

Wednesday, January 11, 2023  
10AM

A NJPAC SchoolTime Performance

*PSEG True Diversity Film Series*

# ***Just Mercy***

*Produced by*

**Gil Netter, Asher Goldstein, Michael B. Jordan**

*Directed by*

**Destin Daniel Cretton**

*Starring*

**Michael B. Jordan & Jamie Foxx**

*Featuring*

**Brie Larson, Tim Blake Nelson, Rob Morgan,  
O'Shea Jackson Jr., Rafe Spall**

**As a courtesy to the performers and fellow audience members, please be sure to silence all mobile devices.  
The use of recording equipment and the taking of photographs are strictly prohibited.**



Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts,  
a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts



## about the movie

Michael B. Jordan (*Black Panther*, *Creed*, *Creed II*) and Oscar winners Jamie Foxx (*Ray*, *Baby Driver*, *Django: Unchained*) and Brie Larson (*Room*, *The Glass Castle*, *Captain Marvel*) star in *Just Mercy*, an inspiring drama that brings one of the most important stories of our time to the big screen. Award-winning filmmaker Destin Daniel Cretton (*The Glass Castle*, *Short Term 12*) directed the film from a screenplay he co-wrote, based on the award-winning nonfiction bestseller by Bryan Stevenson. A powerful and thought-provoking true story, *Just Mercy* follows young lawyer Bryan Stevenson (Jordan) and his history-making battle for justice.

After graduating from Harvard, Bryan had his pick of lucrative jobs. Instead, he heads to Alabama to defend those wrongly condemned or who were not afforded proper

representation, with the support of local advocate Eva Ansley (Larson). One of his first, and most incendiary, cases is that of Walter McMillian (Foxx), who, in 1987, was sentenced to die for the notorious murder of an 18-year-old girl, despite a preponderance of evidence proving his innocence and the fact that the only testimony against him came from a criminal with a motive to lie. In the years that follow, Bryan becomes embroiled in a labyrinth of legal and political maneuverings and overt and unabashed racism as he fights for Walter, and others like him, with the odds — and the system — stacked against them.

## about the panelists

**Donna Walker-Kuhne** is the founder of Walker International Communications Group: a marketing, press and audience development consulting agency. Her team specializes in multicultural marketing, group sales, multicultural press and promotional events. Donna is acknowledged as the nation's foremost expert in audience development by the Arts & Business Council and has devoted her professional career to increasing access to the arts. She is currently Senior Advisor on Community Engagement at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. She provides consulting services to numerous arts organizations throughout the country and worldwide including Australia, Berlin, Moscow, Sochi, Edinburgh and Blomfontein, South Africa. She is the author of *Invitation to the Party: Building Bridges to Arts, Culture and Community* and the popular blog *Arts & Culture Connections*. Donna teaches Equity, Diversity Inclusions at NYUSPS in the Center for Applied Liberal Arts.

**Councilman Dupre L. Kelly** is son of Newark, NJ. Born and raised in the West Ward, Councilman Kelly is a community leader who leads with dedication and passion. He is a founder of a not-for-profit, 211 Community Impact, and sits on the boards of United Way of West Essex, After School All Stars, Newark Arts Council and Newark Museum Advisory Board. Councilman Kelly Attended 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue Elementary, a Newark public school; Essex County Vocational & Technical High School (Newark Tech) and then onto Shaw University (Raleigh, NC) where he pledged Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He also chased his dream of being in the

music business and captured it when his band signed a recording deal and formed a group called Lords of the Underground that would go on to sell millions of records worldwide. He believes that by revitalizing the mindset of the people you can develop a community and foster change through public service. He is a member of Shekinah Glory Church in Newark, NJ.

**Daniel K. Forkkio** is the Chief Executive Officer of Represent Justice. As a career nonprofit executive with over 13 years of prior experience in nonprofit and advocacy work, Daniel leads the organization's social impact efforts through strategic audience and community engagement as well as partnerships. Prior to joining Represent Justice, Daniel served as the Fulfillment Fund's CFO and COO where he provided leadership and oversight to the organization's operational activities, aiding in business decisions geared towards improving sustainability while maximizing impact. Daniel has also worked for The Raben Group in Washington, D.C. overseeing the operations of eight separately managed nonprofit organizations and fiscal sponsors. He has also worked for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, a multi-billion-dollar conservation grant maker, and notably aided in the development and design of the reporting infrastructure for a variety of major funding sources, including awarded payments from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010. He also serves as treasurer on the board of directors of Guns Down America, a national gun violence prevention group, as well as the Fulfillment Fund.

## about the panelists

**Linda McDonald Carter, Esq.** served as an Associate Professor of Paralegal Studies, Political Studies and Criminal Justice and Director of the Paralegal Studies Program at Essex County College. Her humble beginnings started decades ago during the tumultuous 1950's, during Republican U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy's "Red Scare Period" and the Civil Rights era that evolved into the Black Power Movement. Linda blossomed early as a sacred active citizen, protesting the Vietnam War at the tender age of 12. She vividly recalls seeing the world through the eyes of the media and TV show about attorney Perry Mason versus the realities she witnessed daily growing up in the Scudder Housing Project, located in Newark's Central Ward, after the 1967 Newark Rebellion. She vowed then to become an attorney, not necessarily to practice law, nor make money; but to help make a difference in her community assisting with interpreting the language of law and providing direction on how to navigate the U.S. legal system.

## njpac on the mic

For post-show resources, please visit:  
[njpac.org/education-program/](http://njpac.org/education-program/)  
[just-mercy-resources](http://just-mercy-resources)

## acknowledgements

Major support provided by:



Generous support for NJPAC's  
SchoolTime Performance series  
provided, in part, by:



Generous support for NJPAC Arts Education provided by The Joan and Allen Bildner Family Fund, Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc., The Arts Education Endowment Fund in honor of Raymond C. Chambers, Jennifer A. Chalsty, Judy and Stewart Colton, Toby and Leon Cooperman, Mimi and Edwin Feliciano, The Izzo Family, Don Katz & Leslie Larson, McCrane Foundation, Inc., care of Margrit McCrane, The MCJ Amelior Foundation, Albert+ and Katharine Merck+, NJ Advance Media, David & Marian Rocker, The Sagner Companies/The Sagner Family Foundation and an anonymous donor.

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