

MURRAY & SHEILA GOLDMAN PRESENT

# THE WHIPPING MAN

By Matthew Lopez

Produced in Association with  
**OBSIDIAN THEATRE COMPANY**

Directed by  
**PHILIP AKIN**

Starring  
**STERLING JARVIS,  
BRETT DONAHUE and  
THOMAS OLAJIDE**

**"HAUNTING, STRIKING,  
AND POWERFUL."**

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

March 16 - April 14, 2013

Studio Theatre at the Toronto Centre for the Arts

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Sterling Jarvis, Adam Rankin Photography

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HAROLD GREEN  
JEWISH THEATRE COMPANY



STUDENTGUIDE

# CHILDREN AND THE CIVIL WAR



Though the United States of America has been embroiled in many wars, we have rarely seen prolonged combat on our own soil. Today we watch images of our soldiers engaged in war thousands of miles away, thankfully not knowing firsthand the daily devastation of death and destruction on our own streets and in our own back yard.

This was not the case for children during the Civil War. In fact, unlike later wars in American history, children were involved in all aspects of the Civil War, including fighting on the battlefield. William Black, the youngest wounded soldier, was twelve when his left hand and arm

were shattered by an exploding shell. Other boys and girls served as scouts or nurses for the wounded. Near the battlefield, children, Black and White, witnessed the destruction of farms and villages. Their letters and diaries describe foraging soldiers, exploding shells, burning cities, mangled corpses, and stacks of human limbs.

Yet even those who did not participate in the war itself saw their lives altered by the conflict. For example, as the war dragged on, hardship on the southern home front grew intense. In the besieged city of Vicksburg, Mississippi, families sought refuge in cliffside caves. A stray shell left one child, Lucy McCrae, buried under a mass of earth. "The blood was gushing from my nose, eyes, ears, and mouth," she later wrote, "but no bones were broken."

**"even those who did not participate in the war itself saw their lives altered by the conflict"**

Youngsters participated in bread riots in Richmond, Virginia; Montgomery, Alabama; Raleigh, North Carolina; and Columbia, South Carolina. A Richmond girl defended the looting: "We are starving. As soon as enough

of us get together we are going to take the bakeries and each of us will take a loaf of bread. That is little enough for the government to give us after it has taken all our men."



“That is little enough for the government to give us after it has taken all our men.”



**“ I know what war is. I lived it.”**

-Caleb, *The Whipping Man*

A physician's daughter, eight-year-old Annie P. Marmion who lived in Harpers Ferry Virginia when the Civil War began, describes the Civil War: “The

great objects in life were to procure something to eat and to keep yourself out of sight by day, and keep your candle light hidden by night; lights of every kind, being regarded as signals to the Rebels, were usually greeted by a volley of guns.”

The Civil War left a lasting memory upon the children, and most certainly shaped the way they grew into adulthood.

Imagine you are William Black or Annie Marmion, write a letter to your best friend that describes your experiences during the Civil War. Make sure you tell your friend how those experiences made you feel.

**TO DO:**

# DEVASTATING HUMAN LOSS

In the United States of America's first 100 years of existence, over 683,000 Americans lost their lives, with the Civil War accounting for more than 90% of that total. Comparatively, in the next 100 years, a further 626,000 Americans died through two World Wars and several more regional conflicts. The Civil War might very well be the most costly war that America will ever fight.

CONFLICT	SPAN	CASUALTIES
Revolutionary War	1775-1783	25,000
War of 1812	1812-1815	20,000
Civil War	1861-1865	623,026
World War 1	1917-1918	116,516
World War 2	1941-1945	405,399
Korean War	1950-1953	36,516
Vietnam War	1955-1975	58,209
Gulf War	1990-1991	258
Afghanistan	2001-present	1,893 (02/2012)
Iraq	2003-2011	4,484 (02/2012)



## TO DO:

During the Civil War, almost every American would have known friends, family members or neighbors who marched off to war, many never to return. Service records for these soldiers are contained in the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System.

