FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CONTACT: Bob Sadler
313.833.7937 or
313.819.5761 (cell)
bohsadler@detroithistorical.org

MARCH FILM AND SCHOLAR SERIES AT THE DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM
FOCUSSES
ON “SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME” FOR THE CREATED EQUAL INITIATIVE

DETROIT - The Detroit Historical Society’s monthly weekend Film Series presents “Slavery by Another Name,” part of the Created Equal Initiative, on Saturday and Sunday, March 15 and 16 at 1 p.m. at the Detroit Historical Museum. Following up on the film, our monthly Scholar Series event is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19 at 6 p.m. at the Museum, with discussion led by Dr. Mark Higbee, a Professor of History at Eastern Michigan University, and Dr. Kidada Williams, Associate Professor of History at Wayne State University.

“Slavery by Another Name” shows the shocking reality that often went unacknowledged, then and now: a huge system of forced, unpaid labor, mostly affecting Southern black men that lasted until World War II. Based on the Pulitzer Prize–winning book by Douglas Blackmon, “Slavery by Another Name” tells the stories of men, charged with crimes like vagrancy, and often guilty of nothing, who were bought and sold, abused, and subjected to sometimes deadly working conditions as unpaid convict labor. Interviews with the descendants of victims and perpetrators resonate with a modern audience.

A member of the EMU community for 20 years, Dr. Higbee has been published in numerous publications writing on key figures in the Civil Rights Movement. In the classroom, he engages his students by using the Reacting to the Past technique, a technique that allows students to assume a role from a famous moment in history.

Dr. Williams researches African American history after slavery with a focus on issues of racial violence and social trauma. Her first book, “They Left Great Marks on Me” (published by the New York University Press in 2012), explores the vernacular history of southern African Americans’ experiences of racial violence from emancipation to World War I and its link to the origins of the Civil Rights Movement.

In honor of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation last year, the Detroit Historical Society is one of 473 other communities to be a part of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) special initiative, Created Equal: America’s Civil Rights Struggle.
Created Equal uses the power of documentary films to spark public conversations about the changing meanings of freedom and equality in America. Four outstanding documentaries, spanning the periods from the 1830s to the 1960s, are the centerpiece for the project. Each of the four films was supported by the NEH and each tells the remarkable stories of individuals who challenged the social and legal status quo of the deeply rooted institutions, from slavery to segregation. The Society will show the films in their entirety each month as part of their Film Series presentations and excerpts of each film will also be shown during the Scholar Series, followed by a facilitated group discussion led by a humanities scholar.

Two more films in the series will be shown at the Museum in April and May. Each film will also be accompanied by a Scholar Series event.

- The film “Freedom Riders” will be shown on April 12 and 13 at 1 p.m. Former Freedom Rider John W. Hardy will be leading the Scholar Series event on April 16 from 6-8 p.m.
- “The Loving Story” will be shown on May 10 and May 11 at 1 p.m. Oakland University History Professor DeWitt Dykes Jr. will lead the Scholar Series event on May 14 from 6-8 p.m.

The Detroit Historical Museum, located at 5401 Woodward Ave. (NW corner of Kirby) in Midtown Detroit, is open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free for all, all the time. Parking in the Museum’s lot is $5 at all times. Group tour pricing and information is available by calling 313.833.1733. Permanent exhibits include the famous Streets of Old Detroit, the Allessee Gallery of Culture, Kid Rock Music Lab, Doorway to Freedom: Detroit and the Underground Railroad, Detroit: The “Arsenal of Democracy,” the Gallery of Innovation, Frontiers to Factories, America’s Motor City, and The Glancy Trains. For more information, call the Museum at 313.833.1805 or check out our website at detroithistorical.org.

# # #