Foster, Sheila
Soloist

Gaines, Sr. Trustee Jeffrey
James Forman; FBI Agent Gill

Gaines, Juwan
White Plantation Owner;
Defense Attorney

Gaskins, Norma
Poem

Godfrey, Monique
Sharecropper #4

Hall, Deacon C. Darnell
Rev. James Bevel

Hall, Jocelyn
Cecilia Campbell; Prosecutor

Hall, Deaconess Joyce N.
Mississippiian #5

Hinton, Vanessa
Assistant Manager

Jones, Alethea
Voice #2, Mississippiian #8

Joyner, II, Dr. Linwood T.
Dr. W. T. Garner

Kearney, Trusteeette Cheryl
Euvester Simpson #1

Linton, Madisyn
Elizabeth Townsend

Mayo, Katrina
Ella Townsend #3

McCoy, Blanch B.
Sharecropper #6

McLellan, Edith
Mississippiian #7

Ortega-Diggs, Jayden
Frank

Rawls, Althea
Sharecropper #2

Rawls, Toora
Sharecropper #1; Fannie Lou Hamer #3

Ricks, Laila
Young Fannie Lou Hamer #2; White Girl

Robinson, Kianté
Bus Driver #2

Rodgers, Deaconess Evon
Voice #1

Rodgers, Deacon Fred
FBI Agent Reed

Sessoms, Sheila
Mississippiian #6

Spencer, Mario
Joe Townsend

Stateman, Natasha
Fannie Lou Hamer #1; Soloist; Prisoner #1

Suttles, Judy
Mississippiian #3

Turner, Clivel
Sharecropper #5

Turner, Peyton
Belle Townsend

Thomas, Ashleigh
June Johnson

Weaver, Claries
Mississippiian #4; Ernestine Davis

White, Opal
Euvester Simpson #1

Williams, Brittany
Sharecropper #7; Fannie Lou Hamer #2

Williams, Deaconess Evelyn L.
Mrs. Marlow; Soloist

Williams, Deaconess Hattie
Ella Townsend #1, Soloist;
State Trooper #2

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NEW FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (TAYLORSVILLE)
PASTOR A. PAUL PAIGE

757-399-6730 — www.newfbct.org — Worship Service, Sunday @ 7 AM & 11:15 AM

Desktop Publishing/Printing by New First Baptist Church (Taylorsville), Portsmouth, VA 23707
“Celebrating Our Black History”

Order of Program

Master of Ceremony - Brother Jaysaun Williams

Devotional

Hymn
“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”
The National Baptist Hymnal #211

Scripture
Sister Ebony Daniels

Prayer
Sister Brittany Williams

Chant
“Blessed Quietness”
The National Baptist Hymnal #122

Welcome
Brother Juwan Gaines

Offering
Pastor A. Paul Paige

“Special Selections”
Deacon Paul R. Burke, Sr.

THE PLAY

THE VOICE: FANNIE LOU HAMER
Written & Directed by Sister Vanessa Hinton

Remarks
First Lady Nicole Paige, Tutorial Ministry Leader

Remarks — Benediction — Blessing of the Food
Pastor A. Paul Paige

“Repast in the Church Fellowship Hall”

Thank you for your love and support.

STAGE CREW

Trustee Imn Burton
Trustee James Faircloth, Jr.
Trustee Jeffrey H. Gaines, Sr.
Trustee Michael E. Kearney, Sr.

NFBCT STAGE PLAYERS

Archer, Lakisha
Mississippi #2; Annell Ponder
Prisoner #2

Askew, Toora
Judge Clayton; Viola Adams; Trio

Askew, William
Bill Adams; Trio

Ballard, Mildred
Mississippi #1

Banks, Clifton
Bus Driver #1

Burke, Sr., Deacon Paul R.
Soloist

Burton, Trustee Inn
Police Officer

Burton, Trustette Joycetine
Store Manager; White Waitress

Burton-Bell, Kathy
Ella Townsend #2; Trio

Christian, Lamonté
Fannie Lou Hamer #4

Christian, MaKayla
Sol Poe

Dancy, Shatae
Young Fannie Lou Hamer #1

Eure, MyKaila
State Trooper #1; Soloist

Sharecropper #3

(Continued on Next Page)

SCENE TEN: THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

If Fannie Lou Hamer had a theme song, it would have to have been: “This Little Light of Mine”. She sang it often.

Matthew 5:16 reads: Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.

Take a bow, Fannie Lou Hamer!!!

Characters:

Fannie Lou Hamer #4:
Kathy Burton-Bell

Viola Adams:
Toora Askew

Bill Adams:
William Askew

Trio: Kathy Burton-Bell, Toora Askew, William Askew

“Let Us Break Bread”

Finale: All Cast - “This Little Light of Mine”

“Repast in the Church Fellowship Hall”

Thank you for your love and support.

(Continued on Next Page)
SCENE ONE: TRAPPED

When Fannie Lou Townsend was born on October 6, 1917, in Montgomery, Mississippi, the plantation owner paid the Townsends fifty dollars. Why? Maybe, it was a way of encouraging sharecroppers to produce future field hands. Bribery worked too.

