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BLACK HISTORY IN MISSISSIPPI SOIL

A ONE-ACT PLAY

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BLACK HISTORY IN MISSISSIPPI SOIL - A ONE-ACT PLAY

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Synopsis

Young Black man finishes a history project with help from some notable Black Mississippians.

Cast of Characters

SON

MOM

HIRAM REVELS

OSEOLA MCCARTY

OPRAH WINFREY

MALCOLM BUTLER

ACT I

Scene 1

Setting: Son's room

At Rise: MOM walks into her child's room. It's late and she is just getting home from work. SON is playing on a video game.

MOM

Hello, helloooo! How are we doing?

SON *(distractedly)*

Hey Mom.

MOM

Did you eat yet— excuse me? I know you're not playing Fortnite! Do you see what time it is? When I called, you said you had a history report due IN THE MORNING.

SON

I have been working. This stuff is stressful, so I took a break.

MOM

Oh really? Let me see this laptop. Huh, just like I thought. You haven't signed in since I called you from work two hours ago!

SON

Well mama… I missed you and wanted to wait and have dinner with you.

MOM

How sweet. But I can dine alone. You-

(snatches the controller)

-have work to do.

SON

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

MOM

Number one, take some of that bass out your voice. Number two, get on that Black History report without distractions!

(walks out)

SON

Mom is tripping, I know that.

(rolls chair over to the desk)

Haven't heard of but one of these people anyway.

(As the SON is scrolling, he falls asleep in the chair.)

HIRAM REVELS

(examining the laptop)

What a marvelous machine…

SON

(wakes and jumps out of the chair)

Man, who are you?! Does my mama know you in here?

HIRAM REVELS

Son, calm down. I saw a chance to come over and help you.

SON

I just saw you on my screen. You're Representative Hiram Revels.

HIRAM REVELS

True. I prefer "Reverend" though. My faith in God helped me with the difficulties of being the first African American in Congress.

SON

So, you weren't a slave?

HIRAM REVELS

No. I was born free in North Carolina. What drew me here tonight is the fact that I died in Aberdeen not far from here. Brings back memories. Good night, son. Continue your work.

SON

Yes sir.

(sits down and falls back asleep)

OSEOLA MCCARTY

(tapping SON on his shoulder)

Young man. Young man.

SON

(smiling with eyes closed)

Mawmaw?

OSEOLA MCCARTY

No, I wish I was.

SON

Why are you here?

OSEOLA MCCARTY

I tried to help school children all my life especially the ones trying to go to college in Hattiesburg.

SON

Did you go to college?

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OPRAH WINFREY

The world may have changed but the people in it— not so much. Many still judge you on their first impression. You have to give yourself every advantage possible so that when your opportunity comes, you'll be ready. Speaking of that, I have a young man I'd like you to meet. He's also from Mississippi. Malcolm Butler COME ON OUT.

MALCOLM BUTLER

(runs out)

Good to see you again, Oprah.

OPRAH WINFREY

Tell this guy the steps you took in achieving your NFL dream.

MALCOLM BUTLER

I always loved football. I knew I was good, but others doubted me. There was a time when I went between community colleges and the big schools. I had no offers for the pros. Then, I got a call from the New England Patriots for a minicamp. Coaches placed me last on the roster, but I made the team. We made it to Super Bowl and were getting beat. At the end, I made the game winning interception. We got the win, and I got a ring.

(holds up his hand)

OPRAH WINFREY

That's great. We've run out of time. This kid has to finish and go to bed! Good luck on your report!

(They leave.)

MOM

(yelling from the kitchen)

Are you almost done, son?

SON

(stands up and wipes his face)

Yes ma'am.

(to himself)

I see an A in my future. Let me go and eat.

(walks off)

(THE END)



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