



## ROGER GUENVEUR SMITH 2020 / 2021 VISITING SCHOLAR

solo performances

### FREDERICK DOUGLASS NOW

Smith's signature tour-de-force inspired by the self-liberated abolitionist and feminist.

### OTTO FRANK

New work navigating our not-so-distant past via the father of diarist Anne Frank.

on screen

### A HUEY P. NEWTON STORY

Peabody Award-winning telefilm of Smith's Obie Award-winning play, inspired by the co-founder of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense.

### RODNEY KING

A single-take, multi-camera capture of Smith's Bessie Award-winning meditation on a man both brutalized and mythologized.

Roger Guenveur Smith performs history through a rigorously imaginative body of work which references the past while interrogating our present moment. His multidisciplinary focus, as artist and archivist, has been described by the New York Times, as "sinuous, complicated, and deeply moving."

Why is it essential to engage the past that we might more adequately address the present ?

How do the deceased, both those larger and smaller than life, speak to living, and how do we listen, and perhaps, speak back ?

These are the fundamental questions which are consistently sketched on Smith's canvas, from the Maryland plantation, to the Nazi death camp, to the streets of Oakland and Los Angeles.

Smith's Douglass, Frank, Newton, and King, on stage and screen, are conduits to an essential, and essentially difficult, conversation.

Has the struggle which Douglass brilliantly articulated led us to an imagined "progress" ?

Only by the Bible has Anne Frank's diary been surpassed in popularity. Has her father's dream of universal "reconciliation" been achieved ?

Is Newton's tragic embrace of Macbeth's "sound and fury" signify more than King's insistence that we "all get along" ?

Performing History: A Conversation with Roger Guenveur Smith. Please join us.