Characters:
- Young Fannie Lou Hamer #1: Makayla Christian
- Frank Townsend: Jayden Ortega-Diggs
- White Plantation Owner: Juwan Gaines

SCENE TWO: MY MOTHER

Ella Townsend, Fannie Lou Hamer’s mother, was identified as being one of the strongest influences on her life. Ella had immense faith in God.

Characters:
- Young Fannie Lou Hamer #1: Makayla Christian
- Ella Townsend #1: Deaconess Hattie Williams
- Solo: Deaconess Hattie Williams

SCENE SEVEN: (Continued)

Solo: Natasha Stateman
“If You Miss Me From the Back of the Bus”

Poem: Norma Gaskins
“Still I Rise” (Maya Angelou)

Solo: Deaconess Evelyn Williams
“Nobody Knows”

Solo: Sheila Foster
“Precious Lord”

SCENE EIGHT: FBI: FRIEND OR FOE?

Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer had her reasons for not trusting the FBI.

Characters:
- FBI Agent Gill: Trustee Jeff Gaines
- FBI Agent Reed: Deacon Fred Rodgers
- Fannie Lou Hamer #2: Brittany Williams

Solo: Shatae Dancy
“This May Be My Last Time”

SCENE NINE: THE TRIAL

The United States Justice Department filed criminal charges against five law officers, including the Winona Police Chief on September 9, 1963. A trial was held and an all white jury served.

Characters:
- Defense Attorney: Juwan Gaines
- Sol Poe: Lamonte Christian
- Prosecutor: Joce’lyn Hall
- Judge Clayton: Toora Askew
- Euvester Simpson #2: Opal White
- State Trooper #1: Shatae Dancy
- State Trooper #2: Deaconess Hattie Williams
- Police Officer: Trustee Inn Burton
- Dr. W. T. Garner: Dr. Linwood Joyner, II
- Fannie Lou Hamer #3: Toora Rawls

Singers: All Fannie Lou Hamer Supporters
“If You Miss Me In the Freedom Fight”
SCENE THREE: SHARECROPPING
Sharecropping was a half of a step above slavery. Sharecroppers’ hard work did not pay off. At the end of the year, when the sharecroppers should have made some money, most of them ended up owing money. However, if any profit was made, it was never enough to support their families.

Characters:
Sharecropper #1: Toora Rawls
Sharecropper #2: Althea Rawls
Sharecropper #3: MyKaila Eure
Sharecropper #4: Monique Godfrey
Young Fannie Lou Hamer #2: Laila Ricks
Joe Townsend: Mario Spencer
Ella Townsend #2: Kathy Burton-Bell
Ella Townsend #3: Katrina Mayo
Bella Townsend: Peyton Turner
Elizabeth Townsend: Madisyn Linton
Store Manager: Trusteetee Joycetine Burton
Assistant Manager: Vanessa Hinton

SCENE FOUR: A LYNCHING
Lynching was a very common practice in Mississippi.

Characters:
Sharecropper #5: Clivel Turner
Sharecropper #6: Blanch McCoy
Sharecropper #7: Brittany Williams

SCENE FIVE: “WHO WILL GO TO REGISTER TO VOTE?”
The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee workers came to Ruleville, Mississippi to hold a mass meeting. Fannie Lou Hamer went. She realized that she was in the right place, at the right time, for the right reason.

Characters:
Rev. James Bevel: Deacon Darnell Hall
James Forman: Trustee Jeff Gaines
Mississippian #1: Mildred Ballard
Fannie Lou Hamer #1: Natasha Stateman

Solo: Sheila Foster “Newborn Soul”

SCENE SIX: THE BUS WAS TOO YELLOW
Resistance breeds retaliation. Participating in a Voting Rights Drive produces a strange event!

Characters:
Mississippian #2: Lakisha Archer
Mississippian #3: Judy Suttles
Mississippian #4: Claries Weaver
Mississippian #5: Deaconess Joyce Hall
Mississippian #6: Sheila Sessoms
Mississippian #7: Edith McLellan
Mississippian #8: Alethea Jones
Cecilia Campbell: Joce’llyn Hall
Ernestine Davis: Claries Weaver
Fannie Lou Hamer #1: Natasha Stateman
Mrs. Marlow: Deaconess Evelyn Williams
Bus Driver #1: Clifton Banks
State Trooper #1: Shatae Dancy

Solo: Natasha Stateman “This Little Light of Mine”
Solo: Deacon Paul R. Burke, Sr. “We Shall Overcome”
Solo: Sheila Foster “Down By The Riverside”

SCENE SEVEN: IF JAIL CELLS COULD TALK
Black folks being beaten by white folks and law officers was another common practice in Mississippi!

Characters:
White Waitress: Trusteetee Joycetine Burton
White Girl: Laila Ricks
Fannie Lou Hamer #1: Natasha Stateman
Bus Driver #2: Kianté Robinson
Annell Ponder: Lakisha Archer
State Trooper #1: Shatae Dancy
State Trooper #2: Deaconess Hattie Williams
Euvester Simpson #1: Trusteetee Cheryl Kearney
June Johnson: Ashleigh Thomas
Police Officer: Trustee Imn Burton
Prisoner #1: Natasha Stateman
Prisoner #2: Lakisha Archer
Fannie Lou Hamer #2: Brittany Williams

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