



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**The Gem Theatre Gets A Little Respect!**  
***Respect: A Musical Journey* On Sale December 1st**  
**Three-time Tony Award-winner Hinton Battle Tapped to Direct**

DETROIT, MI – Following in the footsteps of Detroit’s longest-running show, *Menopause The Musical*<sup>®</sup>, the Historic Gem Theatre is set to open the spirit-lifting, empowering, and exuberant musical production ***Respect: A Musical Journey*** February 15 with preview performances February 7-14. Tickets go on sale at 10 AM Friday, December 1st.

***Respect: A Musical Journey*** is a high-energy, historical and hysterical look at women’s changes from 1900 to today as illustrated by popular song, portrayed by a narrator and three breath-takingly talented singers. It is a lively and engaging look at music’s depiction of women, as they go from codependence to independence, from “Someone to Watch Over Me” to “I Will Survive” and beyond. Vanderbilt professor Dr. Dorothy Marcic created the show based on her book, *RESPECT: Women and Popular Music*, where she analyzed all Top-40 female song lyrics since 1900. The musical combines excerpts of 60 popular songs with women’s own stories about finding dreams, lost love, relationship issues, entering the workforce, gaining independence, and more. It’s not just a story worth telling, it’s a must-see and must-hear journey of women through music.

To bring the Detroit production to life, the Gem Theatre has hired Three-time Tony Award winner Hinton Battle as director/choreographer. In addition to winning three Tony Awards for best actor (*Sophisticated Ladies*, *The Tap Dance Kid*, *Miss Saigon*) and originating the role of The Scarecrow in *The Wiz*, Battle most recently co-starred in *Dreamgirls* with Eddie Murphy, choreographed an episode of the hit television show *Dancing With The Stars*, choreographed the hip-hop duo Outkast in the movie *Idlewild*, and co-directed *Evil Dead The Musical* now playing at New World Stages New York. The Detroit version of ***Respect: A Musical Journey*** is being produced locally by the Gem Theatre & Jenkay LLC and includes a 4-member cast, band, original arrangements, set design and costumes.

Tickets (**\$39.50** with *Half-price previews February 7,8,& 9*) go on sale at 10 AM Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> for performances through April 1 and will be available by calling (313) 963-9800, Ticketmaster Charge By Phone (248) 645-6666, online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), and in person at the Gem Theatre box office and all Ticketmaster locations. Show times are Wednesday - Saturday at 8 PM, Thursday afternoons at 2 PM, Saturday afternoons at 3 PM and Sundays at 2 & 5:30 PM. Group Discounts (15 or more) and dining packages at the Century Grille & Elwood Bar & Grill restaurants are available.

The Historic Gem & Century Theatres and Century Grille are the gems in the heart of Detroit's entertainment district offering theatre packages, dinner, lunch, breakfast, wedding packages, special events, boxed lunches, tours and more! For more information, call (313) 963-9800, visit online at [www.gemtheatre.com](http://www.gemtheatre.com), or in person at 333 Madison Ave, Detroit MI 48226.

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