

# Barry Scott

**“Phenomenal, amazing,  
absolutely perfect.”**

Barry Scott, widely known for his successes as an actor, writer, producer, director, motivational speaker and voice over artist, is recognized as one of the most versatile practitioners of his art. A native of Nashville, TN, Scott graduated from Tennessee State University with a degree in Speech Communications and Theatre. He is the founder and artistic director of The American Negro Playwright Theatre, the professional theatre in residence at TSU.

Scott is a regular guest lecturer at the Vanderbilt Owen Graduate School of Management Leadership Seminar. A proponent of fusion leadership, Scott promotes the principal of the coming together of whole individuals to accomplish mutual goals based on shared vision and values.

In addition to his lecture programs on diversity and leadership, Barry Scott presents Dr. King and the speeches of MLK in two historically accurate and inspirational performance pieces. Scott is so convincing in his portrayal of Dr. King, that the late Coretta Scott King once cornered him between acts of his performance to compliment him on his realistic and honest depiction of her late husband.

# Barry Scott

## A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*“Barry Scott is one of the finest human beings I have ever met in my life. It was an incredible day. I am still receiving phone calls from people commenting on his performance.”* – Dr. Robert Smith - St. Joseph College, West Hartford, CT

*“Barry Scott gave the greatest performance of any speaker that I have ever programmed here. It was absolutely incredible and awesome. You could have heard a pin drop.”* – Matt Matthews - Shawnee State University, Portsmouth, OH

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## Barry Scott on Dr. King

As a child, Scott began reciting King's speeches for churches and schools in Nashville's black community. When he was 16 years old, an incident with a white police officer profoundly changed his life.

“I was driving the family car on my way to pick up a date,” said Scott. It had been raining, and as he drove through some standing water the engine became flooded and cut-off. As he got out to check under the hood, another car pulled up and a plain-clothes police officer got out.

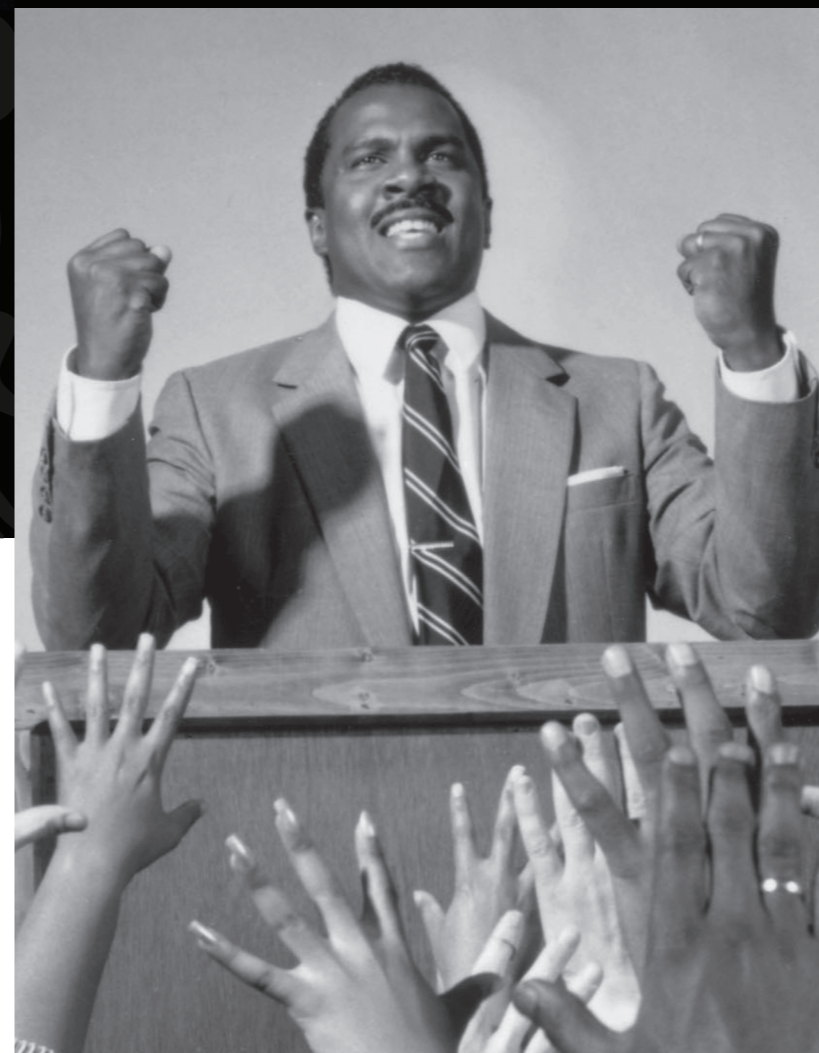
“He showed me his badge and began to terrorize me,” Scott said. “He shoved me up against the car and put a gun to my head. He was cussing me, calling me a nigger and using derogatory words to refer to my parents. He told me he was going to kill me and I believed him. I was weeping and begging for my life. The officer told me that because I was black, I would grow up and be a burden on society and he should go ahead and kill me as a favor to society.”

