**Transcript: The History of White Supremacy Video**produced by The Labyrinth Theatre Company

This is a historic moment. People are in the streets, on social media, in the workplace demanding an end to racism. But, what does it mean to end racism? Does it mean changing how we think about race? How we treat each other? Stopping police brutality? But first, let’s answer the question, “How did we get here?” Let’s go back.

When white colonizers first stole the land from the native Americans, they brought two forms of labor- indentured European servants and enslaved Africans. Initially, these whites and blacks had similar roles. Many could earn their freedom over time. They lived together, married one another, and even planned rebellions together. This threatened the ruling class whites. So, in the 1700’s laws were passed to separate blacks and whites, making it illegal for them to live together, marry, or even socialize. Black slavery was made permanent and intergenerational, while poor whites were promoted to overseers and even deputized to catch runaways. White supremacy is a system designed and created to divide the races in order to protect the extremely wealthy.

When you hear the words white supremacy you probably think of the KKK or heavily armed white young men, but they are actually getting screwed over by the system, too. And the people at the top are counting on them not to realize it. White supremacy is a system that compels poor and middle-class white people to side with interests of the ruling class in return for some privileges such as better access to jobs, education, healthcare, and housing.

When the president promises a border wall, a Muslim ban, and intentionally creates racial conflict while Senators help the 1% acquire even more wealth - that is white supremacy. When cities and states undercut education, healthcare, and public services, denying more and more of us a decent quality of life while they build more prisons and militarize the police - that is white supremacy.

And today, change is finally here. Police departments are being reformed. But police are just foot soldiers in the entrenched system of white supremacy - a system that serves and protects only one thing - the extreme wealth of a select few. The time has come to dismantle that system and replace it. Get organized. Join the community. Build community wealth. Elect the leaders we need. Start now.