Go to the website (<http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>) and research a Confederate soldier from Virginia. Try to reconstruct that soldier's journey. How many battles was he engaged in? Did he make it home uninjured, or did he die on the battle field? Once you have learned more about that soldier's experiences, write a monologue in which the soldier tells us about a particular battle, journey or injury.

# CIVIL WAR SURGEONS: USHERING IN A NEW ERA OF MODERN MEDICINE

Dr. Charles Leale was a 23-year-old army surgeon who was in attendance at Ford's Theatre when John Wilkes Booth entered the presidential box and shot Lincoln days after the conclusion of the Civil War. Leale had received his medical license only six weeks earlier and, at the time of the assassination, he was in charge of a wounded officers' ward at the United States Army hospital in Armory Square in Washington

**“At 7:20 a.m. he  
breathed his last,  
and ‘the spirit fled  
to God who gave it.’”**

-Report of Dr. Charles A. Leale on  
Assassination, April 15, 1865.

Leale, like many Civil War medical workers, learned his trade on the job, under extreme duress, as Civil War battles churned out thousands of wounded men. Many Civil War surgeons had never witnessed a major amputation; very few of them had ever treated a gunshot wound. Despite the lack of preparation, Union surgeons treated more than 400,000 wounded men and performed at least 40,000 operations. Less complete Confederate records show that fewer surgeons treated a similar number of patients.

The American Civil War often gets credit for ending slavery and reshaping the federal government in this country. But the War Between the States has another, often overlooked legacy: It may have started a new era in modern medicine. As soldiers fell in unprecedented numbers from both injuries and disease, anesthesia became a specialty. The fields of plastic and reconstructive surgery exploded. And doctors developed new ways to treat a surge in nerve injuries and chronic pain, marking the beginning of contemporary neurology.

## TO DO:

Statistics for the Massachusetts General Hospital, one of the premier hospitals of the Civil War era, illustrate the state of surgery in the first half of the 19th century. Between 1826 and 1846, a total of 39 surgical procedures were performed at that hospital annually. Today, Massachusetts General Hospital performs 18,776 surgeries annually.

Without the unfortunate yet dire need for surgeons during the Civil War, do you think modern medicine would have progressed the way it did? Why or why not?



# TIMELINE: SIEGE OF PETERSBURG

## THE LONGEST MILITARY EVENT OF THE CIVIL WAR.

Nine and a half months, 70,000 casualties, the suffering of civilians, thousands of U. S. Colored Troops fighting for the freedom of their race, and the decline of Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of No. Virginia all describe the Siege of Petersburg.

It was here Gen. Ulysses S. Grant cut off all of Petersburg's supply lines ensuring the fall of Richmond on April 3, 1865. Six days later, Lee surrendered.

### 1860

The federal census counts 18,266 residents in Petersburg, making it the second-largest city in Virginia.

### April 17, 1861

Delegates at the Virginia Convention in Richmond pass an Ordinance of Secession by a vote of 88 to 55.



### April 20, 1861

Six Petersburg militia companies embark for Norfolk and active service in the Civil War.

### April 24, 1861

The first Confederate soldiers from out of state pass through Petersburg.

### July 31, 1861

The first military hospital opens in Petersburg.

### September 9, 1861

The first Union prisoners of war pass through Petersburg.

### November 11, 1861

The first Confederate troops are stationed in Petersburg.

### March 8, 1862

The Confederate government declares martial law in Petersburg.

### May 13, 1862

Petersburg becomes headquarters for the Department of the Appomattox.

### June 21, 1862

Petersburg becomes headquarters for the Department of North Carolina.

### June 26, 1862

A powerful Union flotilla ventures up the Appomattox, led by the USS Monitor, but is thwarted by low water.



### July 26, 1862

Work begins on a ring of permanent fortifications around Petersburg, soon to be called the Dimmock Line.

### October 5, 1862

The 55th North Carolina is posted in Petersburg as the city's first permanent provost guard.

### February 25, 1863

Petersburg becomes headquarters of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina.

### August 1863

The Dimmock Line, a ring of permanent fortifications around Petersburg, is substantially completed.

### December 2, 1863

The blockade runner City of Petersburg, owned by some of Petersburg's businessmen, completes its first trans-Atlantic voyage filled with consumer goods.

