
Maurice Hines is Tappin' Thru Life

Study Guide

Created by Miller Grove High School Drama Class of Joyce Scott
As part of the Alliance Theatre Institute for Educators and Teaching Artists'
Dramaturgy by Students
Under the guidance of Teaching Artist Barry Stewart Mann

Maurice Hines is Tappin' Thru Life was produced at the Arena Theatre in Washington, DC, from Nov. 15 to Dec. 29, 2013

The Alliance Theatre Production runs from April 2 to May 4, 2014

The production will travel to Beverly Hills, California from May 9-24, 2014, and to the Cleveland Playhouse from May 30 to June 29, 2014.



Reviews

Keith Loria, on *theatermania.com*, called the show “a tender glimpse into the Hineses’ rise to fame and a touching tribute to a brother.”

Benjamin Tomchik wrote in *Broadway World*, that the show “seems determined not only to love the audience, but to entertain them, and it succeeds at doing just that! While *Tappin' Thru Life* does have some flaws, it's hard to find anyone who isn't won over by Hines showmanship, humor, timing and above all else, talent.”

In *The Washington Post*, Nelson Pressley wrote, “‘*Tappin'* is basically a breezy, personable concert. . . . The show doesn't flinch from hard-core nostalgia; the heart-on-his-sleeve Hines is too sentimental for that. . . . It's frankly schmaltzy, and it's barely written — it zips through selected moments of Hines's life, creating a mood more than telling a story. . . . it's a pleasure to be in the company of a shameless, ebullient vaudeville heart.”

Awards

In February, 2014, *Tappin'* received two Helen Hayes Awards nominations – honors bestowed in the Washington, DC, theatre community. Maurice Hines was nominated for Outstanding Choreography, and Sherrie Maricle for Outstanding Music Direction. The Helen Hayes Awards will be announced at a ceremony in Washington, DC, on April 21, 2014.

About the Creative Team

Maurice Hines - Maurice Robert Hines, Jr. was born on December 13, 1943. He is an American actor, director, jazz singer and choreographer. He began his career at the age of five, studying tap dance at the Henry LeTang Dance Studio in Manhattan, New York. Their father joined Maurice and his brother Gregory as "Hines, Hines & Dad" performing on a regular basis in New York, Las Vegas, and throughout Europe and on many television shows, including *The Pearl Bailey Show*, *The Hollywood Palace*, and *The Tonight Show*. Hines was nominated for Broadway's 1986 Tony Award as Best Actor in a Musical for *Uptown...It's Hot*. Hines co-directed and had choreographed the national tour of the Louis Armstrong musical bio *Satchmo*. He also directed, choreographed, and starred in the national tour of *Harlem Suite* with successive leading ladies Jennifer Holliday, Stephanie Mills, and Melba Moore. Hines conceived, directed and choreographed *Yo Alice*, an urban hip-hop fantasy, staged for a workshop in 2000, and a reading in 2007 at the Triad Theatre.



"Maurice Hines is Tappin' Thru Life started with my wanting to celebrate my brother Gregory Hines. I read an article on tap a few years ago and his name wasn't mentioned once – SO WRONG! Now I get the chance to honor him properly on how fabulous a tap dancer he was. I also wanted to thank the wonderful performers ELLA FITZGERALD, FRANK SINATRA, LENA HORNE, NAT 'KING' COLE and JUDY GARLAND who were all an inspiration to a young performer on how wonderful being on stage could be. My main focus for anytime I'm on any stage is to follow what my wonderful mother told Greg and I ... that no matter what you do on stage always do it with CLASS and make sure the audiences leave saying WOW! I HAD A GREAT TIME, BABY!"

- Maurice Hines

The Manzari Brothers - John and Leo Manzari are performers from Washington D.C. that combine a range of different genres of music with their own style of tap dance. The brothers have performed all over the United States at renowned venues such as The Kennedy Center, The Lincoln Theater, The Apollo Theater, Lincoln Center and The Strathmore Concert Hall. In addition to theater, the tap dancing duo has made television appearances on BET's *The Mo'Nique Show*, *The Jerry Lewis Telethon*, and FOX's *So You Think You Can Dance*, among others. Leo and John have been publicly recognized for their artistry in many ways, most prominently a Helen Hayes Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor in a Musical for their performance in Arena Stage's *Sophisticated Ladies*.

The Diva Orchestra, or the Diva Jazz Orchestra, is an ensemble of talented and versatile female musicians. Today the leader of the Diva Jazz Orchestra is a swinging drummer, Dr. Sherrie Maricle. The idea for DIVA came from Stanley Kay, a one-time manager and relief drummer for Buddy Rich. In 1992 the DIVA was completed and what emerged is the dynamic musical force that holds forth to the present day. In 2006, DIVA was voted one of the best big bands in the world in DownBeat Magazine's annual Critic's and Reader's Polls.

