



IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 12/21/22

For Peace I Rise, *The Musical*

.....
**NEW MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTING THE LOVE STORY OF CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT LEADERS
Dr. C.T. VIVIAN AND OCTAVIA GEANS VIVIAN OPENS JUNE 8, 2023**
.....

ATLANTA (December 21, 2022) – “For Peace I Rise,” a new civil rights-era musical, is set to debut in Atlanta at the Rialto Center for the Arts on June 8, running through June 18. The production uses the love story between married civil rights leaders, Dr. C.T. Vivian and Octavia Geans Vivian, as a platform to shine a light on a critical chapter in American history: the American civil rights movement, which ran from 1954-1968. Never before has the story of the civil rights movement been showcased in a quality, full-scale musical and presented as a love story.

The production, based on the Vivians’ love, lives, and prominent roles in the movement and commitment to God, chronicles their journey from student sit-ins in Nashville to the prolific Freedom Riders across Alabama and Mississippi. The heroes and sheroes of the American civil rights movement who worked, fought, and championed the rights of others alongside the Vivians are experienced through song, dance, and dramatic commentary. The beautiful libretto and music have been artfully crafted by the team under the direction of Thomas W. Jones II, who serves as Artistic Director. Jones, co-founder of Jomandi Productions, directed the show with the scale of the performance in mind, which he believes will translate richly on the Rialto stage.

“This story centers on an unparalleled chapter in American history, but it is a musical production for today. As it reveals an extraordinary couple’s love story against the backdrop of the American civil rights movement, ‘For Peace I Rise’ will reach people on a very deep level,” said Chris Davis, CEO of For Peace I Rise, LLC and Executive Producer of the musical. “My relationship with the Vivian family spans several decades, and a few years ago, I made a promise to Dr. Vivian to tell this story. I remained motivated by that promise as I worked over the years to bring the production to audiences.”

Davis continued by stating that Dr. Vivian gave his nod of approval after watching the Theater Emory workshop production of the musical in January 2020.

“This musical will be keenly embraced by the Atlanta community for its history and storytelling as the cradle of the modern civil rights movement and long known as the ‘city to busy to hate,’” said Carol E. Henderson, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion | Chief Diversity Officer | Adviser to the President. “Given the great esteem in which the Vivians are held in this city, and indeed nationally, this production will be a momentous event.”

Dr. Henderson, who serves as chair of the For Peace I Rise Advisory Board, has been instrumental in Emory University’s support and partnership with the production, including Theatre Emory incubating the production workshop in January 2020.

With only 800 seats in the Rialto, producers of "For Peace I Rise," anticipate robust ticket sales and sold-out performances. Ticket purchasing options for all 10 performances will be available soon at the Rialto box office and online. Exact dates for ticket sales will be announced by For Peace I Rise, LLC, producer of the musical play.

For more information, contact A. Brown-Olmstead Associates by phone at (404) 659-0919 or by email at amanda@newaboa.com

www.forpeaceirisethemusical.com