

# **The Detroit Hotel**

**Bob Devin Jones**

**The Detroit Hotel**

**Just a pile of bricks and timber really**

**Really?**

**Materials that have weathered and stood sentry**

**For well *over* a century**

**At the intersection of Central Ave. and Second Street**

**But second to none as it was the first**

**To house, to shelter and celebrate what was to become**

**And yet was to be dreamed... *of***

**Imagined, and built along the shores of Tampa Bay**

**St Petersburg**

**A city**

**The City of St Petersburg**

**Hands, which no longer held, purchase some other where**

**Came here to this new place**

**Brown and black and white**

**Hands that built the roads**

**Placed and patterned the bricks**

**The railroads arriving at Lands end**

**Which achieved this great municipality to come**

**The continuous hero in all this heritage and history**

**And loss, and oh just let's begin again, again**

**Because we should and we ought to...**

**That hero is the Detroit Hotel**

**Named after the hometown**

**Of the man**

**Who would help make this place**

**Our city**

**home to many.**

**We often celebrate the dates of the things we name**

**We build**

**To commemorate them**

**To say, we believe something special happened right here... right here**

**Because these places and spaces**

**Are unique and authentically**

**Us**

**we, here, now...**

**We commemorate these places**

**not only as not to forget**

**But rather to remember**

**To be mindful**

**We speak the name of the places**

**Where we have been, where we have stood**

**Where we have commenced**

**Where we have played and broken bread and**

**Laid our head, and dreamed some delicious dream**

**On some necessary occasions, where we have prayed**

**And made some kind of a joyful noise**

**Just to be there, that place, housed in the Detroit...**

**Here not there or some other where**

**But there...**

**We speak your names**

**Vinoy Hotel**

**Demens Landing**

**St Paul, St Peters... St Gorgeous (our city)**

**Manhattan Casino**

**Albert Whitted**

**Indigenous**

**Webb City**

**Al Lang Field**

**Snell Arcade**

**We speak your name, the Detroit Hotel**

**The Detroit Hotel... authentically St Petersburg**