

Media Release
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Breach of Peace author to speak in Montgomery, November 1-2

Who were the 1961 Freedom Riders? Why were they willing to risk their lives and their freedom? What did they accomplish? What did they learn?

Portrait photographer Eric Etheridge explored these questions as he took pictures of the people—blacks and whites, men and women, adults and teenagers—who were willing to brave Mississippi jails to end racial segregation in America.

Etheridge will be in Montgomery to commemorate the November 1 anniversary of the Freedom Rides success: ending legal racial segregation in interstate transportation.

He will speak at noon, on November 1 at the **Alabama State Department of Archives and History**. Afterwards he will conduct **gallery tours and sign books at the Freedom Rides Museum, 2:30-4pm and on Saturday, November 2, 12-4 pm.**

In 2003 Eric Etheridge, a photographer and Mississippi native, came across the mug shots taken of Freedom Riders in Mississippi, and began to contact Mississippi Riders. He offered them a copy of their 1961 portrait and the opportunity to make a new one. Over the next four years, he would photograph just over a 100 Riders. In 2008 Etheridge published ***Breach of Peace: Portraits of the 1961 Mississippi Freedom Riders***, which features all of the mug shots and new portraits of and short interviews with 80 Riders.

Prior to photography, Etheridge worked as an editor at a number of magazines, including *The Nation*, *Harper's*, *7 Days* and *Rolling Stone*. He later worked online, creating and running websites for Microsoft, Deja.com and the *New York Times*, among others. *Breach of Peace* is his first book. Etheridge grew up in Carthage and Jackson, Mississippi. He was four in 1961.

For more information about Freedom Rides Museum contact **Christy Carl at 334 242-3935 or ccarl@preserveala.org**.

For additional information on the other programs offered by the Alabama Historical Commission, visit: www.preserveala.org.

*The Alabama Historical Commission **protects, preserves, and interprets Alabama's historic places** and is the State Historic Preservation Office.*

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