

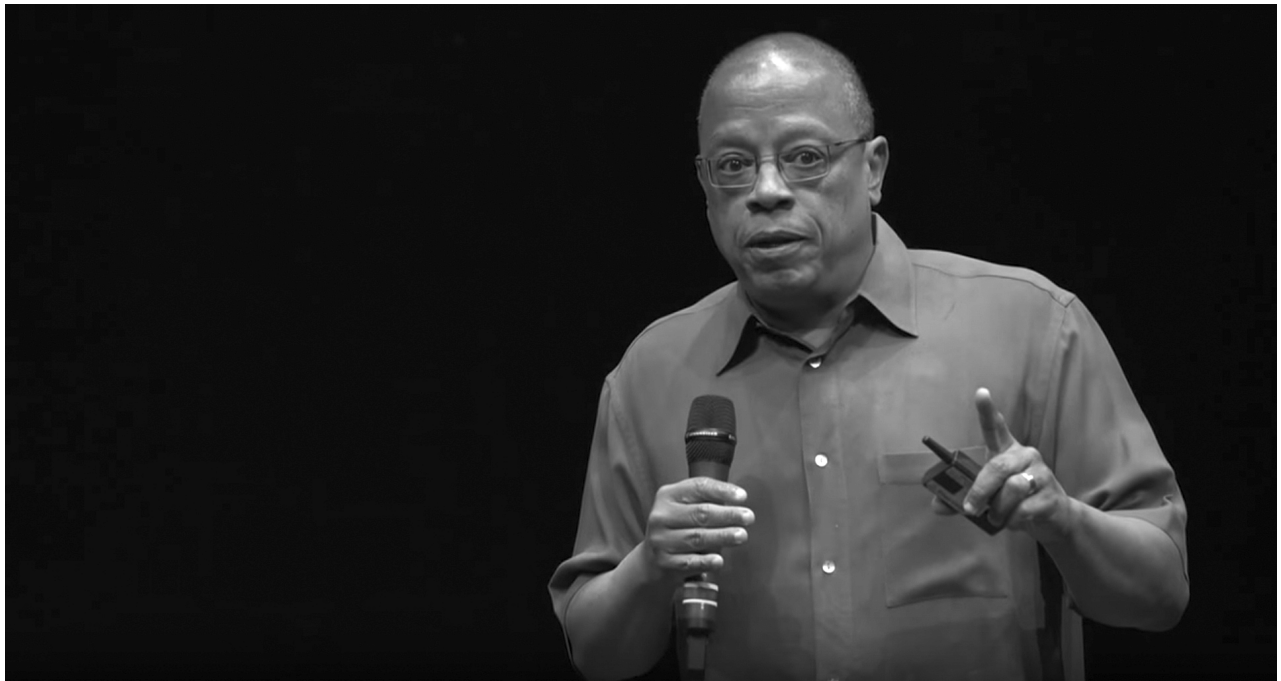
The secret history of our country hides in plain sight: The United States of America was founded on slavery.

Our collective failure to acknowledge this history and its legacy, and the racism that continues to permeate our society, has ushered in a modern dark age. Black lives continue to be lost at the hands of law enforcement, hate crimes are on the rise, voting rights laws are being dismantled, immigrants are demonized, and dissent is criminalized.

On May 16th, 2018, Jeffery Robinson is going to turn on the lights.

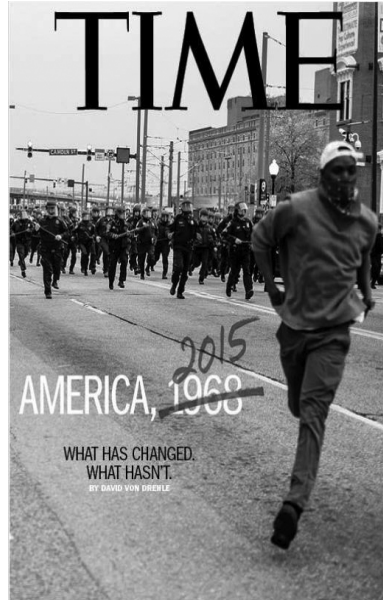
This Is Who We Are – A Chronicle of Racism in America

On the evening of Wednesday, May 16, 2018, at New York City's historic Town Hall theater, Jeffery Robinson will tell the truth about our nation's history. This night of bitter truths and transcendent performances that will lift us up and shake us to the core.



