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## THE PLAY

*Maurice Hines is Tappin' Thru Life* is a music and dance spectacular that celebrates the extraordinary career of tap dancer Maurice Hines, pays tribute to his brother Gregory, and honors the singers who inspired him.

At the ages of five and three, Hines and his brother put on their first pairs of tap shoes and tapped their way into entertainment history with discipline, talent, and love from their family and famous friends.

The show takes us through their years as part of "Hines, Hines and Dad," into the racism of the Las Vegas strip, onto Broadway stages and the silver screen, and right up to today when Hines discovered a new generation of tap dancers: the Manzari Brothers and Heimowitz Brothers.

Hines celebrates a time of elegance and class, when Hollywood **headliners**, like Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra, were some of the world's most famous entertainers.

The show is a thank you letter through song and dance. Hines dedicates it to his mother, Alma.

**headliner** – a star

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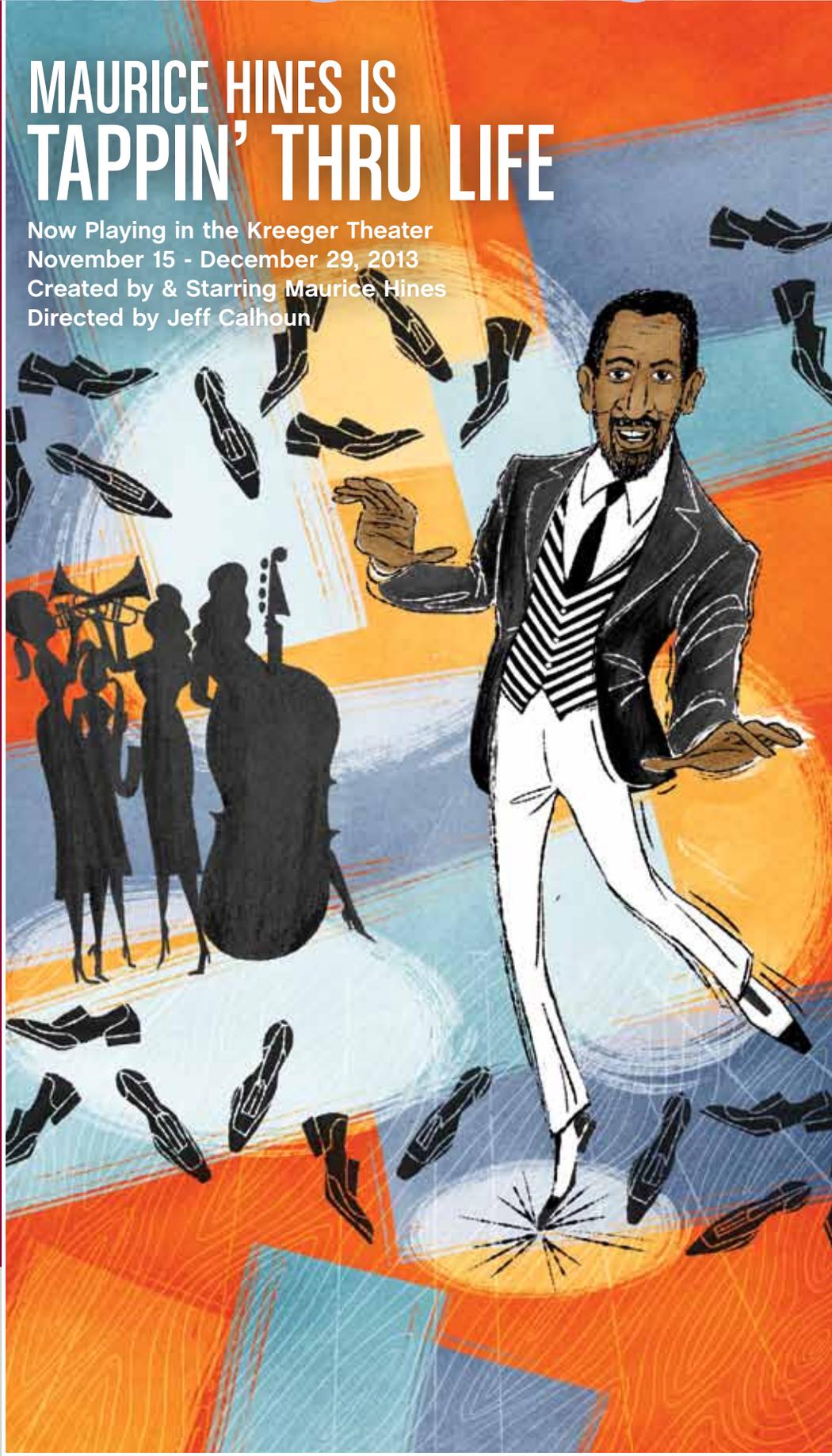
# MAURICE HINES IS TAPPIN' THRU LIFE

Now Playing in the Kreeger Theater

November 15 - December 29, 2013

Created by & Starring Maurice Hines

Directed by Jeff Calhoun



"It's show biz, and you have to be fabulous, baby!"

