

The City Classroom

By Louise Katerega

BLACK ARTS (AND OTHER CONTEXTUAL) REOURCES

Background/Context – Laying The Ground

Fundamental understandings....

- Black with a capital B – and various meanings in different historical and cultural contexts
- why 'Black Lives Matter' is an understanding of why they in particular have historically mattered less than other lives by comparison (not just in reference to killings, quality of lives lived, life chances)
- the differences between/clarity around the definitions of - equality, equity, diversity, inclusion;
- in particular for the UK, the difference between equality (everyone gets the same) and equity (everyone gets what they need); a great mediation on this here through the medium of cartoon illustration <https://culturalorganizing.org/the-problem-with-that-equity-vs-equality-graphic/>

A basic glossary of concepts of concepts and jargon to explore – by no means exhaustive....

- race as a construct – cf Bacon's Rebellion for the first instance of use of the terms 'Black' and 'White' to describe people and how the idea behind this was the rich to ensure divisions between those who worked for them kept them that way...
- Where, when and how Britain and America part in their relationships to Black people
- how the White European versions of enslavement and colonialism differ from those of other cultures
- Resistance to being enslaved– the Haitian Revolution, The Maroons (Nanny Maroon), the Underground Railroad (Harriet Tubman)
- White privilege; White supremacy; Whiteness (and their relationship to patriarchy, capitalism, ableism, LGBTQIA+ oppression and destruction of the environment); White fragility; White tears' 'Karen'(USA)
- Allyship and co-conspiracy of White people with Black movements – history of, how to
- systemic racism
- Jim Crow (USA) apartheid (South Africa)
- lynching – physical and metaphorical (or modern 'trials by media')
- Slave trauma; generational trauma; colourism
- internalised racial superiority; internalized racial inferiority; 'John Henry-ism'
- Stereotypes and repeated narratives in art and culture – bucks, mammies, minstrels, coons, The Happy Slave, Uncle Tom, The Picaninny, The Tragic Mulatto, The Magic Negro, Black Police Chiefs and Judges, Angry Black Woman; Thugs; Ebony Saints (see movie image of Sidney Poitier)

- Overemphasis on Black achievement in sport and popular music over science, business etc e.g. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m000wfhl/our-black-history-heroes>
- Black women's invisibility and history/image as "the mules of the world"; misogyny

some of the history....a selection of factual resources plus artistic works that illuminate them for me

Book Cheikh Anta Diop "Civilisation or Barbarism" – on ancient Africa's relationship to science and discovery

DNA: Destiny's Natural Ally solo dance by Louise Katerega choreographed by Dr Sheron Wray in 1999 for New Walk Museum's 'Griotographies' Black History Month exhibition and performances

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1s0KgzZyO7g> read more about the piece here

<https://www.serendipity-uk.com/product/lost-legends-30-years-30-voices/>

Akala on Black British History – names some great key books

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iHQUxpgqcs>

'13th' film available on Netflix, director Ava Du Vernay

Poem with music 'Take Your Knee of Our Necks' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCtLY45wFyI>

David Olusoga 'Black British History' and accompanying books (adult version and young people's version)

Book and tv adaptation 'Small Island'

Steve McQueen's 'Small Axe' series of films about Black British experiences, i player

Emma Dabiri, "What White People Can Do Next" – very digestible long essay as a short book

<https://www.whatnextculture.co.uk/resource/bameover-a-statement-for-the-uk/>

and some of the current complexity for our growing mixed heritage population

Mixed/Other – book by Natalie Morris

Anthony Ekundayo Lennon – actor/director/educator just moved to Leicester

<https://www.google.co.uk/amp/s/amp.theguardian.com/world/2019/sep/07/anthony-lennon-theatre-director-accused-of-passing-as-black-interview-simon-hattenstone>

<https://www.google.co.uk/amp/s/amp.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/16/anthony-ekundayo-lennons-story-is-not-black-and-white>

<https://www.google.co.uk/amp/s/amp.theguardian.com/world/2019/sep/11/forgotten-black-history-of-irelands-population>

<https://www.google.co.uk/amp/s/amp.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/nov/10/white-parents-african-ancestry-anthony-ekundayo-lennon>

BLACK ARTS & CULTURE

General

Google and insta are your friends – follow who others follow, you're connections soon build up...

Afua Hirsch – African Renaissance (BBC 4) her books, column and writings

Cbeebies and Radio 4 especially Woman's Hour, Front Row (sometimes presented by Leicester's own Gaylene Gould) and podcasts e.g. You're Dead to Me, George's podcast

Words

Gal Dem Magazine

Coco Magazine

Nursery/Early Primary

Anti-Racist Baby (book)

Black Nursery Manager – early years professional and activist based in Birmingham

CBeebies, who have a separate policy from adult BBC around diversity and tend to be more adventurous including around disabled people

Mello Harmony – upcoming show Mmm Ahh Whoosh

Dance North America

History...

Pearl Primus

Judith Jamison

Katharine Dunham

Classics.....

Dance Theatre of Harlem

Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre – especially 'Revelations' (one of the most beloved and performed dance work in the world)

Modern Pioneers...

Ntozake Shange <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/50696206-dance-we-do>

Urban Bush Women

Micaela Taylor <https://www.thetlcollective.com/micaela-taylor>

On Carribbean Dance

L'Antoinette Stines

Tamar Dixon, podcast on popular Carribbean Dance Styles
<https://open.spotify.com/show/1TeSEoFML8cyYRgBKTgSTJ>

OneDanceUK (Dance of the African Diaspora)

UK

London Contemporary Dance Theatre, especially Namron, first Black contemporary dancer in UK

Serendipity UK – Leicester International Dance Frontiers, yearly, award-winning quality programme

IRIE Dance Theatre – who run the only African Dance based degree in the UK

Phoenix Dance Theatre – celebrating 40 years as one of UKs leading companies, based Leeds, particularly “Windrush: Movement of The People” and their very strong education department

Companies sadly no longer in existence - Adjido, Kokuma. Badejo Arts,

Union Dance – NB dancer, former deputy director, Michael Joseph is from Leicester

Kwesi Johnson – also ex-Leicester, making incredible online and augmented reality work

ACE dance and music – Birmingham, African Caribbean and Contemporary dance

State of Emergency Ltd – contemporary dance and music touring

Ballet Black – leading UK company and school

Individuals

Joseph Toonga

Gerrard Martin

Hakeem Onibudo

Henri Oukige

Vicki Ibokwe

Valerie Ebuwa

Alexendrina Helmsley

Shanelle Clemenson (find on insta)

Jeanfer Jean-Charles – especially new work ‘Black Victorians’

Akiem- ArtReach

Fine Art & Sculpture

Yinka Shonibare

<https://artuk.org/discover/curations/take-five-sculptures-by-black-british-artists#>

Music

Chevalier Thingy

Philip Herbert – local classical composer of ‘Elegy for Stephen Lawrence’

‘Distant Drums’ by Whispered Tales

Winifred Atwell

Film

Spike Lee

Antoine Fuqua

Ama Assante

Jordan Peele

Ava DuVernay

Steve McQueen

Literature & Poetry

WORD local Leicester Spoken Word Night

Writing East Midlands

Digital

Empire Soldiers VR <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRZ7g-XnNSU> whole resource

<https://www.mbd.limited/empire-soldiers-caribbeanstory>



Philharmonia

DMU
LOCAL

the spark
arts for children