Jeffery Robinson speaking, August 24, 2017

This Is Who We Are – A Chronicle of Racism in America will become the basis for a feature documentary on the history of racism in America, a provocative and terrifying, yet intellectually exhilarating, look at the hidden history of this country as a means for understanding the complexities of the world we inhabit today.



TIME Magazine cover, April 2015

Jeffrey Robinson

For over three decades, attorney (and now ACLU Deputy Legal Director) Jeffrey Robinson has devoted his career to racial justice. In recent years, he has travelled the country speaking hard truths about race in America. “Our history,” he tells audiences, “has been stolen from us.” Weaving heartbreak, humor, passion and rage, Robinson takes us through this stolen history, showing us how the legacy of slavery impacts every aspect of our society.

A trial lawyer by training, Robinson has crafted a powerful closing argument, exhorting his listeners to acknowledge where we come from and face who we are. Robinson never assumes that we’re with him in accepting the theory, and instead lays out the evidence, piece by undisputable piece, to build to a conclusion that’s impossible to deny. From the origin of police forces as runaway slave patrols, through the massacres of

communities of freed slaves, to the fact that the practice of modern day slavery continued until the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Robinson challenges us to think about where we started as a country, where we are, and where we want to end up. His words lay bare an all-but-forgotten past, as well as our shared responsibility to create a better country in our lifetimes.

Our Vision

Documentary production company Off Center Productions (“William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe”) and theater company The Culture Project (“The Exonerated”) have joined forces to bring Jeffery Robinson’s words to a national audience through the creation of a live performance and documentary that reexamines 400 years of America’s stolen history.

From its founding by suffragists in the 1920’s, to performances by Paul Robeson, opera singer Marian Anderson (when no other NY theater would book her), Billy Holiday (in her first solo show), and Langston Hughes in a discussion on “the Race Question,” The Town Hall has a powerful legacy and anti-racist commitment. On May 16, 2018, Jeffery Robinson will continue this tradition.

Before a 1500-person audience of high school and college students, educators, the formerly incarcerated, artists, activists, and general theater goers, Jeffrey Robinson’s presentation will be accompanied by meticulously curated archival material, and enhanced by powerful live performances. Imagine Gbenga Akkinagbe, from “The Wire” and “The Duce,” enacting Andrew Jackson’s newspaper advertisement seeking the return of an enslaved person who has escaped Jackson’s captivity, offering “ten dollars extra, for every hundred lashes any person will give him, to the amount of three hundred.” Or Rhiannon Giddens performing from her album, “Freedom Highway,” an exploration of African-American experiences accompanied the banjo.

With Town Hall's state-of-the-art performance facility, we will record the evening. After the performance, we will use the recording to continue the dialogue, weaving Robinson's powerful arguments and the accompanying performances, together with interviews conducted by Robinson, behind-the-scenes footage, and rare archival material, to create both a 90-minute feature documentary and shorter segments to be streamed online and used in classrooms around the country and world.



The Moment is Now

The history Jeffery Robinson imparts is not easy. It is not comfortable. But it is necessary. In Robinson's words, "We are at a tipping point. The walls that we build between each other based on race, based on wealth, they are not high enough to keep the tide back. And if we don't deal with this, it will tear us apart."

Robinson's words are a call to arms. He empowers us to change the future, imparting a sense of optimism about what America could look like if we have the courage to see it for what it was, for what it is, and to make it what it should be.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT EMILY@OFF-CENTER.COM