### May 5, 1864

The Union Army of the James lands at City Point and Bermuda Hundred, less than ten miles from Petersburg. The 1st and 22nd regiments of United States Colored Troops occupy City Point.



### June 9, 1864

Fletcher H. Archer leads his Virginia Reserves in a successful defense of Petersburg against a Union cavalry attack in what comes to be known as the Battle of Old Men and Young Boys.

### June 15, 1864

The first attacks on Petersburg mark the beginning of the Petersburg Campaign.



### July 30, 1864

The Battle of the Crater causes 4,000 Union casualties and, though a technical success, is a tactical catastrophe for Ulysses S. Grant.

### April 2, 1865

Union forces breach Confederate lines south of Petersburg, in a sector held by troops under Confederate general A. P. Hill, who is killed in the fighting. Confederate general Robert E. Lee manages to hold off the Union forces long enough to evacuate Petersburg and flee to the west. (Pictured below)

### April 3, 1865

Union troops occupy Petersburg.

### August 3, 1865

Union troops leave Petersburg.

## TO DO:

Take one of the events in the Timeline and use a variety of research tools to learn more about that event. Create a power point presentation that provides an in-depth understanding of that specific event.

Knowing that the character Caleb from *The Whipping Man* participated in those events, does your perception of Caleb change? Why or why not?





# THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION: LINCOLN AND AFRICAN-AMERICANS

Scholars and the interested public have long debated Lincoln's views on slavery and how they influenced his policies as president. How committed was he to abolition? What was he prepared to do? Could he imagine a world in which white and Black people lived together in peace and freedom? For many slaves, at least at first, the answer was clear: Lincoln's election meant emancipation.

The enormous excitement and anticipation of the 1860 presidential election campaign spread into unexpected corners of the United States. After Americans learned of Abraham Lincoln's



victory, reports circulated across the Southern states of political attentiveness and restlessness among the slaves.

On one Virginia plantation, a group of slaves celebrated Lincoln's inauguration by proclaiming their freedom and marching off their owner's estate. In Alabama, some slaves had come to believe that "Lincoln is soon going to free them all," and had begun "making preparations to aid him when he makes his

appearance," according to local whites. A runaway slave in Louisiana told his captors in late May 1861 that "the North was fighting for the Negroes now and that he was as free as his master."

The slaves, of course, had no civil or political standing in American society on the eve of the Civil War; they were chattel property subject to the power and domination of their owners, and effectively "outside" formal politics. But they were unwilling to accept their assignment to political oblivion.

Write a creative narrative from different historical perspectives: including slave, slave owner, and a Confederate soldier.

## TO DO:

Thus the case of Harry Jarvis: Born a slave on the eastern shore of Virginia, Jarvis took to the woods for several weeks after the Civil War began, where he survived owing to fellow slaves who brought him news and food. Then, seizing an opportunity, Jarvis headed to Fort Monroe, 35 miles away, where Union troops were stationed,

and asked commanding General Benjamin Butler "to let me enlist." Although Butler rebuffed Jarvis and told him "it wasn't a black man's war," Jarvis stood his political ground: "I told him it would be a black man's war before they got through."

By the early fall of 1862, Lincoln had decided to issue an Emancipation Proclamation and enroll African Americans in the Union Army and Navy. Bold initiatives these were, revolutionary in effect, and wholly unimagined when the war began: except by the slaves whose actions helped bring them about. Lincoln's political sensibilities had finally caught up to theirs.

Edited from "What Lincoln Meant to the Slaves." Steven Hahn. New York Times, February 12, 2011

# NEXT YEAR MAY WE BE FREE

Passover, or (Pesach) in Hebrew, is an eight day Jewish holiday that commemorates the Jews being freed from years of slavery in Egypt. In 1865, Passover began just a day after Lee's surrender at Appomattox. *The Whipping Man* cleverly juxtaposes Passover with the new-found freedom of African-American slaves, and derives its central conflict from this paradox. And at the center of it all is a one-of-a-kind Seder.

