



**The Trial
of
Anthony
Burns**

ENGLISH

PORTUGUESE

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TheatreEspresso 

The Trial of Anthony Burns

Before the Civil War, many people in Massachusetts supported the abolitionist movement, which opposed slavery. But because of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, state judges in free states like Massachusetts were required to return runaway slaves to their owners in the South.



In 1854, a slave named Anthony Burns escaped to Boston where he lived as a free man until he was captured and placed on trial. Before the trial, local residents gathered at Faneuil Hall for a freedom rally that erupted into a violent riot outside the Courthouse, where Burns was held.

During the trial, Richard Henry Dana and a team of Boston lawyers fiercely defended Burns' right to freedom. As a judge, Edward G. Loring felt obligated to follow the Fugitive Slave Law and ruled that Burns must be returned to his Southern master. His decision enraged citizens across Massachusetts, and inspired many people across the North to become abolitionists. Outrage over the Burns case made it a key event leading to the Civil War.

O Julgamento do Anthony Burns

Antes da guerra civil dos Estados Unidos, muitas pessoas em Massachusetts apoiaram o movimento abolicionista que era contra o escravidão. Mas como resultado da Lei do Escravo Fugitivo de 1850, juizes dos estados nos estados livres como Massachusetts eram obrigados a devolver escravos fugidos aos seus proprietários no sul.



Robert Morris

o seu direito à liberdade. Como um juiz, o Edward G. Loring sentiu-se obrigado a seguir a lei e determinou que o Burns devia ser devolvido ao seu mestre no sul. A sua decisão enfureceu os cidadãos de Massachusetts e inspirou muitas pessoas do norte para a tornarem-se abolicionistas. Indignação com o caso Burns foi um elemento principal que levou à guerra civil.

No ano 1854, um escravo chamado Anthony Burns fugiu para Boston onde viveu como um homem livre até ele era capturado e posto em julgamento. Antes do julgamento, os residentes locais reuniram-se no Faneuil Hall para uma manifestação de liberdade que explodiu numa revolta violenta fora do palácio da justiça, onde o Burns estava detido.

Durante o julgamento, o Richard Henry Dana e um equipo de advogados de Boston ferozmente defendeu

The Trial of Anthony Burns starts in 1858, four years after the Burns trial, when the Massachusetts Legislature tried to remove Loring from his position for his unpopular decision in the Burns Case. In the play you will act as a member of the Massachusetts Legislature. You will view a dramatization of the case, interview characters, debate the issues with your classmates, and vote on whether or not Loring will keep his position as judge.

Questions to consider

- Should a judge be punished for enforcing a law that many people believe is immoral?
- Who should decide what is moral and what is immoral?
- What are the implications of removing a judge who makes an unpopular decision?
- Is it more important to follow the law or your own conscience?
- Should a state have to follow a federal law that goes against its own local laws?
- Should the life of one man be placed in jeopardy to help others? If so, under what circumstances?

Arguments for	Arguments against

O Julgamento de Anthony Burns começa em 1858, quatro anos depois do julgamento do Anthony Burns, quando a legislatura de Massachusetts tentou remover Loring de sua posição por sua decisão impopular no julgamento de Burns. Na peça, você vai agir como um membro da legislatura de Massachusetts. Você vai rever uma dramatização do caso, entrevistar as personagens, debater as questões com os seus colegas, e decidir se o Loring vai ficar na sua posição como juiz ou não vai ficar.

Questões para considerar

- Deve um juiz ser castigado por fazer cumprir uma lei que muitas pessoas acham imoral?
- Quem deve decidir o que é moral e o que é imoral?
- Quais são as implicações de remover um juiz que toma uma decisão impopular?
- É mais importante seguir a lei ou a sua própria consciência?
- Deve um estado ser obrigado a seguir uma lei federal que vai contra suas próprias leis locais?
- Deve a vida de um homem ser arriscado para ajudar os outros? Se acha que sim, em que circunstâncias?

Argumentos para manter o Loring	Argumentos para remover o Loring

March 1854: Anthony Burns, an escaped slave from Virginia, arrives in Boston.

Wednesday, 24 May: Burns is arrested as a suspect in a jewelry store robbery. At the Courthouse, Burns is confronted by his owner, Charles Suttle. Burns acknowledges Suttle by calling him “master.”

25 May: Attorney Richard Henry Dana offers to defend Burns. Burns refuses, as he fears his punishment will be worse if the case goes to trial and he loses. But Wendell Phillips convinces Burns to move forward with the trial, despite doubts that Burns will win the case.

