

The Parchman Hour – **Sponsored by the Toe River Arts Council**
Professional Development Workshop Description
www.mikewileyproductions.com

Workshop Date: Monday, March 5, 8:30 – 11:30 am

Location: Community Room at United Community Bank, Burnsville

(Please park in the parking lot behind the bank, at the top of the hill)

Participants are eligible for \$40 for their substitute teacher that morning

Sign-up: email denise@toeriverarts.org

Documentary Theater: Bringing History To Life

Curiosity is a driving force in pursuing knowledge. Arranging lessons and materials to inspire students' curiosity is a powerful educational tool. It is the same tool that documentary theater artists use to create a play. By starting in the middle of unknown territory, teaching artists Mike Wiley and Serena Ebhardt will help you discover how to inspire students, arouse curiosity, and employ 21st Century Skills to investigate a topic. The result is an interactive lesson which creates empathy and validates student contributions to the learning process.

Participants in the workshop will be immersed in the documentary theater creation method used in **The Parchman Hour**. Participants will be immersed in images and quotes and sounds from a historical event in North Carolina history, allowing for exploration and revelation as they create their own original drama.

Curriculum Application: Language Arts, Social Studies, Theatre Arts.

The Teaching Artists

Mike Wiley is the playwright and director of **The Parchman Hour**. He has more than twelve years' credits in theatre for young audiences, plus film, television and regional theatre. An Upward Bound alum and Trio Achiever Award recipient, he is an M.F.A. graduate of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. A gifted playwright and actor, Wiley's overriding goal is expanding cultural awareness for audiences of all ages through dynamic portrayals based on pivotal moments in African-American history and, in doing so, helping to unveil a richer picture of the total American experience.
www.mikewileyproductions.com.

Serena Ebhardt began her professional acting career at the age of six. She has performed in theatre, film, radio, and television throughout Canada, Europe and the United States; including the off-Broadway production of *Winding The Ball*. A Paul Green Scholar from University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, Serena is also a producer, director and playwright. As a Teaching Artist, Serena has participated in training with *The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts* and *The Lincoln Center Institute*. Serena is the co-founder of EbzB Productions, a professional touring theatre company that develops works to promote integrity among artists and audiences. www.EbzB.org.

