

## Trevor Noah Shares Wisdom, Not Comedy

*By Joseph Livshin*

**Syracuse, N.Y., Jan. 31, 2019** – Famed comedian Trevor Noah, host of Comedy Central’s “The Daily Show,” spoke to a packed crowd at the Syracuse Carrier Dome during the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual



*Trevor Noah speaking with Jennifer Sanders at 34th Annual MLK Jr. Celebration. Photo By: Joseph Livshin*

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Sunday night. On this night however, it was not comedy Noah was here to discuss but the obstacles he faced in a country in which he was, as his book is titled, “Born a Crime.”

Noah discussed with moderator Jennifer Sanders, anchor at local NewsChannel 9, how being born to a white father and black mother in Apartheid South Africa, was in deed a crime. How confusing it was to not know why he could not live with his father or even see him in public for that matter. That it was also, technically, a crime to live with his mother because he was half white.

The lessons Noah tries to pass along to the enthused crowd was “to not let the racist or negative actions of one ruin your day.” That it may be easy to live life with anger toward those who hate, but that just empowers people like that. Be able to forgive, and let things go because holding onto resentment and returned hate does nothing to help you get to the place you want to be.

“Born a Crime” was a part of an inclusion and diversity program at Syracuse University this semester that all incoming freshman had to take part in. They were required to read Noah’s

book and take a five-week course discussing it and the how that relates to the issues of inclusion of campus.

Ray Yanez, a freshman in the illustration program at Syracuse University and a Marine veteran, said he was “shocked at the amount of pure wisdom Trevor brought tonight. People think of Trevor Noah as a funny guy, and he is, but if you read his book, you would understand that he can also inspire, and that’s what he did tonight.”

Although Trevor Noah was not here for comedy, he was still able to give the crowd a laugh or two. When mentioning the weather in Central New York this time of year, he said, “Why are you here? You people realize there are warmer places in the world that you can move to, right?”

In the end, Noah left the crowd knowing he wasn’t the hero of his own book. His mother’s insistence to not allow hate into her home that made living in poverty and being surrounded by hate and oppression that gave him the ability to fight past it all to achieve bigger and better things than ever thought possible.

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Word Count: 434