

# ACTING BLACK

## Demystifying Racism



“...a perfectly poised exposition of the importance of using art to explain difficult concepts.”  
~Compendium

**60 minutes**

powerful theatrical solo performance

+

**30 minutes**

expertly guided dialogue

### **ACTING BLACK attendees will:**

- Gain understanding of the roots of American racism and its ongoing impact on institutions and individuals today
- Increase awareness of personal bias
- Practice engaging in tough, productive conversation
- Generate ideas and motivation to make workplace and community environments more inclusive

“*Acting Black* is a generous, provocative work that has the potential to be a change-making kind of performance in certain settings.”  
~Audience Member

**Available for Booking:**

[carlylebrowncandycompany.org](http://carlylebrowncandycompany.org)

651-335-3167 | [carlylebrown@aol.com](mailto:carlylebrown@aol.com)

# About ACTING BLACK

Part spoken word, part stand-up comedy, part Ted Talk complete with PowerPoint presentation, *Acting Black* is a 60-minute solo show created to inspire open and honest conversations about race and diversity.

Using the power of art to investigate difficult concepts *Acting Black* takes us to the roots of American racism and its consequences for all of us by exploring the evolution of the Black stereotype, tracing the birth of its beginning from a single individual on a specific night in Louisville, Kentucky in 1828 to the racial conflicts we still endure to this day.

*Acting Black* provides its audience with a context and the critical tools to engage in the most important part of its presentation and that is the facilitated discussion that follows the performance, usually lasting for 30 to 45 minutes. This discussion may be customized and structured in specific ways to meet the needs of sponsoring organizations and entities.

“Not everything that is faced can be changed; but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

–James Baldwin

Writer/performer Carlyle Brown is a playwright-artist-thinker whose body of work through the years continues to bring fresh and riveting insights into the experience of race in America. His presentation is a performance with PowerPoint projections that demystifies the complex, systemic structure of American racism to reveal its psychic boundaries and social impact. Thoughtful, provocative, deep diving he encourages the audience discussion toward personal and actionable solutions. Carlyle also offers follow-up discussions, workshops, structured conversations and extended programing.

*Acting Black* is available for individual groups and public, private and nonprofit organizations and institutions.

“Coming out of the Philando Castile moment here in the Twin Cities, we thought we need to figure out a forum to have a community conversation around this. And so it came to Carlyle Brown and *Acting Black*. This is a way to have this playwright-artist-thinker in the room with us, and a piece of art is made and shared and a community conversation (happens) around it.”

–Joe Haj, Artistic Director of the Guthrie Theater, quoted in The Journal

Attendees of the presentation and participants in the facilitated discussions have stated:

“*Acting Black* investigates the social construct of race and provides a way to talk about issues in a context in which it is safe to be uncomfortable. This experience is not about guilt but about understanding.”

“*Acting Black* is a generous, provocative work that has the potential to be a change-making kind of performance in certain settings.”

“*Acting Black* invited me to zoom in and look at race and racism from an angle I had not considered. I like how, with humor, he stretched my thinking. He helped people in the audience talk about things they didn’t know they could talk about. He skillfully used juxtaposition as he laid the groundwork for us to ask ourselves, “What if I did nothing?”

Contact Us Today to Learn More: [carlylebrowncandcompany.org](http://carlylebrowncandcompany.org)  
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