



The mission of Alabama Shakespeare Festival, the State's Theater, is to build community by engaging, entertaining, and inspiring people with transformative theatrical performances and educational and community outreach.

What is the Project?

In 2019-20, Alabama Shakespeare Festival will produce a play entitled *RUBY: The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Christina Ham. The production will be in partnership with the Montgomery Public Schools.

What is the play?

Ruby Bridges was six years old when the civil rights movement came hammering at her door — choosing her as the first African-American child to integrate an all-white elementary school in the South. When white families pulled their children from her class, Ruby and her first-grade teacher, Mrs. Henry, forged ahead undaunted, even while protestors jeered and threatened young Ruby's life daily when federal marshals escorted her to and from school.

With seven brand new songs inspired by The Shirelles, Sam Cooke, and Smokey Robinson, this play explores a little girl's unbeatable courage in the face of adversity as she helped lead the civil rights movement up the front steps and into the classrooms of her elementary school in New Orleans. Produced in collaboration with Montgomery Public Schools.

Why are we doing this?

"Building community" is at the core of Alabama Shakespeare Festival's mission. We offer programs and services that are inclusive of our diverse community and continuously seek to increase the benefits of those programs in ways that engage and inspire audiences, artistic, staff, and the public. One way we are excited to fulfill part of this mission is by partnering with Montgomery Public Schools on our production of *Ruby* opening in March 2020.

Who can participate?

This production will partner students from Montgomery Public Schools to fill the various roles in *Ruby*. The production will be designed & directed by theatre professionals. The young adults selected for *Ruby* will have the opportunity to perform in a professional style theatre production. In January & February, they will begin rehearsals. During these rehearsals, they will stage the production and work to develop their characters. In the end of February/beginning of March, the cast will participate in technical rehearsals, where we add costumes, lights, sets, and sound. The cast will have a three week run on Alabama Shakespeare Festival's Festival Stage.