Jeff Calhoun is a director, choreographer, producer and dancer. In the 1970's, Calhoun met Tommy Tune, who then hired him to join the first national tour of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. He made his Broadway debut in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* in 1982, and starred opposite Twiggy in *My One and Only* in 1983. Calhoun's collaboration with Tommy Tune resulted in a 1991 Tony Award for Best Choreography for *The Will Rogers Follies*. His Broadway directing debut was *Tommy Tune Tonight*, in 1992. He has directed the world-premiere and touring productions of *Disney's High School Musical: On Stage*. In 2009, Calhoun directed and choreographed the Deaf West Theatre production of *Pippin* at the Mark Taper Forum. His Deaf West production of *Big River* received Tony and Drama Desk nominations.

Synopsis

Maurice Hines is Tappin' Thru Life is a unique combination of drama, storytelling, musical revue, and dance extravaganza. In the show, Hines presents stories of how he and younger brother Gregory took a dancing journey to success and fame. The show features a series of vignettes from the song-and-dance man's life, with photos on large projection screens and songs from the era to accompany them. Starting with his parents discovering him and Gregory dancing in their bedroom, the show depicts their first visit to the Apollo Theater, and their inspiration from such performers as Joe Williams, The Count Basie Band, Frank Sinatra, and Ella Fitzgerald. The show honors the relationship of the Hines brothers, and ushers in a new generation of tappers by introducing the Manzari Brothers, a tap dance phenomenon from Washington, DC. Throughout, favorite tunes from the heyday of Swing and Jazz - such as *Every Day I Have the Blues*, *I've Grown Accustomed To Her Face*, and *Come Fly With Me* - are the backdrop to tap numbers, and are featured in their own right as performed by the noted all-female jazz and blues band The Diva Orchestra.

Historical Figures

Maurice Hines

(see Creative Team above)

Gregory Hines was born February 14, 1946 in New York City. He started tapping at a young age, and studied dance with master tap dancer Henry Le Tang. As a boy, he danced with his brother and father in a group called “Hines, Hines, and Dad.” He spent much of his early career dancing at the Apollo Theater. In 1973, he left “Hines, Hines, and Dad” to form a jazz-rock group called Severance. In 1981, he landed his first movie role, as a Roman slave in *History of the World-Part 1*. That role proved a stepping stone in his movie career. He was in movies like *The Cotton Club*, *White Nights*, and *Renaissance Man*. In 1987, he released an album titled *Gregory Hines*. He also starred in the CBS sitcom *The Gregory Hines Show*. In 1992, he won a Tony Award for the headlining role in George C. Wolfe's musical tribute *Jelly's Last Jam*. He has one daughter and one son. Gregory Hines died of on August 9, 2003 at the age of 57.



The Hines Kids



Hines, Hines & Dad



Gregory Hines



Maurice Hines, Sr. was born in North Carolina on February 9, 1922. His mother, Ora Hines, had danced at the Cotton Club in Harlem in the 1920's. He was a soda salesman who taught himself to play the drums. During World War II, he served in the Merchant Marine, where he met his wife, Alma. In 1963, he joined his sons Maurice, Jr., and Gregory to form the nightclub act “Hines, Hines and Dad”, which toured for the next decade to clubs in New York, Las Vegas, Europe, and elsewhere. He is known for his work on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*, *The Kraft Music Hall* and *The Joey Bishop Show*. Alma Hines passed in 2000, and Maurice Hines, Sr. remarried Gloria J. Hines. Maurice Hines, Sr., died in 2010 at the age of 88.

Count Basie - William James "Count" Basie was an American jazz pianist, organist, bandleader, and composer. He was born in Red Bank, NJ, on August 1, 1904. In 1924, he went to Harlem, where his performing career expanded; he toured with groups to the major jazz cities of Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City, where he joined Bennie Moten's band in 1929. Basie's theme songs were "One O'Clock Jump," developed in 1935 in the early days of his band, and "April In Paris". Basie married Catherine Morgan in the late 1930s. He was known for being considerate of musicians and their opinions, modest, relaxed, fun-loving, witty, and always enthusiastic about his music. Basie died of pancreatic cancer in Hollywood, Florida on April 26, 1984 at the age of 79. In 2005, "One O'Clock Jump" was added to the Library of Congress National Recording Registry, as a song that is "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."