—Maurice Hines

## MEET MAURICE HINES



**D**ancer, actor, choreographer, director and singer Maurice Hines is an artist who has showcased his talents on the stage, television and film. Born December 13, 1943 in New York City, Hines began dancing at age 5 with his 3-year-old brother Gregory Hines.

"What can you do?" Hines recalls his teacher asking. "I said, 'I can turn around,' and I did six pirouettes on one foot, and she said 'Get this child to class!'"

The brothers began performing at the Apollo Theater and later added their father to the act. Before he was old enough to drive a car, Hines had appeared with "Hines, Hines and Dad" on *The Tonight Show* a total of 35 times.

After many years of performing with his family, Hines began a solo career. On Broadway his works include *Eubie!* (1978), *Bring Back Birdie*, *Sophisticated Ladies* (1981), *Hot Feet* (2006) and *Uptown... It's Hot!* (1986) for which he was the choreographer, star, and recipient of a Tony Award nomination for Best Actor in a Musical. He landed the lead roles in the national tours of *Guys and Dolls* (which began at Arena Stage) and *Jelly's Last Jam*.

In 2010 Hines starred in Arena Stage's revival of *Sophisticated Ladies* (a musical revue of Duke Ellington's music) at the historic Lincoln Theatre. *Sophisticated Ladies* became one of Arena Stage's best-selling productions in history. Hines is currently at work on *Yo Alice*, an urban hip-hop fantasy he conceived and will direct and choreograph. ●

## A TRIBUTE TO HIS BROTHER: GREGORY HINES



**G**regory Hines was born on February 14, 1946. He learned his first tap dance steps from his older brother, Maurice. At age five he joined his brother at the

Henry LeTang Dance Studio, where LeTang began choreographing the brothers' act.

As a solo performer, Hines starred in Broadway musicals, earning a Tony Award nomination for his role in *Eubie!* (1979) and a Tony Award for *Jelly's Last Jam* (1992).

Known for his comedic timing, Hines also appeared in television and film, including *The Cotton Club*, *White Nights*, *Waiting to Exhale*, *Tap* and *Will & Grace*. Hines passed away on August 9, 2003.



Hines was an advocate for tap dance, mentoring young tap dancers, like Savion Glover. Maurice Hines decided to create this show when he read an article about the history of tap dance and his brother was not mentioned. ●

## BROTHERHOOD IN RHYTHM: Three Other Pairs of Tap Dancing Brothers



### THE NICHOLAS BROTHERS

**Fayard & Harold Nicholas**  
1930S – 1990S

Known for their acrobatic dancing or "flash dancing" techniques, the Nicholas Brothers were considered to be the greatest tap dancers of their day. As children, they became stars of the jazz era and had successful careers performing on stage, film, and television well into the 1990s.



### THE MANZARI BROTHERS

**John & Leo Manzari**  
PRESENT

Discovered by Maurice Hines, John (21) and Leo (18) have become known for their high energy and ability to combine multiple dance genres with their style of tap. The brothers have performed all over the United States. Their television appearances include FOX's *So You Think You Can Dance*.



### THE HEIMOWITZ BROTHERS

**Max & Sam Heimowitz**  
PRESENT

These 13-year-old twin brothers began dancing together at age 5. They were selected out of many by Maurice Hines at an open call dance audition at Arena Stage. They are students at Knock on Wood Tap Studio and members of Capitol Tap. Both are honor students at Alice Deal Middle School.



**ACTIVITY** Many people helped Maurice Hines to become the person and artist that he is today. *Tappin' Thru Life* is a thank you letter to these special people. Who inspires you? Write a thank you letter to a person who has greatly influenced you.

# FASCINATING RHYTHM



tap dance: noun

1. Tap is a percussive dance style using the feet to make sounds. Metal plates are attached to the heel and toe of the dancer's shoes. The sound of the steps make listening to someone tap dance just as enjoyable as watching them.
2. Tap grew out of the dancing of slaves in America. Because the slaves were generally not allowed to practice their culture, they substituted the sounds of their feet for drumming. This combined with the Irish step dancing tradition to create the American dance form of tap.



## Styles of Tap Dance

- Soft Shoe
- Buck & Wing
- Classical Tap
- Class Acts
- Jazz Tap
- Hoofing
- Rhythm Tap (Hines' style)

Rhythm tap – tap style in which dancers dance closer to the floor not using much upper body movement.



