

American Crime Story's TV Drama
"The People V. O.J. Simpson" presents,

"The People V. Charles Darwin"

The Scopes Monkey Trial
Monkey Business

Using the FX original as a strong basis, we will follow up the O.J. Simpson "Trial of the Century," with an equally divisive trial, one which merely REPLACES the notorious subject of RACE with the miraculously-untapped topic of RELIGION.

The Scopes Monkey Trial will tug on the same thematic heartstrings and as *O.J.*, it's natural fluidity, and fervent historical accuracy; subjectively, the controversial nature of this court case will weigh the sanctity and validity of the holy Bible against the undisputed and scientific theory of Darwinism.

Using the same 10-episode structure, "The People V. Charles Darwin" will cover the eight phases of the trial, including a pre-text pilot episode and a retrospect finale of America's timely change and reform.

The eight chapters in order, plus two:

The Pilot: Setting the premise/establishing the characters/introduce the theme,

Chapter 1: Jury Selection

Chapter 2: Constitutionality of Law

Chapter 3: Debate Over Prayer

Chapter 4: The Prosecution's Case

Chapter 5: Debate Over Experts

Chapter 6: Darrow in Contempt

Chapter 7: Darrow Examines Bryan

Chapter 8: Verdict and Sentencing

Finale: Historic milestone/futuristic impact/concluding thematic statement.

Prevalent Theme: A voice of reason behind the chaos of Church and State.

Science vs. Creationism; Education vs. Perception; Rights vs. Religion; Fiction vs. Fact

Who controlled the schools - the masses or the teachers? Who determined the law - the people or the leaders of the town?

Primary Characters: Defendant John Scopes and Prosecutor William Jennings Bryan

Secondary Characters: Defense lawyer Clarence Darrow, WCFO Head John W. Butler

Character Comparables:

Marica Clark.....John Scopes
OJ Simpson.....William Jennings Bryant
Johnny Cochran.....Anti-evolution Press
Mark Fuhr.....John W. Butler

Setting Comparables:

Downtown Los Angeles.....Dayton, Tennessee
Black Youth.....Devout Christians
High-profile L.A.....Bible belt Confederacy
1990's America.....1920's America
Racist reinforcement.....Suppression of truth
Blacks v. Whites.....Science v. Religion
Liberals.....Conservatives
Relentless media.....Word of mouth
Not Guilty....."Guilty"

Overall objective? Spark constructive dialogue and intellectual exchange of opinion.

JOHN SCOPES — A young High School science teacher and respected football coach. His decision to teach theory of evolution to his students results in his arrest and charge of “Illegal Teaching of evolution” and discounting the Butler bill. Scopes was quiet, likable, and adored by the people of Dayton, Tennessee. Known for his straw hat and goofy round glasses, Scopes had a slightly nerdy side—explaining his lacking ladylove life. John Scopes is our PROTAGONIST, serving as more of a pawn, it’s what John Scopes stands for that matters.

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYANT — (40’s) A former Presidential Democratic candidate and staunch opponent of evolution. Bryant is not as evil as depicted, just truthfully *that* ignorant. Depict him as foolish, insistent, and a homegrown bigot, stuck in his ways, until his undeniably adamant character surfaces. Bryant is a big ole sweaty man, like your racist ol’ Grandpa that means well; he doesn’t drink, doesn’t smoke, doesn’t swear, and attends Church regularly. Bowtie, big eyes, high-waist belt, devoted husband and loving father.

CLARENCE DARROW — (60’s) An ultimate legal badass, feared and respected nationally, Darrow brings along an elite A team of expert defense lawyers. He is the master of the courtroom drama; his strategically ruffled suits, bared suspenders, and tousled hair match his slouched demeanor and obnoxiously long cigars for endless distraction. *“I do not consider it an insult, but rather a compliment to be called an agnostic. I do not pretend to know where many ignorant men are sure –That is all agnostic means.” –C.D.*