BEAR ME INTO FREEDOM

The Chesapeake Odyssey of Frederick Douglass | A CINEMATIC TRIPTYCH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Bear Me Into Freedom Announces Waterfowl Festival Screenings at The Narrative in Downtown Easton

The immersive documentary experience comes to Easton's newest theater space at 7 East Dover Street during Waterfowl Festival weekend.

TALBOT COUNTY, MD - *Bear Me Into Freedom: The Chesapeake Odyssey of Frederick Douglass*, an immersive documentary film experience that brings the early life and words of the legendary abolitionist to life, has moved to its new home at The Narrative, a brand-new 40-seat theater located at 7 East Dover Street in downtown Easton. The installation opens at its new location during Waterfowl Festival weekend with four public screenings: Friday, November 13 at 3:00 p.m.; Saturday, November 14 at 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.; and Sunday, November 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets are $10 each. Due to a 40-seat capacity per showing, advanced reservations are strongly recommended here, with attendees able to pay at the door. Walk-ins are welcome if space is available.

Located just steps from the Frederick Douglass statue at the Talbot County Courthouse, the new space is housed in a theater developed by Dock Street Foundation, which has worked to establish a dedicated downtown home for the installation in alignment with its broader community revitalization efforts. This initiative was bolstered by recent Project Restore 2.0 grant funding awarded to the Easton Economic Development Corporation (Easton EDC) through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development—part of a $16.2 million statewide investment to attract, retain, and expand small businesses and cultural attractions across the Eastern Shore. The

theater's name, The Narrative, honors Douglass's seminal 1845 autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*.

"The Bear Me Into Freedom Collaborative is deeply grateful for all the support we received from the Talbot Historical Society throughout the project's development," said director and producer Jeffrey McGuiness. "The Society housed the prototype of *Bear Me Into Freedom* at the Neall House starting in June 2025, and its location in the heart of the Easton Historic District was instrumental in building initial community engagement and launching the experience."

The transition to 7 East Dover Street follows a series of successful regional presentations. The documentary has previously been featured at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture in Baltimore, the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, and Historic Lewes in Delaware, as well as sites directly tied to Douglass's youth, including St. Luke's Methodist Church in St. Michaels and Asbury United Methodist Church in Easton, which Douglass dedicated in 1878.

Produced by Bay Photographic Works, *Bear Me Into Freedom* is a hyper-local community effort featuring a cast and production team made up entirely of Talbot County residents. The one-hour documentary experience pairs Douglass's own speeches and writings with a panoramic visual layout presented across three synchronized screens and authentic local soundscapes recorded across Eastern Shore fields, forests, and waterways.

"The scholarship surrounding Frederick Douglass is extensive, but I have long believed that if you don't have a visual sense of where someone is from, you can't fully understand who that person truly is," said McGuiness. "That led to a decision to create a visual panorama that would embrace audiences with the words of Frederick Douglass and the Talbot County world in which he lived."

The production brings together prominent local voices, historians, and descendants. Co-writer **Lance Morris** performs Frederick Douglass's words on screen, while principal narrator **Harriette Lowery**—a seventh-generation descendant of enslaved Talbot County residents and co-founder of the Frederick Douglass Honor Society—provides historical framing. **Marshall Bailey IV**, a sixth-generation Douglass descendant, portrays young Frederick Douglass alongside former local educator, **Vickie Wilson** as

Betsy Bailey. **Dana Bowser** serves as principal vocal artist and music coordinator, with videography and editing by **Jimmy Maguire**.

“It’s been very gratifying to see so many people connect with *Bear Me Into Freedom* in its many forms,” said Morris. “It’s been a real labor of love for all of us across the years, and it’s wonderful to share that collaboration with everyone in our new permanent home.”

The trailer can be viewed here. For complete film details, cast information, and high-resolution media downloads, visit **bearmeintofreedom.com/press**. Journalists and members of the media interested in requesting complimentary press tickets to a screening, arranging interviews with the creative team, or obtaining additional press materials should contact Marie Thomas at **marie@bearmeintofreedom.com**.

PHOTO CAPTIONS: DOWNLOAD THE HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES HERE.
Photos are © Jeffrey C. McGuiness and Richard Marks.



BMIF_TheNarrativeOpening.jpg

The Narrative is a brand-new 40-seat theater located at 7 East Dover Street in downtown Easton, developed by the Dock Street Foundation, which has worked to establish a dedicated downtown home for the immersive documentary film Bear Me Into Freedom: The Chesapeake Odyssey of Frederick Douglass.



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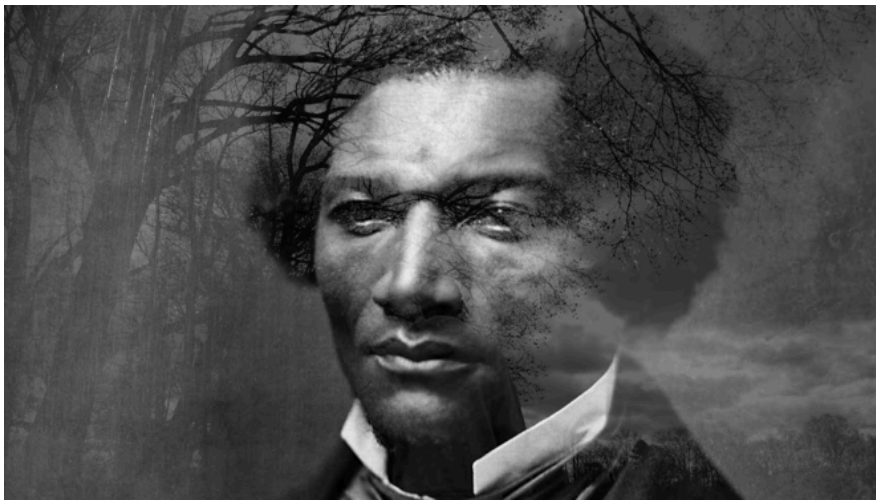
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McGuiness and Morris.jpg



Bear Me Into Freedom Director & Producer Jeff McGuiness and Co-writer Lance Morris, the voice of Frederick Douglass.

02 BMIF Frederick Douglass Portrait.png



Frederick Douglass was one of the most photographed Americans of the 19th century. Douglass recognized the power of the emerging art of photography to change stereotypes of African Americans. © Jeffrey C. McGuiness