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## **Civic Theatre opens ‘Once On This Island’ in the Parish Theatre**

The Broadway revival closed in January, but Kalamazoo audiences can still enjoy the Calypso flavored musical *Once On This Island* when it opens in the Parish Theatre this Friday, February 22, and plays through March 10<sup>th</sup>.

A captivating legend that perfect for the entire family, *Once On This Island* is the story of Ti Moune, a peasant girl who rescues a wealthy boy, Daniel, from the other side of the island and falls in love with him. *Once On This Island* earned eight Tony nominations for its Broadway run, including Best Musical, Best Book and Best Score.

Guest Director Anthony Hamilton says he has been a fan of the show since he was a student at Loy Norrix. As a teen he said he would listen to the Broadway recording constantly, and became a confessed “afficianado” of the show. Hamilton first performed at the Civic at the age of 10, and believes all of his experiences at Loy Norrix, the Civic, WMU Theatre and as a graduate student at Asolo Conservatory in Florida have led him to *Once On This Island*. “Everything has led me here. Sometimes the road and the journey are unclear, but being here is a full circle moment. It feels like a homecoming.”

Celebrate the storytelling and the adventure of one small girl who finds love more powerful than the forces of prejudice, hatred and death. *Once On This Island* plays in the Parish Theatre February 22, 23, March 1, 2, 8 and 9 at 7:30 pm with matinees on February 24, March 3 and 10 at 2:00pm. Group rates are available. For more information call 269-343-1313 or visit the Civic’s website at [www.kazoocivic.com](http://www.kazoocivic.com).