

**Premiere of New Musical to Commemorate the Lives and Contributions of the
Rev. Dr. C.T. Vivian and Octavia Gean Vivian**

Atlanta (Oct. 11, 2024) -- “For Peace I Rise” is a musical set to premiere at The Rialto at Georgia State University on Feb. 1-4, 2025. This production is dedicated to the love story of Rev. Dr. C.T. Vivian and his wife Octavia Geans Vivian who were both American Civil Rights and social justice leaders during the civil rights movement.

The musical portrays how the Vivians were integral in the struggle to end segregation, racial inequities, disparities, and in Georgia and across the country throughout their lives and love that they shared with each other that spanned for 58 years of marriage. Christopher Davis is the executive producer of the musical, and he is the CEO of For Peace I Rise LLC.

The contributions that were made by Rev. Vivian throughout the civil rights movement consisted of participating in sit-ins and Freedom Rides across the country. The civil rights organizations that he assisted in founding were Vision, the National Anti-Klan Network, and the Center for Democratic Renewal. The many roles that he fulfilled throughout his life included minister, author, organizer, and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He was a confidant of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who is known as one of the most influential American Civil Rights and social justice leaders of the civil rights movement.

Mrs. Vivian used the degree in social work that she had earned from Eastern Michigan University to fight for the freedoms and equal rights of all in Atlanta during the civil rights movement alongside her husband Rev. Vivian. She is known for being very influential in the efforts to desegregate the DeKalb County Public School system. She is also known for writing “Coretta” the first autobiography of Coretta Scott King which was published in 1970.

The musical was written and directed by Thomas W. Jones II, who has received seven nominations throughout his career for the Helen Hayes Award. In total, there are more than 200 plays worldwide that he has directed, written, composed, and performed in.

The mission of this production is to advance entertainment properties that inspire communities and that entertain and promote awareness of the spiritual foundation of the American Civil Rights Movement. This production was also created with the mission and intent of furthering the legacies of Dr. C.T. and Octavia Vivian.

For more information, view the videos below:

[For Peace I Rise; A Conversation Continues the Creative Process](#)

[For Peace I Rise; Honoring the Life of Rev. Dr. C.T & Octavia Vivian](#)



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