

# THE COLOR OF JUSTICE

Theatreworks USA proudly presents the story of a courageous young girl and a great warrior for justice, and their battle for equal rights.

Our story begins in the 1950s, a time in America when signs indicating "Colored" and "White" were prominently hung on restroom doors, restaurant windows and drinking fountains. A time when every school child knew that people in coloring books had to have pink skin, and white dolls with blond hair and blue eyes were really the "prettiest." A time in America when many schools were segregated and the practice of "separate but equal" was upheld by the United States Supreme Court.

Thurgood Marshall, prominent legal counsel for the NAACP, has been traveling around the country looking for families who will challenge the segregation law, who have the courage to take their lawsuits all the way to the nation's highest.

One fateful day, he arrives in Topeka looking for a family who would step forward and join the battle in the Supreme Court case *Brown vs. the Board of Education*. And he finds the Carter family.

Eight-year-old Grace Carter is tired of "colored" schools having to settle for ripped books and hand-me-down school supplies from well equipped white schools. She cannot understand why "colored" students have to mop their floors and clean their windows when the white schools have custodial staff, leaving their students free to concentrate on learning. But most importantly, she and her family -- and the entire "colored race"-- is "craving light," the kind of light you can't find in a segregated school system.

And so the little girl and the great man begin a battle. A battle against bigots and Klansmen. A battle against fearful friends and neighbors who want to leave well-enough alone. A battle that costs Mr. Carter his job and Grace her best friend. But a battle that they ultimately win, changing their lives and the lives of black schoolchildren all over America.



theatre  
works USA

151 W. 26th Street  
New York, NY 10001  
212.647.1100 ph  
212.924.5377 fax  
[www.twusa.org](http://www.twusa.org)

# THE COLOR OF JUSTICE

**CHERYL L. DAVIS** (Author) was raised in Mount Vernon, New York. She graduated from Princeton University with an B.A. in English and holds a Certificate from the Department of Theatre and Dance. She received a Masters of Science in Journalism from Columbia University School of Journalism, and graduated from Columbia University School of Law. She is currently a practicing attorney in midtown Manhattan. Ms. Davis has studied playwriting with Jean-Claude Van Itallie at Princeton University, and with Jeffrey Sweet. She is an alumna of the BMI/Lehman Engel Musical Theater Workshop, the Composer/Lyricist Division. One of her plays was just chosen as a finalist in the Actors' Theatre of Louisville National Ten-Minute Play competition. Her work has been performed in New York and regionally, at the Cleveland Play House. Most recently, the Play House commissioned her to write a play about the blues singer Ma Rainey which toured local Cleveland schools in February 1995.

Founded in 1961, **THEATREWORKS USA** is America's foremost professional theatre for young and family audiences. Its goal is to create imaginative and sophisticated shows that are educational, entertaining, and though provoking. Theatreworks has the distinction of being the only children's theatre company that has won both a Drama Desk and Lucille Lortel Award from New York's theatre critics. And most recently, the Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation Award was presented to Theatreworks "for its artistic vision and commitment to the support and development of theatre artists." Performing at home in New York, and touring across the country to theatres, arts centers and schools, Theatreworks has performed for approximately 78 million people in 49 states, with an annual audience of over 4 million.

---

The play *The Color of Justice* is a fictional account of one episode in the struggle of Afro-Americans to obtain equal treatment under the law. *The Color of Justice* is a drama, and the names, characters and incidents portrayed in the play are fictitious, and any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, or to actual events, is entirely coincidental.

Photo credit (L to R): Sheryll McCallum, Jonathan Earl Peck, Gil Deeble, Selena Nelson. Photo by Jean-Marie Guyaux



151 W. 26th Street  
New York, NY 10001  
212.647.1100 ph  
212.924.5377 fax  
[www.twusa.org](http://www.twusa.org)