Passover is one of the most important, and most widely-observed, Jewish holidays; according to the 2000-01 National Jewish Population Survey, only 46% of American Jews belong to a synagogue, but 67% routinely hold or attend a Pesach Seder. Held during the first two nights of Passover, the Seder brings families and friends together around a table to say prayers, tell the story of Passover, and eat a festive meal.

**“Let all who are hungry come and eat. Let all who are in need come celebrate Pesach. This year we are slaves, next year may we be free.”**

- Simon, *The Whipping Man*

An important part of the Passover table is the Seder Plate, which holds different food items, each of which symbolizes various aspects of Passover. For example, maror, or bitter herb (often raw horseradish, or romaine lettuce) symbolizes the bitterness of slavery. It is dipped in charoset, a mixture of apples, nuts, cinnamon and wine or grape juice, that represents the mortar that the Jews used on bricks to build the pyramids and other buildings in Egypt.

Another important part of Passover, which is seen in the play, is the Ma Nish Tana, or 'The Four Questions.' This prayer, said by the youngest person at the Seder, poses the overarching question "why is this night different from all other nights?" – a question which audiences leaving *The*



A contemporary Seder plate

*Whipping Man* will surely be pondering, as well.



# BLACK HISTORY IN CANADA QUIZ



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- The experiences of fugitive slave Reverend Josiah Henson, who escaped to Canada in 1830, were the subject of what famous novel?
  - Roots*
  - Beloved*
  - Confessions of Nat Turner*
  - Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- William Hall won the first Victoria Cross ever awarded to a Black Canadian for his bravery in which conflict?
  - First World War, 1914-1918
  - Second World War, 1939-1945
  - Indian Rebellion, 1857
  - South African War, 1899-1902
- Born 1744 in Bondou, Senegal, and brought to North America at the age of 16, Richard Pierpont was a soldier and militiaman who served during the American Revolution, as well as at the battle of Queenston Heights during this conflict:
  - The Seven Year's War
  - The French-Indian War
  - The War of 1812
  - King Philip's War
- Maroons is the name given to approximately 550 to 600 individuals who lived in Nova Scotia after being deported from this place, only to be later sent to Sierra Leone in 1800:
  - Cuba
  - Louisiana
  - Jamaica
  - Brazil
- This man of African extraction is thought to have come to Canada some time before 1603, using his visit to learn the Mi'kmaq language and French papers record him working for the government of Port Royal in 1608:
  - William Hall
  - Delos Davis
  - Mathieu da Costa
  - Maurice Ruddick
- This child brought to Québec in 1628 by the English invader David Kirke, is the first person recorded as coming directly from Africa and the first African slave known in Canada:
  - Harriet Tubman
  - Olivier Le Jeune
  - Jan Rodriguez
  - Josiah Henson
- Michaëlle Jean, the first black person to serve as Governor General, was born in this country:
  - Jamaica
  - Kenya
  - French Guyana
  - Haiti
- Sir James Douglas, a Hudson's Bay Company officer and governor, referred to as "Scotch West Indian" as his mother was Creole and he was born in Demerara (now part of Guyana) was also known as:
  - "the father of British Columbia"
  - "the father of the railroad"
  - "the father of Free Trade"
  - "the father of the Métis"
- Rosemary Brown, born in Jamaica, became the first black woman to run for this in 1975:
  - Mayor
  - The Canadian Track and Field Team
  - The leadership of a federal party
  - The fight against Cancer
- The greatest track star in Canadian history, with gold medals in the 100 metre sprint and 4 by 100 relay, was
  - Harry Jerome
  - Michael Smith
  - Angella Issajenko
  - Donovan Bailey

To find answers to these questions and to find out more about the history of Canada's black community visit:

[www.blackhistorycanada.ca](http://www.blackhistorycanada.ca)

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provided by  
**THE CLEVELAND PLAYHOUSE**

Written and Edited by  
**PAMELA DIPASQUALE**  
**MICHAEL BLOOM**

Intern Contributors  
**EMMA BRANDT**  
**JOSH ISHIHARA**  
**JASMINE MYERS**  
**RACHAEL SILVER**