26 May: Over 2000 abolitionists meet at Faneuil Hall. The crowd marches to the Courthouse and breaks down a door. In the chaos, a guard named James Batchelder is killed. Nine or ten attackers are arrested.

27 May: The mayor orders U.S. troops to guard the Courthouse, making it difficult for Burns’ lawyers to enter. Meanwhile, Reverend Grimes arranges to purchase Burns from Suttle to avoid a trial and secure Burns’ freedom. He collects money from local supporters.

29 May: Suttle’s lawyer informs him that it is illegal to buy or sell a slave in Massachusetts. Suttle backs out of the agreement with Grimes. The court proceedings begin.

29-31 May: Burns’ lawyers try to prove that Burns is not the same man who escaped from Virginia. They present nine witnesses who testify that they saw Burns in Boston before the date that Suttle claims he escaped.

1 June: Judge Loring announces his decision. Based on Burns’ conversation with Colonel Suttle on the night of his arrest (when Burns called him “master”), his identity is established. Loring orders Burns to return to slavery in Virginia.

2 June: Burns is brought to a ship bound for Virginia. The city is placed under martial law for most of the day, as 50,000 people line the streets to witness Burns’ departure.

março 1854: Anthony Burns, um escravo fugido da Virginia, chega em Boston.

Quarta-feira, maio 24: O Burns é detido como suspeito de um roubo de uma joalheria. No tribunal, o Burns é confrontado por o seu proprietário, Charles Suttle. O Burns reconhece o Suttle chamando-o de ‘dono.’

25 de maio: Advogado Richard Henry Dana oferece-se para defender o Burns. O Burns recusa-se porque receia que o seu castigo será pior se o caso for para julgamento e ele perde. Mas o Wendell Phillips convence o Burns de avançar com o julgamento, apesar das suas dúvidas que o Burns vai ganhar o caso.

26 de maio: Mais de 2000 abolicionistas encontram-se no Faneuil Hall. A multidão marcha para o tribunal e quebra uma porta. No meio do caos, um guarda chamado James Batchelder é morto. Nove ou dez atacantes são presos.

27 de maio: O prefeito manda tropas americanas para proteger o tribunal fazendo difícil para os advogados de Burns entrar. Enquanto isso, o reverendo Grimes organiza para comprar o Burns de Suttle para evitar um julgamento e garantir a liberdade do Burns. Ele recolhe o dinheiro dos apoiantes locais.

29 de maio: O advogado de Suttle informa-o que é ilegal comprar ou vender um escravo em Massachusetts. Suttle desiste do acordo com Grimes. O julgamento começa.

29-31 de maio: Os advogados do Burns tentam provar que o Burns não é o mesmo homem que escapou da Virginia. Apresentam nove testemunhas que atestam que viram o Burns em Boston antes da data que Suttle afirma que ele escapou.

1 de junho: O Juiz Loring anuncia sua decisão. Baseado na sua conversa com o coronel Suttle, na noite do seu preso (quando Burns chamou de “dono”), sua identidade seja conhecida. Loring ordena o Burns para voltar à escravidão na Virginia.

2 de junho: O Burns é levado a um navio com destino a Virginia. A cidade é submetido a lei marcial durante a maior parte do dia, enquanto 50,000 pessoas enchem as ruas para testemunhar a sua partida.

1. The initial charge against Burns – robbing a shop – was never brought up after his arrest. Could there have been another reason he was arrested? If so, what?
2. Did Burns' lawyers really think that he was a different person? If not, why did they try to prove that he was someone else?
3. If the Fugitive Slave Law required Loring to return Burns, how could he have decided to let him stay?
4. What evidence did Loring use to prove Burns' identity?
5. Besides defending him during the trial, what tactics did the abolitionists use to try to free Burns?
6. Why were so many people interested in the outcome of this trial?

CAUTION!!

COLORED PEOPLE
OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,
 You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and advised, to avoid conversing with the
Watchmen and Police Officers
of Boston,
 For since the recent ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN, they are empowered to act as
KIDNAPPERS
 AND
Slave Catchers,
 And they have already been actually employed in KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES. Therefore, if you value your LIBERTY, and the Welfare of the Fugitives among you, Shun them in every possible manner, as so many HOUNDS on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

Keep a Sharp Look Out for KIDNAPPERS, and have TOP EYE open.

APRIL 24, 1851.



