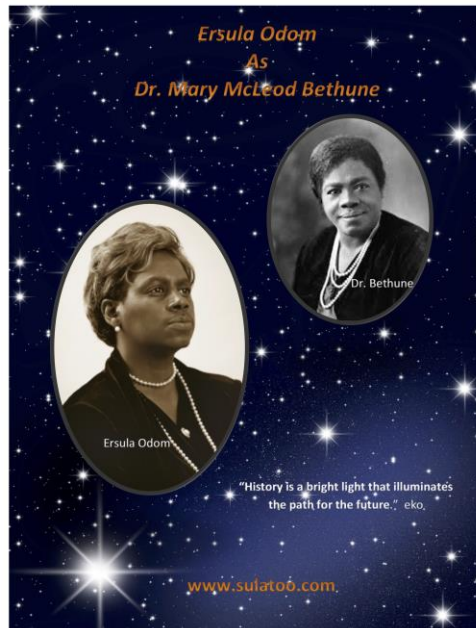


# *Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Comes to Life*

*Presented by Ersula K Odom of Sula Too LLC*



## *An Educator's guide*

### **Welcome to the experience!**

Listen carefully! History is about to enter the room! Ersula Odom's in-character performance brings Dr. Bethune to life before your eyes. "Dr. Bethune" shares impactful moments of her extraordinary life which represents a broad base of her life experiences. Ersula portrays the life and accomplishments of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune as a one person show.

**Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955)** was the founder of Bethune-Cookman College. She served as a New Deal government official — she was one of the 20 highest-level offices held by women in the administration, and the highest held by an African American woman. She was advisor to five US Presidents and founder of FDR's "black cabinet". She served as president of the National Association of Colored Women. She founded and served as president of the National Council of Negro Women.

# **Before the Show**

For grades 6-12 read through the show synopsis and describe the show to your class. Explain to them they are traveling back in time to 1954 and will hearing about events which occurred between 1875 and 1954.

## ***Synopsis of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Comes to Life***

- Birth through school
- Early career as a teacher
- Starting schools
- As a governmental official
- Community leader

## ***About Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Comes to Life – What to look for***

- What became her life's motivation?
- How did she become so influential?
- Who were some important people in her life?
- What impact did she have on the entire United States?

## ***Standards Connected to the Performance***

TH.68.H.1.1- Explore potential differences when performing works set in a variety of historical and cultural contexts.

TH.68.H.1.5- Describe one's own personal responses to a theatrical work and show respect for the responses of others.

SS.912.A.1.1- Describe the importance of historiography, which includes how historical knowledge is obtained and transmitted, when interpreting events in history.

SS.912.S.8.6- Discuss the impact of leaders of different social movements.

## ***Theater Etiquette?? Activity***

This is a reflective exercise for your students. Read this section to them with discussion.

### **The Role of the Audience**

- You are the audience - an important part of the performance. You help the performers by pretending and participating with them.
- Seeing a live show is not like watching TV or a movie. The performers are in the same room with you, and can see and hear you, the audience, and interact! What are some other differences? (No commercials, no eating, no lying down or running around...)
- Enter the performance space quietly and listen. Who might be giving instructions?
- The performers need you to watch and listen quietly. Talking to friends disturbs the performers and other members of the audience.

- Your job is to pretend along with the performers. They like it when you laugh if something is funny. They also like to hear you clap at the end of a performance when they bow.
- After the bows the audience stays seated. Who might give instructions on how to leave?

### ***Standard for Theater Etiquette??***

TH.K.S.1.1-Demonstrate appropriate audience behavior at a live performance.

TH.1.S.1.1-Exhibit appropriate audience etiquette and response.

TH.2.S.1.1-Exhibit the behavior necessary to establish audience etiquette, response, and constructive criticism.

TH.3.S.1.1-Demonstrate effective audience etiquette and constructive criticism for a live performance.

TH.4.S.1.1.-Exhibit proper audience etiquette, give constructive criticism, and defend personal responses.

TH.5.S.1.1-Describe the difference in responsibilities between being an audience member at live or recorded performances.

## ***After the Show***

### ***Language Arts Activity – Reading***

Check out a book about Dr. Bethune from your library and have teams compete to see how many activities they can list where the impact is felt today.

LAFS.K12.SL.1.1- Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

LAFS.K12.SL.1.2- Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

LAFS.K12.SL.2.4- Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

LAFS.68.RH.1.1- Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.

LAFS.910.RI.3.7- Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums (e.g., a person's life story in both print and multimedia), determining which details are emphasized in each account.

LAFS.1112.RI.3.7- Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.

### ***Language Arts Activity – Writing***

Have students pick one function and write about its importance today and why.

LAFS.68.WHST.2.4- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

SS.912.S.2.9- Prepare original written and oral reports and presentations on specific events, people or historical eras.

### ***Storytelling Activities***

Have students research a counterpart to Dr. Bethune and role play conversation between them.

LAFS.K12.SL.1.1- Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

LAFS.K12.SL.2.4- Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

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## **About the Artist**

**Ersula K. Odom** is a legacy writer, the author of "At Sula's Feet", "African Americans of Tampa" and, co-author of The Doris Ross Reddick Story. She is a motivational speaker and portrays Mary McLeod Bethune as a one person show. She is a founding member of Fortune's Friends. She is founder of Sula Too, LLC and published books for clients from Georgia to California. She was raised in Georgia, graduated from Eckerd College and is deeply rooted in Tampa with business, family and friends. Recent commendations: Signed copy of Congressional Record of Dr. Bethune's decision to place her stature in Statuary Hall in DC presented by U.S. Senator Bill Nelson. Performance written about in the Wall Street Journal. Separate commendations from Tampa City Council Commendation for her roles on the Citizens Advisory Committee on the Economic Impact of Cultural Arts and as co-founder of Fortune Friends.