Count Basie



Joe Williams

Joe Williams was born Joseph Goreed in Cordele, GA on December 12, 1918. Williams was a well-known jazz vocalist, a baritone singing a mixture of blues, ballads, popular songs, and jazz standards. During his mid-teens Williams began performing as a vocalist, singing solo at formal events with local bands. He also taught himself piano, and started Gospel Group called the "Jubilee Boys". Having moved with his mother to Chicago, he attended a performance by Louis Armstrong at the Vendome Theatre. He got his big break in 1954, when he was hired as the male vocalist for the Count Basie Orchestra. He remained with Basie until 1961, garnering some of the best exposure a blues and jazz singer could have. In the 1960s Williams worked mostly on his own, and he became a familiar face on such variety programs as Johnny Carson's *The Tonight Show*, and the *Merv Griffin* and *Mike Douglas* shows. Williams gained further fame when Bill Cosby cast him as Heathcliff Huxtable's father-in-law "Grandpa Al" Hanks in a recurring role on the hit 1980s sitcom *The Cosby Show*. Williams died of natural causes on March 29, 1999 in Las Vegas, NV.

Nat King Cole was born on March 17, 1919 in Montgomery, Alabama. His original name was Nathaniel Adams Cole. He was a film actor, television actor, pianist, singer, and television personality. In 1956, Nat King Cole became the first African-American performer to host a variety television series. He was best known for his soft baritone voice and for singles like “the Christmas Song,” “Mona Lisa,” and “Nature Boy.” Nat King Cole died on February 15, 1965 in Santa Monica, California. His daughter, Natalie Cole, has had a great career as a singer, and modern technology has made possible the creating of videos in which she and her father sing duets, including the well-known “Unforgettable.”



Ella Fitzgerald was born on April 25, 1917 in Newport News, VA. As a child, she enjoyed playing baseball, and her favorite singers were Louis Armstrong and Connee Boswell. Her first stage performance was Amateur Night at the Apollo Theater in 1934. Her first recording was “Love and Kisses” in 1936, and her first number one song was “A-Tisket, A-Tasket,” recorded in 1938. In the 1940s, Ella was known as one of the best scat singers in the world, and throughout her career, Ella recorded at least 200 albums. Her nicknames were “Lady Ella”, “First Lady of Song”, and the “Queen of Jazz”. She married Benny Kornegay (1939-1940) and Ray Brown (1946-1952). She had one child by named Ray Brown, Jr. and one grandchild named Alice Brown. Ella Fitzgerald died on June 15, 1996 in Beverly Hills, CA.

Frank Sinatra was born on December 12, 1915. After seeing Bing Crosby perform, he decided he wanted to sing; he dropped out of high school and began to perform at local night clubs. A radio appearance brought Sinatra to the attention of bandleader Harry James, with whom Sinatra made his first recording in 1940. He soon joined the Tommy Dorsey band, and then two years later went solo. Between 1943 and 1946 Frank Sinatra had 17 top 10 singles. The ‘bobby soxer’ fans that Frank attracted with his baritone gave him the nickname “The Voice.” In 1953, he won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor in *From Here to Eternity*; other notable film roles include *Suddenly* (1954) and *The Man with the Golden Arm* (1955, Best Actor Nominatio). In 1993 Sinatra stepped back into Capitol Studios to record his final albums, *Duets* and *Duets II*, both of which were highly successful, finding Sinatra an entirely new audience almost sixty years after he first tasted fame. Frank Sinatra passed away on May 14, 1998.

Dean Martin was an Italian-American singer, actor, comedian, and film producer. Martin was born in Steubenville, OH, as Dino Paul Crocetti June 7, 1917. At 15 he was a boxer who billed himself as "Kid Crochet". Martin gave up his boxing career and began singing under the name Dino Martini. In the mid-1940's he teamed with comedian Jerry Lewis as a music and comedy act, and they performed in many films together. Through the 1950's and 60's, he had a flourishing film career, co-starring with such actors as Marlon Brando, John Wayne, Geraldine Page, Frank Sinatra, and Kim Novak. Martin's relaxed, crooning voice earned him numerous hit singles, including such signature songs as "That's Amore", "Everybody Love Somebody," "You're Nobody Till Somebody Loves You," and "Volare". In 1965, Martin launched his successful weekly NBC comedy-variety program, *The Dean Martin Show*, which ran for 264 episodes until 1974; for another decade after that his *Dean Martin's Celebrity Roasts* were popular hits.. Dean Martin was married three times and had seven children. He died in Los Angeles of complications from lung cancer on December 25, 1995

Sammy Davis Jr. was an American dancer, singer, and actor. He was born on December 8, 1925 in Harlem, New York City. His parents were vaudeville dancers, and after they separated, his father took him on tour. Davis learned to dance, and joined his father and uncle to perform as the Will Mastin Trio. Davis became an overnight sensation following a nightclub performance at Ciro's after the 1951 Academy Awards. In 1954, he lost his left eye in an automobile accident, and several years later, he converted to Judaism. In 1960, Davis appeared in the first Rat Pack film, *Ocean's 11*. After a starring role on Broadway in 1956's *Mr Wonderful*, Davis returned to the stage in 1964's *Golden Boy*, and in 1966 had his own TV variety show, *The Sammy Davis Jr. Show*. Davis' career slowed in the late 1960s, but he had a hit record with "The Candy Man" in 1972 and became a star in Las Vegas, earning him the nickname "Mister Show Business". Davis died in Beverly Hills, California on May 16, 1990, of complications from throat cancer.

