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February 2, 2009 by **JOHN BARRETT**
 Filed under [Variety](#)

Change is an integral part of being human: Nobody can remain static for his or her entire life.

But few can lay claim to the radical, sweeping transformation experienced by University alumnus Robert "IronE" Singleton, who is slated to perform his autobiographical one-man stage play, "IronE.The Resurrected," tonight at 7.

Although it was football that initially led Singleton to the University, he ended up studying theater, which inspired him to pursue a lifelong career in acting.

"I play 18 different characters [in this play], and I interact with myself," Singleton said. "I try to cover as many aspects and experiences of my life as possible."

The variety of characters he portrays includes himself, his negative alter-ego, a drag queen, a thug and even God himself.

"I also directly interact with the crowd," he said. "I do some stand-up comedy, some rapping and some spoken word."

But what exactly makes Singleton's story so unique and captivating?

"It shows my spiritual and mental transformation," he said. "It's not so much physical, but the spiritual journey that I've been on: coming from the inner city of Atlanta and growing up in one of the worst projects in the city, if not the country."

Singleton describes his upbringing as a "dilapidated environment" where "violence, father absenteeism and drug dealings" were commonplace.

"I had a distorted way of viewing things, but at the same time, it was what I was accustomed to; it was how I was brought up," he said. "All I did was emulate what I saw on a daily basis. How can you do something different if what you see around you is all you know?"

Growing up, Singleton's father was entirely absent from his life, while his mother was a drug addict who was only marginally present. His only role models were his grandmother and uncle.

This experience led Singleton to realize that the fundamental problem of inner-city life is the collective mind-set of its residents.

This discovery moved him to write "IronE.The Resurrected" in hopes of showing others that there is always hope.

"All of the people stuck in the inner city are good people-they're just so lost," he said. "And there's a great possibility that they're going to end up a product of their environment unless they're taken out."

Singleton touches on deeply-rooted issues such as slavery in his performance, which, according to him, plays a direct role in shaping the detrimental mind-set of inner-city life.

"This mind-set was shaped through the psychological and physical torture and the spiritual damage that slavery caused," he said. "And what we're dealing with today are remnants of that."

Singleton's play also addresses flaws such as greed and passion, which he claims are the "two main vices on this earth," and highlights how they apply to humanity at large.

"When I started writing this play, I felt its message was way bigger than just the hood or even America; it was worldwide," he said. "There's a universal message in it that is the leitmotif of the entire play: truth and love. You can't have one without the other. So my mission is not just to speak the truth, but to speak it with love in my heart."

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