackson, MS 39202

Evaluation Form for Teachers/Leaders

1. What was your overall reaction to the play?
2. What was your reaction to the acting?
3. What was your reaction to the scenery, costumes, etc. of the play?
4. Please comment on the educational value of the play.
5. Do you feel this production was age appropriate for your students?
6. What titles or subjects would you like to see staged for student audiences?
6. Do you have other suggestions for future performances?

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Theatre Vocabulary

1. **Role** The character(s) played by an actor.
2. **Props** Items held by actors such as a rake or a cake.
3. **Script** the written words of a play the actors memorize their lines from.
4. **Climax** the height and “changing point” of the story.
5. **Blocking** the physical movement of actors. Where they stand and when they move.
6. **Costumes** what the actors wear, including accessories such as a hat.
7. **Playwright** the author of the play.
8. **Improvisation** acting without scripted lines. Similar to ad-libbing, meaning to make something up on the spot.
9. **Fourth Wall** the imaginary division between the audience and the actors. When actors speak directly to the audience, it is called “breaking the fourth wall.”
10. **Dialogue** the words spoken between 2 or more characters. A conversation.
11. **Monologue** a series of lines spoken by one actor only. They may be speaking to another on stage character, or may be alone on stage.

About New Stage Theatre

Winner of the 2019 Governor Arts Award for Excellence in Theatre, located in the heart of Jackson.



The Theatre

New Stage Theatre is located in Jackson, Mississippi. New Stage Theatre was chartered as a nonprofit organization in 1965 and produced its initial season in the winter and spring of 1966. New Stage's first home was an adapted church at the corner of Gallatin and Hooker Streets. The theatre produced 13 seasons in the 150-seat church before moving to its present site in Belhaven in 1978.

Built in 1963 for the Jackson Little Theatre, the 12,000 square foot structure includes the 364-seat Meyer Crystal Auditorium, and a flexible, smaller performing space, the Jimmy Hewes Room. The theatre also owns the five other structures on the site, four of which are used for actors' housing and one for offices. In 1997, the theatre complex was designated as the Jane Reid Petty Theatre Center in recognition of the New Stage founder's contributions to the development of professional theatre in Mississippi.



The Mission

The mission of New Stage Theatre is to provide professional theatre of the highest quality for the people of Mississippi and the southeast. New Stage is committed to producing important contemporary works and classics, selected for their artistic merit and their power to illuminate the human condition. Challenging new works in development are included through the Eudora Welty New Play Series named for the distinguished writer who helped found New Stage. New in recent years is The Mississippi Plays Series.

More about New Stage Theatre

The theatre is dedicated to cultivating and educating a culturally diverse audience by gathering the finest available resources including playwrights, actors, directors, designers, technicians, administrators, trainees, and board members. Integral to the theatre's total effort, New Stage's Education Department maximizes its impact within our surrounding community, through artistic and technical apprenticeships, which mount touring programs facilitated by our Apprentice Company, aided with classroom materials for schools statewide, and developing curricula for and instructing youth classes.



Mainstage Productions

New Stage produces five plays each year in its subscription series, in addition to a holiday show, an annual student matinee, and a musical theatre summer camp featuring local youth. Mainstage productions range from master works to contemporary classics to new plays. All productions carry the mark of professional quality for which the theatre has long been recognized. Additionally, New Stage has a second season called Unframed, overseen by Artistic Director Francine Reynolds and facilitated by our Apprentice Company and Education staff, that features contemporary works. New plays are read and developed through the Eudora Welty New Plays Series and the Mississippi Plays Series.



The Staff

The theatre staff is comprised of seven full time administrative and artistic staff members, six full time production staff members, four acting apprentices, and three part time employees. All actors are paid and typically one to two AEA actors are hired per production.

NEW STAGE *Theatre*

Celebrate Season 58

LAUGHTER,
LOVE,
WONDER!
2023-24

601-948-3533
newstagetheatre.com

Lend Me a Soprano

By Ken Ludwig

September 12 – September 24, 2023

A New Comedy – Regional Premiere

What a predicament!

What The Constitution Means to Me

By Heidi Schreck

October 24 – November 5, 2023

Contemporary Play

A love letter to our constitution.

Elf The Musical

Book by Thomas Meehan and Bob Martin

Music by Matthew Sklar; Lyrics by Chad Beguelin

November 30 – December 21, 2023

Holiday Musical

*The best way to spread Christmas Cheer is
singing loud for all to hear!*

The Secret Garden: Spring Version

Music and Lyrics by Marsha Norman; Music by Lucy Simone

Based on the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett

February 6 – 18, 2024

Classic Musical

Find home and family where you least expect it.

Chicken & Biscuits

By Douglas Lyons

April 9 – April 21, 2024

New Comedy

Funerals bring out the tastiest of secrets...

Beautiful: The Carole King Musical

Book by Douglas McGrath; Words and Music by Gerry Goffin & Carole King,
Barry Mann & Cynthia Weil

May 28 – June 9, 2024

Musical

Ready to feel the Earth move?



Janet Langhart Cohen's
Anne & Emmett

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To learn more about Anne Frank and Emmett Till visit:

www.annefrank.org, www.annefrank.com

<http://www.emmettillmurder.com/>