



DARE TO BE BLACK

The Jack Johnson Story

Written by
Tommie J. Moore

*Dare to be Black, Regional Play
Press Kit*

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SYNOPSIS

It is 1908. Both your Ma and Pa are emancipated slaves. It is still a racist White America. Negro lynchings are popular and inconsequential. What does a Negro man do? Does he demand his freedom? No. Does he knock out white men? No. Does he have sex with white women? No. Does he marry white women? Hell no! Well, Jack Johnson did. Jack Johnson was an African American before his time. Jack did things in the late 1800's to the early 1900's that some would consider suicidal. And although, his physical stature was threatening, his charm and storytelling made him lovable. Jack Johnson was the first African American Heavyweight World Champion, and white America could not stand it. After Jack beat dozens of hopeful white boys, trying to regain the so-called white title, the great white hope era ended when Jack destroyed, white America's best, Jim Jeffries. Unable to beat Jack in the ring, America's court system found a way to knock Jack out with an "illegal low blow." He was charged with violating the "Mann Act." The Mann Act banned interstate and foreign trade of white women for prostitution. Of course, the charges were bogus. And Jack did not hesitate to state that fraudulent practices were being adopted. Finally, in 2018, Jack Johnson got a presidential pardon. FYI... Since Jack Johnson chose to go into exile in various countries. The audience for this production is worldwide.



MAJOR POINTS

Jack Johnson had two major celebrations in 2018. He would have been 140 years old on March 31st, 2018. Also, 2018 marks 110 years since Jack Johnson won the Championship.

John McCain, Gregory Meeks, and Peter King (politicians) had been pushing for a presidential pardon for Jack Johnson. Finally, in May 2018, Donald Trump gave Jack Johnson a presidential pardon.

Although the play is about a boxer, "anti-sports-fans" still love it. The play is bigger than sports. Jack is lovable and loves to tell entertaining stories.

DARE TO BE BLACK” PRESS REVIEW
EXCERPTS

“Moore is a monologist of considerable talent & stamina...”

A skillful, impassioned performance, an embodiment of an important story that shouldn't be forgotten."

- **Town Square Delaware**

"A knockout ... Dare to Be Black entertains, and addresses today's racial issues through an historical lens, allowing us to appreciate how ugly blatant racism can be — and how important it is to fight back..."

- **Broad Street Review**

"*Moore* is an artist for the thinking theatergoer ... a convincing and thought-provoking performance"

- **WHYY**

“Compelling ... a powerful story, worth telling and worth knowing, a valuable history still (unfortunately) relevant for our times."



- **The News Journal**

"Triumphant ... filled with thought-provoking moments and entertaining anecdotes."

- **Delawareblack.com**

"*Tommie J. Moore* gives an impassioned performance."

- **BroadwayWorld Delaware**

"This 90-minute, hard-hitting journey transports the audience through inspiring moments of Johnson's life and lays out everything he had to fight, both with gloves on, and gloves off"

- **WDEL,**

Hi Tommie -

Thank you for your wonderful performance, and for bringing Dare to Be Black to us in the first place. It was evident during the reading that you have developed a very special show that connects deeply with audiences. I understand why you are so passionate about the project. You are phenomenal in the role. As you pursue larger venues, I'm happy to provide a testimonial about the play, saying that my audience members really responded to it.

Thank you again!

Best, Taryn

*Taryn Sacramone, Executive Director, Queens Theatre,
Flushing Meadows Corona Park*



PLAY REVIEW

<https://whyy.org/articles/bravado-indignation-star-delaware-theatres-dare-black/>

<http://townsquaredelaware.com/2017/10/31/a-daring-portrayal-at-dtc-jack-johnson-unbowed-unpardoned/>

<https://www.broadstreetreview.com/theater/delaware-theatre-company-presents-tommie-j-moores-dare-to-be-black>

http://www.phillytrib.com/entertainment/tommie-moore-stars-in-dare-to-be-black-the-jack/article_7a41901c-3b6b-5ef1-b7f6-12c8b3796cc5.html

<http://www.delawareblack.com/dare-to-be-black-the-triumphant-story-of-unsung-boxer-comes-to-delaware/>

<http://amsterdamnews.com/news/2016/feb/12/jack-johnsons-one-man-show-monterey-jazz-all-stars/>

<https://commentariesonthetimes.me/2016/04/11/resurrection-of-a-heavy-weight/>

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/presidential-pardon-sought-boxing-legend-jack-johnson-article-1.2519417>

<http://www.playbill.com/article/two-plays-will-explore-jack-johnson-story-this-season-com-380035>

<http://fightland.vice.com/blog/the-fight-for-jack-johnsons-presidential-pardon-takes-the-stage>

NOMINATIONS

<https://liachang.wordpress.com/2016/10/01/phylicia-rashad-marjorie-johnson-jason-dirden-ruben-santiago-hudson-joe-morton-tina-fabrique-francois-battiste-colman-domingo-maurice-hines-among-2016-audelco-award-nominees-skeleton-crew-and/>

AUDIO

(Great "Catskill Book Review" interview)

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=11jNFccuvZijD8UTv1-HsMVtu9bzxZweH>

(WDEL THE BUZZ)

<https://soundcloud.com/delawaretheatrecompany/wdel-weekend-buzz-on-air-with-tommie-j-moore>