

# GEORGE WHITE

Caucasian, 50.

A towering visionary whose courage and sacrifice forever changed the world, White is the co-leader of The Fisk Jubilee Singers and the warmly endearing hero of this story. Tousled and unshaven with faraway eyes and an otherworldly air, White is far too captivated by visions of a world healed by music to think about trifles like grooming.

But as *Steal Away* opens, he's a failed dreamer, a "blind stargazer" and "dangerous visionary" that life has dealt harsh blows, including the tragic death of his wife, which torments him with guilt. Though some cruelly condemn White, the dreamer in him refuses to die; when supremacist forces unleash a reign of terror throughout the South to destroy black schools, White and the choir rise up and fight back, not with bullets or bombs but sensational songs of faith and freedom... the spirituals. Against all odds, they take the country, and the world, by storm, saving hundreds of schools.

And although his harrowing journey will brutally batter him by forces both external and internal, shattering him to the brink of destruction, we will witness in George White a conquering hero and beloved warrior who rose from the ashes and set the world ablaze.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Complex, unpredictable, and full of nuance, White is a maze of contradictions: wildly genius with a touch of insanity, brilliantly visionary yet at times delusional, deeply confident yet deeply insecure, as needy as he is strong. But even in his darkest hour, we never stop believing in the warmly endearing White.

So don't base your George White on any performance you've ever seen. Enthrall us with someone fresh, full of quirks and contradictions. Someone inimitable.

You introduce us to George White.