



# NEWS RELEASE



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## For Immediate Release

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### **ORIGINAL FREEDOM RIDERS TO BE HONORED WITH THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE/AWARD**

**(IRVING) — Free Theatrical Presentation**—As part of Irving’s Martin Luther King Jr celebration, Irving Parks and Recreation and Irving Arts Center will present *Freedom Riders*, a new play with original songs and music produced by Mad River Theater Works. Two performances will be offered on **January 21, at 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Jan. 21, in Carpenter Hall at the Irving Arts Museum, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving.** The performances are FREE but are first come, first served with tickets being made available one hour before show time, day of show. No advance tickets will be offered.

#### **Special Presentation to Honor Original Freedom Riders, William Harbour and Charles Person**

Following each performance, Irving Community Television Network Producer Cathy Whiteman will moderate a post-show question and answer segment, featuring two of the 13 original Freedom Riders William E. Harbour and Charles Person. They will be presented 2018 *Civil Rights Legacy Awards*.

#### ***About Freedom Riders***

Mad River Theater Works’ *Freedom Riders* demonstrates the importance of working together to affect change and specifically how non-violent protest was used to combat the cruelties of segregation. Freedom riders, both black and white, mostly young, Americans, decided to travel together on buses that crossed state lines purposefully disregarding the hateful segregation practices that were still commonplace in so many parts of the United States. The play, recommended for ages 9 and up, explores the valiant and courageous personalities behind one of the most critical chapters in the history of the Civil Rights movement. You can learn more about the play [here](#).

#### **Related Photography Exhibition**

Offered in conjunction with a closely-related art exhibition, the Main Gallery at Irving Arts Center features [This Light of Ours: Activist Photographers of the Civil Rights Movement](#), a major traveling exhibition organized by the Center for Documentary Expression and Art (CDEA) in Salt Lake City, Utah. The exhibition documents the Civil Rights Movement through the work and voices of nine activist photographers. It will be on display January 13 through March 4. ###