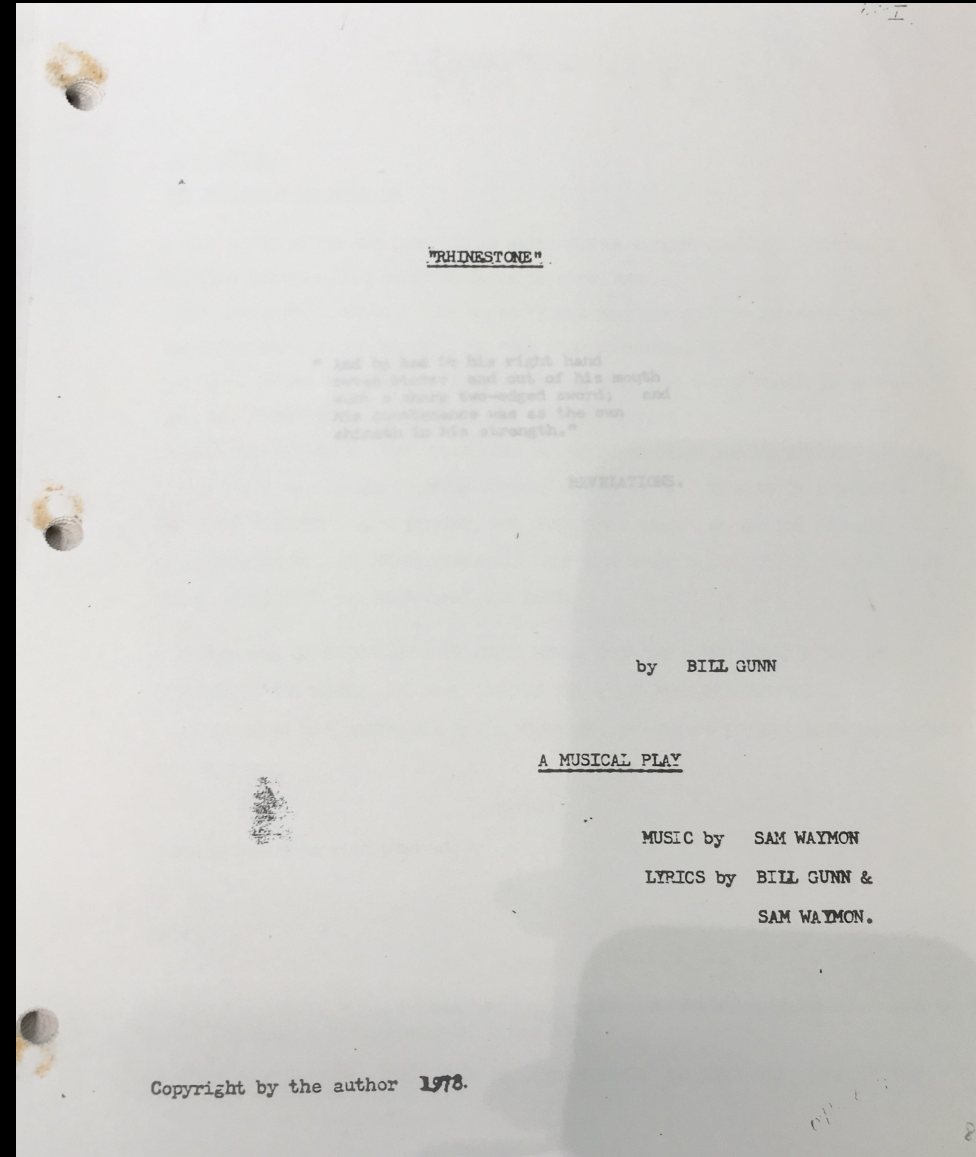


*SAME ISSUE, DIFFERENT DAY.
THE BLACK FIGHT FOR
EQUALITY*

By Tyra Whye

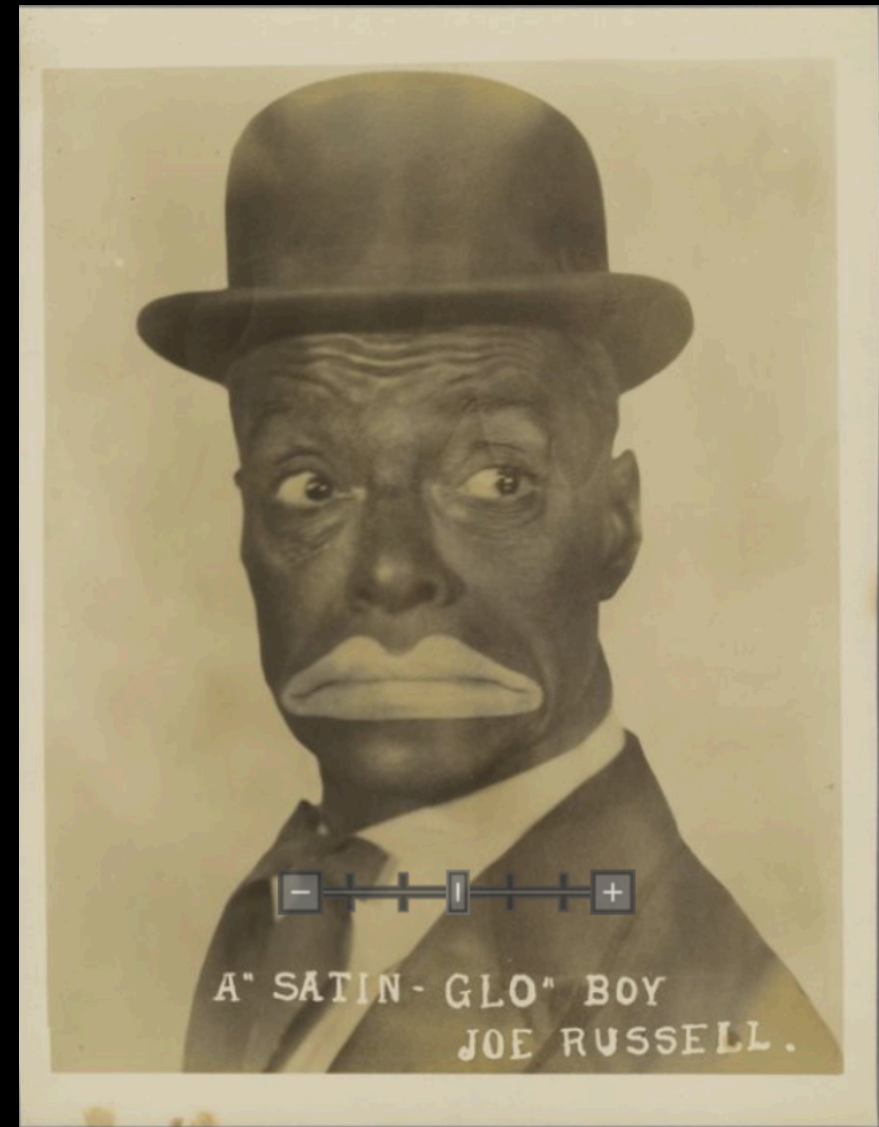
This exhibit depicts the daily struggle of African Americans for social justice and professionally. African Americans had to put up with ignorant people and poor work environments due to systematic racism, yet this sparked a flame that inspired many to use their oppression to show the world how unjust life is for a minority. An example of this is in Bill Gunn's *Rhinestone Sharecropping*, in which the main character, Sam Todd, attempts to work around the racial tension that has been created in his work environment. Unfortunately, he cannot do so and is released from his job. This is just one example of many unequal situations that have sparked protests which can be seen before, throughout, and after the civil rights movement. Today, these protests continue through the Black Lives Matter Movement, sparked by the death of Trayvon Martin, which protests police brutality and violence. This movement empowers people to stand up and make a change for the better of African Americans.