## a! ACTIVITY

Learn about tap dance by seeing it in action! Watch Gregory Hines explain the origins of tap: <http://youtube/6t56dXlse4Y>  
Watch the Manzari Brothers explain the basics of tap: <http://youtube/cc44srFiwel> ●

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT: PREJUDICE ON THE LAS VEGAS STRIP



The Las Vegas Strip, a 4.2-mile area in Nevada, includes 15 of the world's largest hotels. Its hotels, casinos, and resorts are known for spectacular shows and entertainment.

Up until the 1960s, black performers like Sammy Davis, Jr. and Nat King Cole headlined at casinos on the Las Vegas Strip, but were quickly ushered out the back door and forced to stay in West Las Vegas boarding houses. "You made them a lot of money, but you couldn't go in the hotels," said singer Claude Trenier.

Some African-American performers were forbidden from drinking out of regular glasses; they were given paper cups instead. If they were allowed in the showroom before they performed, they had to sit in the back so nobody would know.

By the mid-1960s black and white entertainers and the NAACP succeeded in integrating the strip. ●



NAACP – the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People



## MEET THE BAND: THE DIVA ORCHESTRA

**P**owerful, immersed in the history of their craft and in total command of their instruments: that's DIVA, an ensemble of talented and versatile musicians, who just happen to be women. Drummer Sherrie Maricle leads this dynamic all-female jazz band.

## SCRAPBOOK OF STARS

Maurice Hines shares music from some of the most famous entertainers of the past whom he met during his career.



### Frank Sinatra

A smooth song and dance man, he also starred in such musicals as *High Society*, *Pal Joey*, *Guys and Dolls* and *On the Town*. During his career "Ol' Blue Eyes" received 13 Grammys. Signature song: "My Way"



### Ella Fitzgerald

Nicknamed "The First Lady of Song" and "The Queen of Jazz," she was an American jazz vocalist who interpreted much of the Great American Songbook with a unique style called scatting. Signature song: "The Man I Love"



### Judy Garland

This legendary actress and singer starred in over 25 films, such as *The Wizard of Oz* and *Meet Me in St. Louis*. Signature song: "Somewhere Over the Rainbow"



### Nat King Cole

This pianist turned singer was the first African-American performer to host a variety TV series in 1956. He's best known for his soft baritone voice. Signature song: "Unforgettable"



### ACTIVITY

Maurice Hines reflects on the entertainers and music of his generation while honoring his family. Do the same by creating a scrapbook with pictures, song lyrics, drawings and more that are inspired by your family and mentors.

## Helpful Hints for Theater Audiences

As an audience member at the theater, YOU are part of the show! Just as you see and hear the actors onstage, they can see and hear you in the audience. To help the performers do their best, please remember the following:

Arrive at least 30 minutes early.  
Visit the restroom before the show starts.

Before the show begins, turn off your cell phone, watch alarms, pagers and other electronic devices. If anything rings by accident, shut it off immediately.

Save food and drinks for the lobby. There is no eating or drinking inside the theater.

Walk to and from your seat - no running in the theater!

Do not talk, whisper, sing or hum.

Do not use cell phones for calls, text messages, pictures or games.

Keep your feet on the floor, not on the seat in front of you.

Avoid getting up during a show because it distracts your neighbors and the performers. If you must leave, wait for a scene change, then exit quietly and quickly.

Performers appreciate enthusiastic applause rather than whistling or shouting.

Cameras and videotape are prohibited because they are distracting to the performers.

**Enjoy the show!**

## THREE BIG QUESTIONS

**1.** What styles of dance and music best embody your generation?

**2.** What entertainers inspire you?

**3.** Who in your family supports your dreams of success?

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### BOOKS

*Brotherhood in Rhythm: The Jazz Tap Dancing of the Nicholas Brothers* by Constance Valis Hill

*Tap Dancing America: A Cultural History* by Constance Valis Hill

*Savion!: My Life in Tap* by Savion Glover

*Nobody's Family is Going to Change* by Louise Fitzhugh

### FILM

*The Cotton Club*: Orion Pictures, 1984

*Tap*: TriStar Pictures, 1989

### ON THE WEB

International Tap Association: [www.tapdance.org](http://www.tapdance.org)

PBS News Hour: Maurice Hines & the Manzari Brothers: [www.pbs.org/newshour/art/blog/2010/06/wednesday-on-the-newshour-maurice-hines-makes-returns-to-sophisticated-ladies.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/art/blog/2010/06/wednesday-on-the-newshour-maurice-hines-makes-returns-to-sophisticated-ladies.html)



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