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Arizona Theatre Company Amplifies Civil Rights Voices of the Past in Powerful New Performance

Best-Selling Playwright and Resident Director of Hamilton Weave a Story of Strength

TUCSON, Ariz. — Arizona Theatre Company (ATC) is proud to present playwright Christina Ham's *Nina Simone: Four Women*, an intimate, poignant musical experience about the activist Nina Simone.

Showing on stage from Feb. 26 through March 19 at the Temple of Music and Art, it tells the story of Simone, an extraordinary 20th century icon of American music, who shifted her career from artist to activist after the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.

Nina Simone: Four Women uses the framework of one of her most blistering songs give voice to a group of women as they navigate internal conflict due to the different hues of their skin. The show also includes some of Simone's most popular Civil Rights anthems such as "Mississippi Goddam," "Go Limp," and "Young, Gifted, and Black", which all create a path that leads the women and Nina herself down a path of discovery and healing.

"I created these characters and scenes to lay bare the most vulnerable parts of the soul and depict a true-to-life snapshot of Simone during this time period," said Ham. "I want Black women to feel seen and represented in this script."

Ham is notable for her best-selling work *Four Little Girls: Birmingham: 1963*, which was directed by Tony Award-winning actress Phylicia Rashad and performed for a sold-out audience at the Kennedy Center. The show commemorated the 50th anniversary of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing and was simultaneously presented in 47 states across the country. Tiffany Nichole Greene, the production's director, is the Resident Director on the popular production *Hamilton*. Audience members who attend *Nina Simone* can also expect world-class acting from a talented cast, including Candace Thomas, Deidra Grace, Katya Collazo, Kia Dawn Fulton and Danté Harrell, who is also the show's music director, grew up in Phoenix and graduated with honors from the Arizona Conservatory for the Arts and Academics.

Performances will be held at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S Scott Ave, Tucson, AZ 85701.

Tickets are on sale now, beginning at \$25. Tickets can be bought at ATC.org.

About Arizona Theatre Company

Arizona Theatre Company's (ATC) performances bring people together to experience essential stories, from reimagined classics to contemporary plays, original works, and innovative musicals fostering continued conversation beyond the theatre walls. Founded in 1966 and celebrating its 54th season, ATC is led by Kasser Family Artistic Director Sean Daniels and Managing Director Geri Wright. ATC operates in two major cities and is the preeminent professional theatre in Arizona, recognized as the official State theatre.

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