

## Apollo [Part 3]: Liberation

A research guide designed to accompany the performance of Nancy Keystone's *Apollo [Part 3]: Liberation* by the Critical Mass Performance Group, organized by Visions and Voices.

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### Events

#### *Apollo [Part 3]: Liberation performance*

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

7:30 p.m.

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### Introduction

The performance of *Apollo [Part 3]: Liberation*, written and directed by Nancy Keystone and created in collaboration with Critical Mass Performance Group, was organized by USC College. Parts 1 and 2 of the three-part Apollo play premiered at the Kirk Douglas Theatre in 2005. The third installment uncovers the surprising connection between the civil rights movement and the race for the moon. The space race marked a triumphant moment in American history and established the United States as a global leader. However, just as the US was being recognized as the most progressive nation in the world, it was being torn apart by racial strife as African Americans struggled for the equality they had been promised a hundred years earlier.

Nancy Keystone and Judy Truelson of the USC Libraries have selected resources to help you explore the issues and historical background of this innovative play about the space race and the civil rights struggle in 1960s Huntsville, Alabama.

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### Nazi Rocketry and the US Space Program

#### Books

##### *The Rocket and the Reich: Peenemünde and the Coming of the Ballistic Missile Era*

By Michael J. Neufeld

Free Press, 1995

Neufeld presents solid evidence that Wernher von Braun was an SS officer prior to working in the US ballistic missile program and directing the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville. He oversaw the development of the Saturn V rocket booster that enabled Apollo to reach the moon.

Doheny Library UF535.G3N48 1995

##### *From the Earth to the Moon; Around the Moon*

By Jules Verne

Limited Editions Club, 1970

Verne's 1865 novel and its 1870 sequel are two of the first representatives of the modern science fiction genre. These rare editions were printed shortly after the moon landings.

Special Collections PQ2469.D3E44 1970 V.1 & V.2

#### Online Resources

- Visit [www.v2rocket.com](http://www.v2rocket.com) to learn more about Wernher von Braun's role in the Nazi V-2 rocket program. The Mittelwerk and Camp Dora chapter of the Web site describes the complex of factories and prison camps where V-2 rockets were manufactured using slave labor from 1943 to 1945.
- The [Marshall Space Flight Center History Office](#) provides a variety of online resources about the facility in Huntsville, Alabama, including an e-book titled *The Power to Explore*. The center figures prominently in *Apollo [Part 3]: Liberation*.
- NASA offers a variety of online historical materials about the US space program. [Chapter four](#) of the e-book *The Space Shuttle Decision: NASA's Search for a Reusable Space Vehicle* opens with a dramatic account of a march by civil rights demonstrators to the Cape Canaveral launch facility on the eve of the moon landings in July of 1969.

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### History of the Civil Rights Movement

*There Is a River: The Black Struggle for Freedom in America*

By Vincent Harding

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1981

Harding writes unflinchingly about the struggles of African Americans to win freedom from slavery.

Grand Library E185.615.H28

*The Civil Rights Movement: A Photographic History, 1954-68*

By Steven Kasher

Abbeville Press, 1996

The civil rights movement has produced some of the most enduring images of the 20th century. Many of the most famous photographs are collected in Kasher's book.

Doheny Library E185.61.K347 1996

*Why We Can't Wait*

By Martin Luther King

Harper & Row, 1964

Dr. King's remarkable account of the struggle for civil rights in segregated Birmingham, Alabama, traces the movement's history to its beginnings three centuries ago while looking to the future.

Leavey Library, E185.61.K54

*My Soul Is Rested: Movement Days in the Deep South Remembered*

By Howell Raines

Putnam, 1977

In *My Soul Is Rested*, Raines writes "I'm an old man now, but I'm so proud that I had a part in what happened here in Montgomery."

Leavey Library E185.R235 1977

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