The policeman finally let Scott go and he went home and told his father about the incident. Together they went to the police station to report the altercation but were met with laughter and ridicule.

“I still remember the look on Daddy's face when they laughed,” Scott said. “I remember the disappointment on his face.”

Scott and his father went home and pulled out a projector and a 16mm film of Dr. King's “I Have A Dream” speech. They played the speech over and over again not saying a word between them. After watching the film five times, Scott realized that even though he had recited that speech before, he didn't really understand it.

“I realized that I didn't have cause to be ashamed,” he said. “I realized that speech was a parable for action, a blueprint for freedom.”



## Programs

### Barry Scott's “Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.”

An authority on the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Barry Scott created his tribute to Dr. King to teach a generation of students about one of America's most violent and inspiring times and the man who mobilized a generation of people and changed the world. In this hour long program, Mr. Scott discusses Dr. Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement in his lecture and actually becomes Dr. King recreating some of his most inspiring speeches. This powerful presentation is followed by a Q&A session. Mr. Scott performed Dr. King's speeches for President Carter and in performing arts centers and college campuses across the country.

### From I Have A Dream To Yes We Can

#### **An American story about the struggle for equality**

With the election of the United States' first black president in Barack Obama, it is clear that the dream of Dr. King has come a long way. While bigotry and ignorance may still exist, America has now, more than ever before, perhaps faster than anyone thought, fulfilled its promise as the land of opportunity – she shines as a beacon of limitless potential for all her citizens and sends a powerful message to the rest of the world. *From I Have A Dream To Yes We Can* chronicles America's struggle for equality through the words of Dr. King and Barack Obama as interpreted by Barry Scott. Scott's performance is a dynamic testament that the words of these two great Americans are not only important but are the building blocks for remarkable social change.

### Barry Scott's “Ain't Got Long To Stay Here”

An authority on the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Barry Scott wrote and stars in his one-man play based on the life of Dr. King to dramatize one of America's most violent and inspiring times and the man who mobilized a generation of people and changed the world. In this hour and a half presentation, Mr. Scott recreates numerous figures from the Civil Rights era, presenting differing opinions and personalities to capture what Dr. King actually faced. The performance is followed by a Q&A session. Mr. Scott has performed “Ain't Got Long To Stay Here” at the prestigious Alabama Shakespeare Festival, the Beacon Theater in New York, the Fox Theater in Atlanta, and the Tennessee Performing Arts Center.

### “Different Doesn't Mean Wrong: Learning about Diversity”

Growing up in the Jim Crow era in the south, Barry Scott vividly remembers the “color line” and the racial etiquette used in the day-to-day affairs between blacks and whites. Scott discusses how diversity has morphed from strictly an issue about race to socio-economic, religious, and gender issues. In “Different Doesn't Mean Wrong,” Scott focuses on the fact that diversity is not confined to minority groups and is not about agreement, but rather, about respect. Be it a school, in the workforce or in the community, in order to overcome inflexible beliefs about a particular group of people, Scott teaches students how to recognize biases. Once you recognize your commonality with others, bias can be overcome. This interactive presentation is designed to lead attendees through the process of identifying bias, embracing diversity, and creating respect.

### “The Courage to Lead”

Barry Scott, a proponent of fusion leadership, promotes the principle of coming together to accomplish mutual goals based on shared vision and values instead of the traditional fission leadership style used for centuries. Scott shows how great leaders are those who engage not only the bodies and minds of their peers, but also their hearts and souls. This approach supports personal growth and ingenuity—qualities that facilitate true change. This program teaches individuals and organizations how to grow together and unleash subtle forces—mindfulness, vision, heart, courage, communication, and integrity—which can fundamentally transform. *The Courage to Lead* can be presented as a 60 minute lecture or a three hour workshop.