

PLAY DESCRIPTION

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In 1831, on the day which we now celebrate as "Labor Day", there was a Rebellion in progress in Southampton, Virginia. The Rebellion was led by a man whom history has come to call "Nat Turner"-a Black man. A man of courage, wants, desires, and unfulfilled dreams. The object of the play is to examine the motives that lay behind that rebellion.

This play offers us a chance to look into the pathos of the Slave existence by looking at the tragedy of a man whose courage was so strong that he would not change even at the real, and eventually triumphant, risk of death. We don't want the play to espouse the rightness or wrongness of his cause-even though the rightness was there. Instead we wish to examine the human point of view. To do that, the play will be centered around the "night before the Rebellion". We will have as characters, the principals in the actual Rebellion, along with three people who symbolize the past, present and future, respectively in Nat's Grandmother, Mother, and Son. There will be nine characters in the play, including Nat-three women, one child, and five adults. The play will be done in Two Acts. Act one will be used to develop the characters, and set the historical and physical background for the Rebellion, while Act Two will develop the driving forces behind the rebellion both singly, and as a group.