Bill Gunn
Rhinestone Sharecropping
1981
Paperback Draft of Play



Rhinestone Sharecropping is a play written by Bill Gunn, exemplifying systematic racism through the story of black playwright, Sam Todd. *Rhinestone Sharecropping* was inspired by Bill Gunn's very own experiences in the theater. He faced ignorant people, low wages, and minimal role opportunities due to the color of his skin. Gunn decided to risk his career and make a difference by taking a stand and writing controversial pieces, such as *Rhinestone Sharecropping*, that unmasked the harsh reality of minorities professional lives.

Anonymous
Portrait of Joe Russel in blackface, wearing a suit
and bowler hat
No date
Black and White Photograph



Portrait of Joe Russel in blackface, wearing a suit and a bowler hat depicts a white man, covered in grease to give him the illusion of being an African American, also known as blackface. A method used by Caucasians to make racist jokes about African American's and laugh at their struggle and culture. This picture was probably taken to advertise a play or comedy theater group, which is what blackface was normally used for, since African Americans couldn't be in the theater. This is just another example of how racism came and can come into play in almost every aspect of life. The need for African Americans to stand up and risk their lives for change was becoming greater and greater.

Anonymous
Two men reviewing an advertisement for TV
Digest
No date
Black and White photograph



Two men reviewing an advertisement for TV Digest depicts a black man and a white man working together on what appears to be an advertisement. Despite their obvious differences and the racial tension that was present at the time, the men are able to successfully work in harmony. Thus showing that peace was possible at the time, it was simply a matter of those stuck in an ignorant mindset going out of their way to create difficulties for African Americans.

Clarence, Jackson
Fly Blackbird, from the new
musical Fly Blackbird
1962
Book

"Fly Blackbird" Lyrics

Why you wanna fly Blackbird you ain't ever gonna fly

No place big enough for holding all the tears you're gonna cry

*Cause your mama's name was "Lonely" and your daddy's name
was "Pain"*

And they call you little sorrow cause you'll never love again

So why you wanna fly Blackbird you ain't ever gonna fly

You ain't got no one to hold you you ain't got no one to care

If you'd only understand dear nobody wants you anywhere

So why you wanna fly Blackbird you ain't ever gonna fly

“Fly Blackbird” is a song from the musical *Fly Blackbird*, a play performed by a racially diverse cast about the Civil Rights Movement and how important it was to be strong and stand up for what you believe in. More specifically the song “Fly Blackbird” is about blackbirds staying passionate and not giving up on their goal to fly and be free. This is an exact representation of the Civil Rights Movement, meaning it was time to fight for black’s rights and to be free from the inequality that was and still is present in the United States today.

