For Immediate Release: July 16, 2012
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A Man-Actress with Ambition!!
One Man Show Explores Life and Career of Early 20th Century Female Impersonator

Put It In the Scrapbook, an original one-person show about the life of vaudeville's most famous female impersonator Julian Eltinge is an official selection of the Chicago Fringe Festival to be performed August 30-September 9th, 2012. Performances will be August 30 @ 8.30 pm, September 1 @ 5.30 pm, September 2 @ 1 pm, September 6 @ 7 pm, September 7 @ 8.30 pm, September 8 @ 2.30 pm, and September 9 @ 4.00 pm. All performances will be at the Dream Theatre 556 West 18th St. Chicago, IL 60616. Tickets are $10 (plus a one time $5 Fringe Button) available at the door or at chicagofringe.org.

Actor/Playwright George Contini brings to life the true story of one of the most colorful characters in American theatre history. At one time the highest paid performer in the United States, Eltinge earned the prestige of having his own theatre built and named for him on Broadway (now the AMC Empire). *Put It In the Scrapbook* is based on one of his final performances where, facing debt and obscurity, an aging Eltinge recalls his career in Vaudeville, Broadway, and Silent Film while the world begins to view him more as a perversion than an artist. Presenting the first re-creation of Eltinge's stage routines and rare archival footage, this multi media performance examines the dark and confusing fluidity of Eltinge's sexual persona and its ability to ultimately offer him salvation.

Written by and starring George Contini, a professor in the University of Georgia Department of Theatre and Film Studies, the play traces Eltinge's career from his first performance impersonating a young girl for the Boston Cadet Academy in 1898 through his years of international fame during the 1920's to his eventual decline by 1940. Contini explains, "The title *Put It In the Scrapbook* refers to a number of things; it is the name of a song from one of Eltinge's very first appearances in youthful drag, also most of what we know about Eltinge is from various scrapbooks housed in archives throughout the country, and finally, a scrapbook serves as the entry to Julian's memories in the play. I am particularly excited about doing the show in Chicago as Eltinge performed here many times at the The Colonial and The Woods Theatres (both now razed) and the Majestic (now the Bank of America Theatre)".

Mr. Contini is a professional actor, director, and playwright who has worked in regional theatres throughout the U.S. most recently appearing as folk artist Rev. Howard Finster in the world premiere of *Hidden Man* at Atlanta's 7Stages Theatre. As a professor of theatre he specializes in acting on camera, characterization, and queer theatre and film; all of which come into play in this unique multi-media theatre piece. Mr. Contini has spent years researching and writing the play in which he recreates some of Julian Eltinge's "lost" performances. The songs performed in the show have not been heard since Mr. Eltinge sang them over a century ago. In recent years, leading theorists in Performance and Gender Studies have been responsible for a resurgence of interest in Mr. Eltinge as he is seen as the progenitor to many of today's gender bending performers like RuPaul or Dame Edna. It is hoped that this unique project will reintroduce to modern audiences a forgotten theatrical legend.

The show has previously been seen at the New Orleans Fringe Festival where the Times Picayune called it " a deeply moving one man (one woman) show" and the Historic Morton Vaudeville Theatre where it was hailed as "fascinating, heart breaking, and heroic". Director Kristin Kundert-Gibbs and Media Designer John Kundert-Gibbs complete the production's artistic team. Both are professors at UGA.

For more information please contact George Contini at gcontini@uga.edu or 706.202.9664. Scenes from the show may also be seen in two parts on YouTube at **Put It In The Scrapbook Part One**: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZChBRos1Tiw, and **Put It In the Scrapbook Part Two:** http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFtdDKOX27s. Also, please feel free to visit George's website at www.georgecontini.com to view some of his other work .