1. A acusação inicial contra Burns- de roubar uma lojanunca foi mencionado depois de ser preso. Poderia haver outra razão para ele ser preso? Se for, quais?
2. Acha que os advogados do Burns realmente achavam que ele era uma pessoa diferente? Se não, por que tentaram provar que ele era outra pessoa?
3. Se a lei dos escravos fugitivos exigia que o Loring o devolvê-se, como poderia ter decidido a deixá-lo ficar?
4. O que facto usou o Loring para provar a identidade do Burns?
5. Além de defendê-lo durante o julgamento, que táticas usaram os abolicionistas para tentar libertar o Burns?
6. Por que tanta gente tinha interesse no resultado deste julgamento?

Abolition Movement: a social movement made up of people trying to end slavery in the United States.

Abolitionist: someone fighting to end slavery.



Thomas Wentworth Higginson

Compromise of 1850: an agreement reached by the U.S. Senate that established many controversial policies related to slavery.

Fugitive Slave Law: Part of the “Compromise of 1850,” this law required escaped slaves to be returned to their southern owners.

Kansas-Nebraska Act: Passed shortly before Burns’ arrest in 1854, this law permitted slavery in the territories of Kansas and Nebraska. Abolitionists passionately opposed the expansion of slavery into U.S. territories, so they were outraged at the passage of this law.

Martial Law: a temporary rule by military authorities over civilians, such as in an area of military operations during time of war, or when civil authority has broken down.

Massachusetts Personal Liberty Act: In 1855, Massachusetts passed these laws in response to the Fugitive Slave Law and the public outcry over the Burns case. The laws guaranteed legal protection for runaway slaves, and made it difficult and costly for slave owners to prove their case in court. The act also called for the removal of any state official who aided in the return of runaway slaves.



O movimento de abolição: um movimento social formado por pessoas que tentam acabar com a escravidão nos Estados Unidos.

Abolicionista: alguém lutando para acabar com a escravidão.

O Compromisso de 1850: um acordo alcançado pelo Senado dos EUA que estabeleceu muitas políticas controversas relacionadas à escravidão.

A Lei dos Escravos Fugitivos: parte do compromisso de 1850, esta lei exigia que os escravos fugidos fossem devolvidos aos seus proprietários no sul.

A Lei Kansas-Nebraska: passada pouco antes da prisão de Burns em 1854, esta lei permitiu a escravidão nos territórios de Kansas e Nebraska. Os abolicionistas apaixonadamente opuseram a expansão da escravidão nos territórios dos EUA, indignaram-se com a aprovação desta lei.

Lei Marcial: uma regra temporária imposta pelas autoridades militares sobre os civis em época de operações militares, durante tempo de guerra, ou quando a autoridade civil está quebrada.

A Lei da Liberdade Pessoal de Massachusetts: em 1855, Massachusetts aprovou estas leis em resposta à Lei dos Escravos Fugitivos e o clamor público sobre o caso do Burns. As leis garantiram proteção legal para os escravos fugitivos e fazia difícil e caro para os proprietários provar os seus casos no tribunal. A lei também pedia a remoção de qualquer funcionário do estado que ajudava ao retorno de escravos fugitivos.

ANTHONY BURNS was a fugitive slave who escaped from Virginia to Boston, Massachusetts in 1854 at the age of 19.

RICHARD HENRY DANA was an abolitionist lawyer who defended Burns. Though he opposed the Fugitive Slave Law, he supported Judge Loring and opposed the State Senate's decision to remove him from his position.

REVEREND LEONARD GRIMES was a leader of the black abolitionist movement in Boston and pastor of the Twelfth Baptist Church of Boston, known as the fugitive slave church.

THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON was a minister and abolitionist who strongly opposed the Fugitive Slave Law and believed in defending the freedom of escaped slaves at any cost. He was one of the major organizers of the attempt to rescue Burns from the Boston Courthouse.

JUDGE EDWARD G. LORING was both a Judge of Probate and the Commissioner presiding over fugitive slave cases in Massachusetts.

COLONEL CHARLES F. SUTTLE was the owner of the slave Anthony Burns.

OFFICER JAMES BATCHELDER was a Marshal's guard who was killed during the storming of the Boston Courthouse.

WENDELL PHILLIPS was a prominent abolitionist lawyer and orator. Because he was a key speaker at the Faneuil Hall meeting that ended in a riot, he was put on trial for his role in the failed attempt to rescue Burns.

LOUISA MAY ALCOTT, part of a prominent family in Concord, Massachusetts, was active in the abolitionist movement. Alcott's father, Bronson Alcott, was a member of the crowd who stormed the courthouse to free Anthony Burns. Author of *Little Women*, Alcott became a famous writer.



