

Beat: Entertainment

## **DENZEL WASHINGTON EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR OF 10 AUGUST WILSON STAGEPLAYS**

**WILL BE ADAPTED FOR AN HBO SERIES**

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**USPA NEWS** - Denzel Washington announced that he will be the executive producer and director of ten August Wilson stageplays that will be adapted for an HBO series. He mentioned the deal on Friday night to audiences at An Evening With Denzel Washington & Dr. Todd Boyd Friday night...

Denzel Washington announced that he will be the executive producer and director of ten August Wilson stageplays that will be adapted for an HBO series. He mentioned the deal on Friday night to audiences at An Evening With Denzel Washington & Dr. Todd Boyd Friday night at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. Denzel Washington said : "We're going to do one a year for the next nine years. I'm really excited about that..."

Denzel Washington, who won a Tony award for starring in the 2010 Broadway version of Fences with Viola Davis, mentioned that Davis will star in the film adaptation of Fences for HBO, which tells the story of a former baseball athlete who struggles to provide for his family as a trash collector in 1950s Pittsburgh after being denied to join the Major Leagues due to being African American. James Earl Jones starred in the 1987 original production. (THR)

Wilson's ten plays were collectively called the August Wilson Century Cycle, documenting the African American experience in the 20th century. Each of the works explore race, art and religion in the 1900s, particularly racial tensions from slavery and the Civil War that were felt by the African American middle class.

"His stories are specifically African American stories, but the themes are universal," said Denzel Washington.

The nine other Wilson plays are titled, Gem of the Ocean, Joe Turner's Come and Gone, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, The Piano Lesson, Seven Guitars, Two Trains Running, Jitney, King Hedley II, and Radio Golf.

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