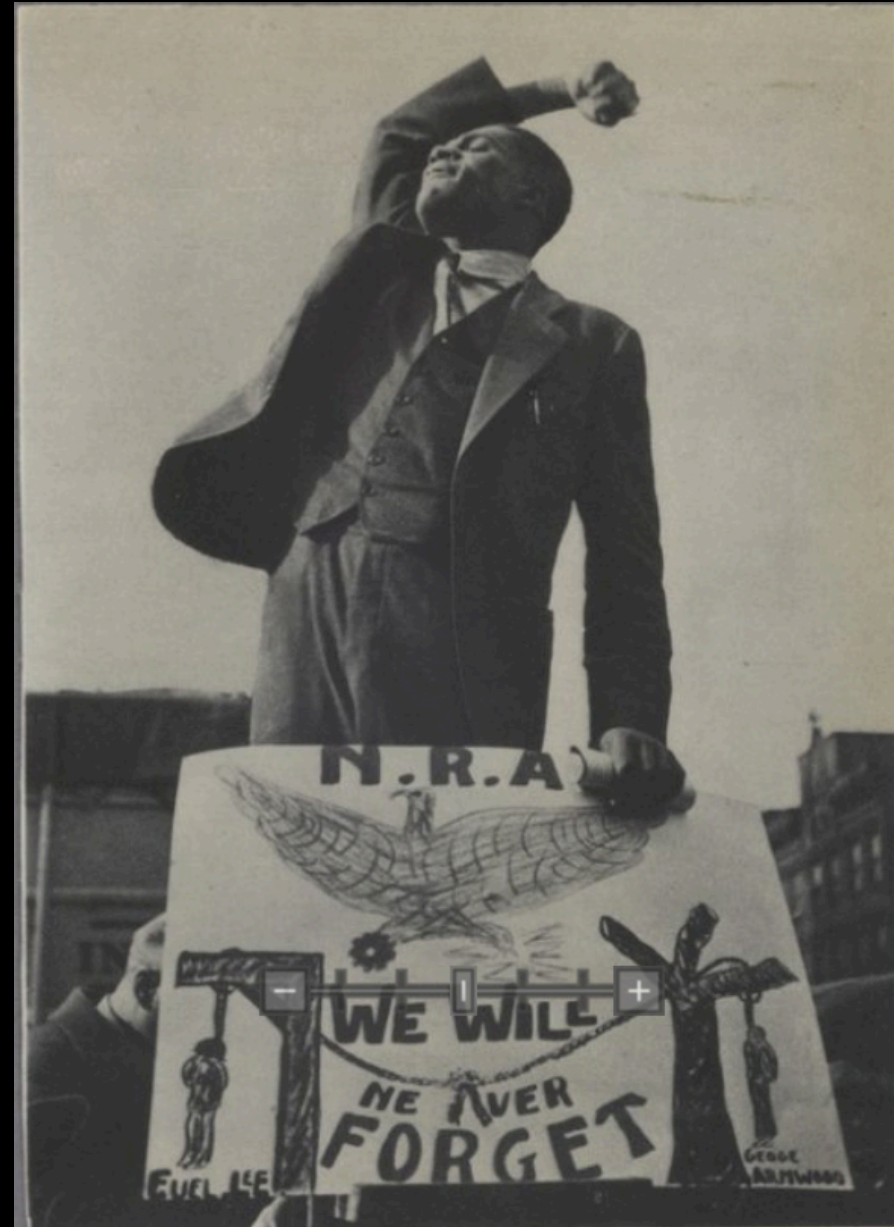
Anonymous
Five men and women with strike
signs in front of Fifth Avenue
Hospital
June 6, 1959
Black and White Photograph



Five men and women with strike signs in front of Fifth Avenue Hospital

depicts five black hospital employees on strike due to the problematically low wages they were paid. This is just another representation of how racial tension was affecting every aspect of African American's lives. The key to analyzing this photograph is to look at the people. Why are there no white people protesting with them for better wages? Because the white people were being paid better than black people, who were put in these low wage positions, due to systematic racism.

Anonymous
Man with fist up and sign that says N.R.A.,
We Will Never Forget
1936
Black and White Photograph



Man with fist up and sign that says N.R.A., We Will Never Forget depicts a black man with a protest sign that says “N.R.A.” (National Rifle Association). The Protest sign also has a picture of black people being hung by nooses with the words “We Will Never Forget” underneath. The man is raising his fist in the air with passion, a symbol of black power and nationalism. This photo represents the fight against racism and the KKK in America. The N.R.A. is being praised as a method for helping decrease the number of blacks killed by the KKK, since the N.R.A. was created to help fight the KKK. The passion shown by the man represents how important it was and still is to stand up and fight the majority, or eventually you too could lose your life.

•

Jalani Morgan
Untitled
July 9, 2016
Black and White Photograph



This picture depicts a Black Lives Matter protest. This is a black and white photo that shows a group of African American's walking down a street holding BLM posters. One man has his fist raised in the air, once again, a sign of black power and nationalism. This picture is a great example of how social issues have barely changed in America. Black people are still fighting for equality. Black people are still risking their lives to stand up for what they believe in. Black people are still being oppressed by the majority.

Through a variety of artifacts this exhibit continues to display one common theme, the need to stand up and make a change. Social justice issues remain prevalent throughout history and continue today. These problems even arise in the professional lives of African Americans, which continues to inflict systemic racism on minorities. The oppression is still the same, the ignorance is still the same, the only change is time.