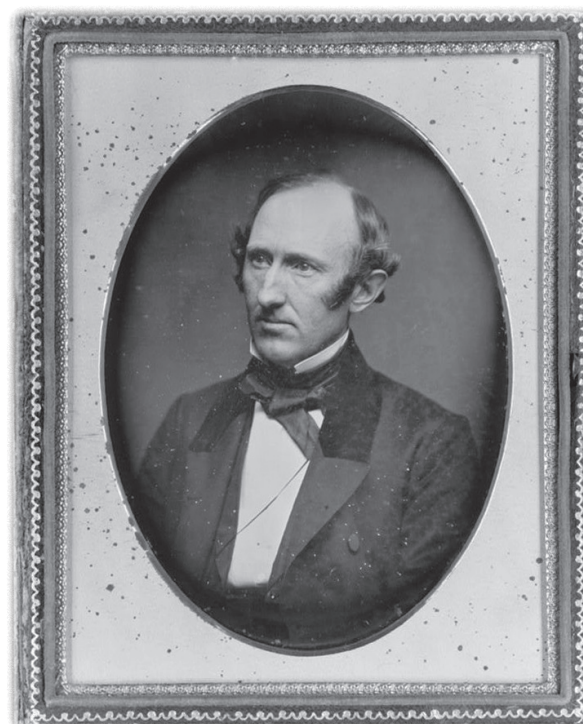
ANTHONY BURNS era um escravo que fugiu da Virgínia para Boston, Massachusetts em 1854 com 19 anos.

RICHARD HENRY DANA era advogado abolicionista que defendeu o Burns. Apesar de opor a lei dos escravos fugitivos, ele apoiou o Juiz Loring e era contra a decisão do estado de retirá-lo de sua posição.

REVERENDO LEONARD GRIMES, era o líder do movimento negro abolicionista em Boston e pastor da 12ª Igreja Batista de Boston, conhecida como a igreja do escravo fugitivo.

THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON era um ministro e abolicionista que se opôs à lei dos escravos fugitivos e acreditava na defesa a qualquer custo da liberdade de escravos fugidos. Ele era um dos principais organizadores da tentativa de resgatar o Burns do palácio da justiça em Boston.

JUIZ EDWARD G. LORING era ao mesmo tempo um juiz de sucessões e o comissário que presidiu os casos de escravos fugitivos em Massachusetts.



Wendell Phillips

CORONEL CHARLES F. SUTTLE era o proprietário do escravo, Anthony Burns.

OFICIAL JAMES BATCHELDER era um guarda do marechal que foi morto durante o protesto no palácio da justiça em Boston.

WENDELL PHILLIPS era orador e um advogado abolicionista proeminente. Porque era um dos principais oradores na reunião em Faneuil Hall que terminou a rebelião, ele foi levado a julgamento por seu papel na tentativa frustrada de resgatar o Burns.

LOUISA MAY ALCOTT parte de uma família proeminente em Concord, Massachusetts, ela era ativa no movimento abolicionista. O seu pai, Bronson Alcott, era um membro da multidão que se revoltaram no palácio da justiça em Boston para libertar o Burns. Autor de *Mulherzinhas*, Alcott tornou-se uma escritora famosa.

As Massachusetts Senators, you will have the opportunity to ask questions of the following key players. Write down some questions that you may ask.

Como senadores de Massachusetts, você terá a oportunidade de fazer perguntas das seguintes pessoas principais. Anote algumas perguntas que você pode fazer.

My Questions

Judge Loring:

Wendell Phillips:

Richard Henry Dana:

Reverend Leonard Grimes:

Juiz Loring:

Wendell Phillips:

Richard Henry Dana:

Reverendo Leonard Grimes:

As Minhas Perguntas

TheatreEspresso performs at the John Adams Courthouse in Boston (in collaboration with the Supreme Judicial Court), at the Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, and in schools and museums throughout New England. The company thanks Mass Humanities and the following foundations for their generous support.



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Since 1992, **TheatreEspresso** has toured its educational dramas to schools, museums, libraries, and courthouses throughout New England. **TheatreEspresso's** work challenges students to make critical judgments, explore social relationships, reflect on the role of law and human rights in our society, and question accepted truths about the history of America. These plays confront students with complex situations, based on actual historical events, that provoke a variety of opinions and solutions. By asking students to consider themselves participants in the drama, the company engages students in examining contradictory events and testimony in order to reach their decisions.

TheatreEspresso does not advocate any one viewpoint, but hopes to compel students to relate historical events to contemporary issues. **TheatreEspresso** is in residence at Wheelock Family Theatre.



For further information, visit our website at
www.TheatreEspresso.org