

Director's Notes

When I lived and worked in Shelby, the Shelby Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) was new, and defining its role. The present CIC in Shelby, under this City's Leadership has undertaken countless projects to "improve the community", and I am so glad they endeavored to present "The Black Cyclone" to you today. This is an important story that shows that if people can look beyond "skin color" at a person's true gifts--- integrity, perseverance, and passion--society can break down many barriers. The cast, community and sponsors bring this story to you today in an effort to put an exclamation point on the notion that people should be accepted as people, and not just accepted as a class. As Branch Rickey conveyed through his actions, let's just "let people be people", the world community could continue to be a better place. Shelby embraced this sentiment over a hundred years ago, when people like Frank Schiffer faced down the odds to make a difference. I hope that Shelby takes pride in this heritage and celebrates it going forward.

Thank you cast, for believing, thank you Amy K. Stoner for your loving devotion to me and the story, and thank you Steve Jefferson in his Directing Debut for bringing the story to life in many new, special ways.

I hope you take something with you today that will make America better, and pledge to help us in our journey to help Charles "Run, Run for the Ages!"

Jim Stoner

"The Black Cyclone: The Charles Follis Story" will be presented August 14 & 15 in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Visit www.blackcyclone.org for tickets and information.



Shelby High School Performing Arts Center

August 7 & 8, 2015

Synopsis

The Black Cyclone" begins with Branch Rickey, famed baseball owner, who signed Jackie Robinson in 1947. It then flashes back to explain the circumstances that lead to him seeking out someone like Jackie Robinson, and how he met, befriended and was influenced by Charles Follis, the first, professional, African-American football player in America in 1902. This story chronicles the life, struggles and faith of Charles Follis as he balanced his commitments to home and family, with his desire and abilities to excel in baseball and football---while society was still wrestling with how to accept African Americans in the shadow of the Civil War. This story has been featured in "NFL Films Presents" on ESPN2, and will be featured in a documentary on Time Warner Cable entitled "Origins of the NFL".

The Black Cyclone is sponsored by:

LINEBACKER - \$500

Bob Lederer

LINEMAN - \$250

Columbia Gas

COACH - \$100

Shelby Parts Company

Richland Bank

Relax Inn

Mechanics Bank

Mansfield Hardware

Shelby Democrat Club

Please turn off all cell phones during the performance. Please refrain from texting, taking photographs, or video during the performance as this is a distraction to the actors and other audience members. Thank you.

www.blackcyclone.org

Crew

Playwright.....Jim Stoner

Directors.....Jim Stoner & Steve Jefferson

Production Manager, Stage Manager, Costumes & Projections.....Amy K. Stoner

Stage Manager.....Haley McCoy

Set & Lighting Design & Build.....Jim & Amy K. Stoner

Lights & Sound.....
Brian Nabors, Andrew Wiggins, Tyler Sexton, Jacob Halloway, Robert Moore

Stage Crew.....Derrick Monastare, Ezekiel Johnson

Music Composed and Performed By..... Bill Miller

Social Media Coordinator..... Angel Ross-Taylor

Slide Show Music ByEric Barkdull

Special Thanks to:

Mount Vernon Players

The City of Shelby

The Shelby Daily Globe

Shelby Museum of History

Tom Claybaugh

Mansfield Playhouse

Pepsi Corporation

Follow us on Twitter at #RunCharlesRun

Cast (Continued)

Lloyd Kauffman, Announcer & Photographer.....Jim Stoner
Viola Kauffman.....Mary Ann Calhoun
Ellen.....Lindsey Shoup
Emily.....Barb Crider
Barbara Clark.....Gretchen Ashbrook
Esther.....Haley McCoy
President Theo. Roosevelt & Clyde..... Ed Clawson
Superintendent.....Romero Iracheta

Football Players

Westin Damron, Romero Iracheta, Grant Reiser, Derek Rose,
Lindsey Shoup, Phineus Stanfield, Hayden Vent

Scenes

Act 1: 1897-1899 & 1947

Scene 1 – A press conference 1947

Scene 2 – A church picnic in Wooster, Ohio 1897

Scene 3 – The home of Frank Schiffer and family 1897

Scene 4 – A dirt road in Wooster, Ohio (The same day as Scene 2.)

Scene 5 – A garden party at the home of Fithian Scovel. (The same day as Scene 2.)

Scene 6 – Weber’s Bar in Shelby, Ohio 1897

Scene 7 – The kitchen of the Follis family 1897

Scene 8 – Makeshift football field 1897

Scene 9 – Warton Tool company 1897

Scene 10 – Office of Fithian Scovel at Wooster University 1897

Scene 11 – Sandlot 1897

Scene 12 – The kitchen of Lloyd Kauffman and family 1897

Scene 13 - A press conference 1947

Scene 14 – Mr. Smith’s barn 1897

Scene 15 – Outside the Follis home 1897

Scene 16 – Café in Wooster 1897

Scene 17 - The home of Frank Schiffer and family 1897

Scene 18 - Outside the Follis home 1897

Scene 19 – Football practice 1899

Scene 20 - The kitchen of the Follis family 1899

--- **10 minute intermission**---

*Friend us on Facebook at The Black Cyclone The
Charles Follis Story*

www.blackcyclone.org

Scenes

Act 2: 1901 -1910, 1947 & 1998

- Scene 1** - A press conference 1947
- Scene 2** – Talbott’s Coffee Shop 1901
- Scene 3** - The kitchen of the Follis family 1901
- Scene 4** – Football field 1901
- Scene 5** - The kitchen of the Follis family 1901
- Scene 6** – A parlor in an affluent home in Wooster, Ohio 1901
- Scene 7a & c** – Football field 1901
- Scene 7b** – Press conference 1901
- Scene 8** – Practice football field 1902
- Scene 9** - Practice football field a few days later 1902
- Scene 10** – The next day in Charles’ apartment Shelby, Ohio 1902
- Scene 11** - A press conference 1947
- Scene 12** – Football field 190?
- Scene 13** – Later that day in Weber’s Bar Shelby, Ohio
- Scene 14** – Football field 190?
- Scene 15** - A press conference 1947
- Scene 16** – Charles’ apartment 1906
- Scene 17** - A press conference 1947
- Scene 18** - The kitchen of the Follis family 1910
- Scene 19** – Wooster Cemetery 1910
- Scene 20** – The dedication of Follis Field at Wooster High School in 1998

Cast

Branch Rickey – Mature.....Bill Bridges

Branch Rickey- Young.....Zackary Mason

Bobby Brooks & Rosie.....Ericka Buford

Henry Follis.....Steve Jefferson

Cate Follis.....Angel Ross-Taylor

Charles Follis.....Kenneth Feagin

Curtis Follis & Jackie Robinson.....Cristiano Murphy

Joseph Follis.....Chase Bryan

Cora Follis & Lucille WoodLoricia Atkinson

Lucille Follis.....Heaven Taylor

Lela Follis.....Teaira Ross

Alice Follis.....Trinity & Angel Taylor

Pastor White.....Troy Anthony Harris

Frank Schiffer.....Carl Hunnell

Frank Schiffer Jr.Isaiah Roub

Julia Schiffer.....Britney Schock

James Fairchild & Police Officer..... Charlie Roub

Fithian Scovel & Mr. Smith.....Robert E. Bennett

Walter Krandal.....John Feussner

Coach Culp & Larry.....Gregg Ashbrook II

Wendell Kauffman.....Phineus Stanfield