



73½ South Professor Street
P.O. Box 455
Oberlin, OH 44074-0455
Phone: 440-774-1700
Website: www.oberlinheritagecenter.org
E-mail: members@oberlinheritage.org

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Contact: Elizabeth Schultz, Executive Director, at (440) 774-1700 or

liz.schultz@oberlinheritage.org or Wesley Williams at genevalor@gmail.com

Photo available upon request

Oberlin Heritage Center Presents an Evening with Frederick Douglass

Dramatist and educator **Wesley Williams** offers a compelling and thought-provoking first-person performance as civil rights activist, orator, and author Frederick Douglass in a program hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center on **Wednesday, October 28 at 7:15 p.m.** Douglass was born a slave in early 19th century Maryland, escaped at age 20, and became perhaps the most recognized name in the American abolitionist movement. He was a lifelong friend of Oberlin professor and diplomat James Monroe, whose home is now the Heritage Center's headquarters and the starting point for the organization's well-received early Oberlin history tours. The one-hour dramatic production takes place at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive) and is free and open to the public.

Williams gives his audience an opportunity to experience Douglass's life, famous speeches and a powerful interpretation of how this well-known American abolitionist's prolific words speak to humanity in the 21st century. A brief question-and-answer period with Williams will follow the performance.

Wesley Williams received his B.A. at the W.E.B. Dubois Honor's College at Jackson State University and his M.A. at the University of Mississippi. He presently divides his time between Columbus, Ohio and Washington, DC where he works as a Senior Study Director in the Human Services/Education division of Westat, a social-science research firm. Williams is active as a volunteer, performer and Underground Railroad Advisory Board member for the Kelton House Museum in Columbus, once a stop on Ohio's vast Underground Railroad network. He also is the founder of Eneq Works (www.eneqworks.com) through which he combines his passions for history and music in a number of different historical dramatic productions.

For more information about this or other upcoming events on the Oberlin Heritage Center's educational and tour calendar, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

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