

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks:* Celebrating a Night of Legacy and Women's Health Advocacy With Special Guest Renee Elise Goldsberry**

Atlanta, Ga. -22 August 2017 - The White Dress Project is hosting a screening of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, New York Times bestselling novel and HBO film. The event will be held at World of Coca-Cola on Thursday August 24th at 6:00 pm.

Based on a true story set in the early 1950's, the Primetime Emmy-nominated TV movie follows the life of Henrietta Lacks, an African American woman whose cervical cancer cells were removed during a biopsy and cultured without her knowledge. Her cells, known by scientists as "HeLa," went on to play a vital role in medical research, contributing to the discovery of the polio and human papillomavirus vaccines, cloning, gene mapping, and more.

"This story allows us to put a face to the name of Henrietta Lacks," says Renée Elise Goldsberry, referring to her role as Lacks in the film. "Here's a woman whose ongoing contributions to medicine have impacted virtually everyone. Her legacy is now being recognized." The Grammy and Tony Award-winning actress will be attending the event as a discussion panelist.

Over 60 years later, Henrietta Lack's life and legacy have made a strong impact on women's health. "This year alone, there will be over 12,000 new cases of cervix uteri cancer," explains Dr. Jessica Shepherd, OB-GYN and Director of Minimally Invasive Gynecology at The University of Illinois at Chicago and fellow discussion panelist. "Proper screening can help find cancer at an early stage and may make it easier to treat."

Panelist voices also include Grammy and Tony Award-winning actress Tamika Felder, Founder and CEO of Cervivor, a non-profit cervical cancer advocacy organization, and cervical cancer survivor; and Linda Blount, MPH, President and CEO of The Black Women's Health Imperative. Dr. Jacqueline Walters, OB-GYN at Comprehensive Women's OB-GYN and two-time breast cancer survivor will moderate panel discussion.

Most known for its efforts as a non-profit uterine fibroid advocacy group, The White Dress Project is now embracing other areas of women's health. "We support all areas of a woman's wellbeing," says Tanika Gray Valbrun, Founder and Executive Director of The White Dress Project. "This includes bringing together women in the community, educating and empowering

Founder and Executive Director of The White Dress Project. "This includes bringing together women in the community, educating and empowering them to take charge of their health."

A red carpet event, the night opens with a light-fare reception and panel discussion, followed by the film screening and closing Q & A. The World of Coca-Cola is located at 121 Baker Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30313.

**Media Details: Business Attire required, red carpet interview requests must be made in advance.*

MEDIA CONTACT:

The Garner Circle PR
Dr. Nicole Garner Scott



Eugenia Johnson



The White Dress Project
E: WeCanWearWhite@gmail.com