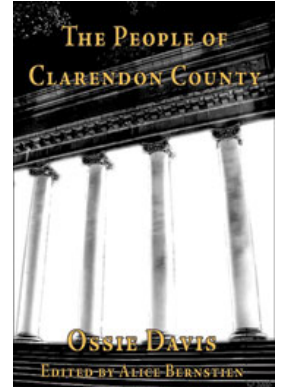


Coming in Fall 2007

The People of Clarendon County— A Play by Ossie Davis

with
Photographs and Historical Documents,
and Essays on the Education
That Can End Racism

Edited by
Alice Bernstein



“The *People of Clarendon County*” is a short play by Ossie Davis—*never before published!* Through the art of drama, he gives life to a pivotal, little known chapter of civil rights history. We meet the Rev. Joseph DeLaine and other courageous African American parents in South Carolina, in their fight in the 1950s against racial inequality in education. They risked their lives to file the first legal challenge to segregation in the public schools—which was later combined with other cases as *Brown v. Board of Education*. The play was written in celebration of the Supreme Court’s momentous decision outlawing school segregation. It was performed just once, in 1955, for an enthusiastic audience of union brothers and sisters at Local 1199’s Bread and Roses Cultural Project in New York City. The young actors were Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, and Sidney Poitier.

In her Introduction, journalist and Aesthetic Realism Associate Alice Bernstein tells of conversations with Ossie Davis in 2004 which led to her discovery of *“The People of Clarendon County”* and her idea for this book. With Mr. Davis’s encouragement, she gathered documents and photographs by and about these unsung heroes, which make history come alive, and essays by authorities on the education that can end racism: Aesthetic Realism, founded by philosopher and poet, Eli Siegel.

Ruby Dee writes:

“It moved my husband to think that fifty years later, school children might learn about history by reading or acting in his play. In addition, Alice’s book will also inform people about the success of the Aesthetic Realism Teaching Method in enabling children to learn every subject, and ending prejudice in the classroom.”

Ossie Davis was an award-winning actor, director, producer, and a civil rights activist who worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X. He wrote and starred in the Broadway hit *Purlie Victorious*, and is the author of numerous teleplays and books, including a posthumous collection of speeches and essays, *Life Lit by Some Large Vision*. **Alice Bernstein’s** articles appear nationwide and in *Aesthetic Realism* and the *Answer to Racism*. She is a contributing writer for *African American National Biography*, and is working on an oral history project and documentary of interviews with unsung heroes, *“The Force of Ethics in Civil Rights.”*

Forthcoming, Fall 2007

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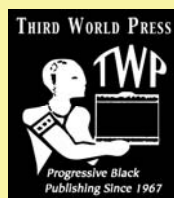
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