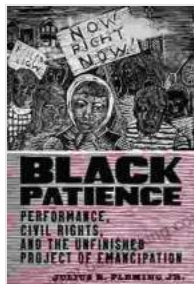


# Performance, Civil Rights, and the Unfinished Project of Emancipation



## Black Patience: Performance, Civil Rights, and the Unfinished Project of Emancipation (Performance and American Cultures) by Julius B. Fleming Jr.

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 5911 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 307 pages



In the ongoing struggle for civil rights, performance has played a vital role. From the spirituals sung by enslaved Africans to the protest songs of the civil rights movement, performance has been used to express the pain, anger, and hope of those fighting for freedom and equality.

The book "Performance, Civil Rights, and the Unfinished Project of Emancipation" explores the relationship between performance and the civil rights movement. It examines how performance has been used to challenge racism, promote social justice, and envision a more just future.

## Performance as Resistance

One of the most powerful ways that performance has been used in the civil rights movement is as a form of resistance. In the face of segregation,

discrimination, and violence, performance has provided a way for African Americans to express their defiance and demand change.

For example, the song "We Shall Overcome" became an anthem of the civil rights movement. This song, which was originally written by a white folk singer, was adopted by African Americans and transformed into a powerful expression of their determination to overcome racism.

Another example of performance as resistance is the work of the Black Panthers. The Black Panthers were a militant group that fought for the rights of African Americans. They used performance, including theater and music, to raise awareness of their cause and to challenge the status quo.

### **Performance as Education**

In addition to being a form of resistance, performance has also been used as a tool for education. Performance can help to raise awareness of the history of racism and its impact on African Americans.

For example, the play "The Amen Corner" by James Baldwin tells the story of a preacher who struggles with his faith in the face of racism. This play has been performed by many different theater companies, and it has helped to educate audiences about the challenges faced by African Americans in the United States.

Performance can also be used to teach people about the different cultures of the African diaspora. For example, the dance company Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed dances from all over the African diaspora, including Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States. These

performances have helped to break down stereotypes and to promote understanding between different cultures.

## **Performance as Transformation**

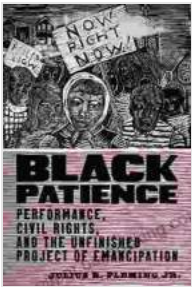
Performance has also been used as a tool for transformation. Performance can help to change people's attitudes and beliefs about race. It can also help to create a more just and equitable society.

For example, the musical "Hamilton" has helped to change the way that many people think about the American Revolution. This musical tells the story of Alexander Hamilton, one of the founding fathers of the United States, who was an abolitionist. The musical has helped to dispel the myth that all of the founding fathers were slave owners, and it has inspired people to learn more about the history of slavery in the United States.

Performance can also be used to create a more just and equitable society. For example, the theater company Theater of the Oppressed uses performance to help people to understand and challenge oppression. This company has worked with people from all over the world, and it has helped to create a more just and equitable society.

Performance has played a vital role in the civil rights movement. It has been used as a form of resistance, education, and transformation. Performance has helped to raise awareness of the history of racism and its impact on African Americans. It has also helped to change people's attitudes and beliefs about race. And it has helped to create a more just and equitable society.

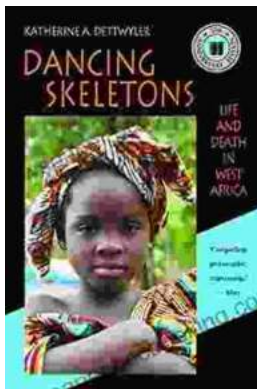
The book "Performance, Civil Rights, and the Unfinished Project of Emancipation" is an important contribution to the study of performance and social justice. This book provides a comprehensive overview of the role that performance has played in the civil rights movement, and it offers a valuable resource for scholars, activists, and artists.



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