

## **TRACES OF THE TRADE Rough Assembly**

### **Note-making Sheet**

For your own recall or reflections, feel free to use this sheet to make notes as you watch the rough assembly. The sequence of scenes is noted to help you follow along or refer to something later.

### **BRISTOL, RI**

**Katrina's voice-over (4<sup>th</sup> of July parade; on the street with family; in church)**

**Individual family members talk about DeWolf ancestors**

**Family views historic documents and slavery artifacts (manacles and leg irons)**

**Family visits Linden Place, the DeWolf estate in R.I./meets with two historians:**

Historian: ...everyone in town lived off slavery. The boat makers, the iron workers who made the shackles, the coopers who made the barrels to hold the rum...so literally the whole town was dependent on the slave trade.

Dain: Well if there was a sign coming into town that said, 'You're entering Bristol, the historic center of U.S. slave trading,' things would be very different.

Ledlie: My fears about going to Ghana is that it won't mean a lot to me...my other fear is that it will come alive for me.

## CAPE COAST, GHANA

**Ledlie talks with young Ghanaian girls**

**Family visits slave fort**

Tom: ...we have heard people talk about, you know, you gotta place it in the context of the times...I sit in that dungeon and I say bullshit. It was an evil thing and they knew it was an evil and they did it anyway. And I couldn't have said that before, before tonight.

**Family in dialogue with black participants at Panafest**—the Pan African Historical Theater Festival for people from throughout the African diaspora.

**Family at a riverside healing ceremony**

**Family talks in a circle on the floor**

Tom: ...every single black person that has talked has said exactly that, you white people need to talk to white people...

James: ...I would hope that most people would agree that as we do this very important thing, that there is always the danger of becoming self indulgent.

Elizabeth: Racism and sexism are very much connected...

## **CUBA**

### **Family meets with Cuban scholar**

Katrina: For me personally, I feel like part of the work that I'm doing is not only in today, in this world and on a literal plan, but I'm also myself thinking about spirits and ghosts of my ancestors and spirits and ghosts of slaves who were enslaved by my ancestors.

Tom: It is not the fact that 200 years ago an ancestor was a slave trader...it is the separation today between the races that had it beginnings in the slave trade...

### **Family on the beach (conversation about what it means to be white; privilege)**

Katrina: People of color get sick of having to educate the well intentioned ones who show up with all the questions, like, tell me, educate me, like tell me what I am doing wrong and...

Elizabeth: What is it that everyone's most afraid to give up?

### **Family at the ruins of George DeWolf's plantation**

Ledlie: I don't feel like there are good people and evil people. I feel that everybody is capable of good and evil...General George DeWolf clearly devoted much of his life to his own greed for power. That was evil, that was clearly evil.

## **BACK IN BRISTOL, RI**

### **Family in conversation with African Americans**

Tom: The most common phrase I can remember [from White people talking] is, “Why can’t they just get over it?” ...I’m beginning to get the inkling that my definition of what “it” is, is different than what your definition of “it” is.

Harold: You know, white anger is expressed in Congress and in legislatures all the time by people who do nothing or, or keep piling on more of the of the same kind of privilege and keep—continue to set those things up and not recognize what’s there.

Cliff: I think it’s nice, those of us who are in middle class, we have certain choices where we can insulate ourselves from the direct pain. But when you’re in that low income community and you’re having a problem, in that community you know what it is, and there’s no escape. And when you got enough money just to feed yourself, pay your rent and keep up a utility, you don’t have enough money to do research on history.

Charles Ogletree: The reparations movement has a life of it’s own. It’s not going to be controlled by the lawyers, it’s not going to be controlled by the courts. And, it’s what people on the street are understanding. This is their civil rights movement of the twenty-first century. Why? ‘Cause nothing else seems to work. It’s not the choice of first resort, it is indeed the choice of last resort.

Glenn Loury: ...Reading the literature and just looking at the newspaper and listening there seems to be racial fatigue...So, we African Americans have to husband the resource of the sympathetic attention of other Americans and deploy it in ways that we can be confident will redound to the benefit of our people. This is a movement which I fear, whatever the rightness of it in principle, will have the consequence of alienating more Americans than it will of enlisting sympathy for us.

### **Family gathers for a meal**

Katrina (voice-over): Sometimes it feels like there is only a half an inch of common ground to stand on. If we don’t talk about reparations, most, though not all, African Americans won’t take us seriously. Meanwhile, most though not all white Americans won’t take us seriously if we do talk about reparations.