The Rat Pack was a term first used to refer to a group of friends in New York. According to one explanation, Lauren Bacall coined the phrase to describe her husband Humphrey Bogart and some of his friends on their return from a night out. The original Rat Pack included Bacall, Bogart, Frank Sinatra Judy Garland, Sid Luft, Swifty Lazar, David Niven, Katharine Hepburn, Spencer Tracy, George Cukor, Cary Grant, and Rex Harrison. The 1960s version of the group consisted of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Jr., Joey Bishop, and Peter Lawford. Marilyn Monroe, Angie Dickinson, Juliet Prowse, and Shirley MacLaine were often referred to as the "Rat Pack Mascots". The 1960's group never used the term “Rat Pack” – instead they

called themselves the Summit or the Clan. "The Rat Pack" was a term used by journalists. Often, when one member was scheduled to give a performance, the rest of the Pack would show up for an impromptu show, causing much excitement among audiences. They sold out almost all of their appearances, and people would come pouring into Las Vegas, just to be part of the Rat Pack entertainment experience.



'The Rat Pack' – Martin, Davis, Jr. & Sinatra



Judy Garland

Judy Garland was an American actress, singer, and vaudevillian. She was born on June 10, 1922 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1938, aged 16, she was cast in the main role as Dorothy Gale in *The Wizard of Oz*, a film based on the children's book by L. Frank Baum. In this film, she sang the song with which she would forever be identified, "Over the Rainbow." In 1940, she starred in three films: *Andy Hardy Meets Debutante*, *Strike Up the Band*, and *Little Nellie Kelly*, in which she played her first adult role, a dual role of both mother and daughter. During filming for *The Pirate* in 1947, Garland suffered a nervous breakdown and was placed in a private sanitarium. She was able to complete filming, but in July she attempted suicide, making minor cuts to her wrist with a broken glass. During this period, she spent two weeks in treatment at a psychiatric hospital in Massachusetts. Garland was married five times, and had three children: Liza Minnelli, Lorna Luft, and Joseph Luft. She was described by Fred Astaire as "the greatest entertainer who ever lived" and renowned for her unique voice. Among her accolades were a Juvenile Academy Award, a Golden Globe Award, Grammy Awards, and a Special Tony Award. She remains the youngest recipient (at 39 years of age) of the Cecil B. DeMille Award for lifetime achievement in the film industry. Garland died on June, 22, 1969 at the age of 47 in London from an overdose of barbiturates.

Pearl Bailey - Pearl Mae Bailey was an American actress and singer. She was born in southeastern Virginia on March 29, 1918. She made her stage-singing debut when she was 15 years old. Bailey performed in Philadelphia's black nightclubs in the 1930s, and soon started working up and down the East Coast. After appearing in vaudeville, she made her Broadway debut in *St. Louis Woman* in 1946. Some of her signature songs include "Let's Do It," "Baby, It's Cold Outside," and "Takes Two to Tango." On November 19, 1952, Bailey married a jazz drummer Louie Bellson in London. They adopted a child, Tony, in the mid-1950s, and subsequently had a daughter, Dee Dee J. Bellson, in 1960. During the 1970s she had her own television show, and she also provided voices for animations such as *Tubby the Tuba* (1976) and

Disney's *The Fox and the Hound* (1981). She returned to Broadway in 1975, playing the lead in an all-black production of *Hello, Dolly!* She earned a B.A. in theology from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., in 1985, at age 67. Pearl Bailey died in Philadelphia on August 17, 1990.



Pearl Bailey



Lena Horne

Lena Horne - Lena Calhoun Horne was an American singer, actress and activist. She was born on June 30, 1917. She got her first stage job at 16, dancing and later singing at the famed Cotton Club in Harlem. Before long her renown led to appearances on Broadway, and soon Hollywood came calling. At 21 years of age Lena made her first film, *The Duke Is Tops* (1938). She signed with MGM, but the films were shot so that her scenes could be cut out when they were shown in the South, since most theaters in the South refused to show movies that portrayed blacks in anything other than subservient roles to whites. In 1943 MGM loaned her to 20th Century-Fox to play the role of Selina Rogers in the all-black musical *Stormy Weather*. Her rendition of the title song became a major hit on the musical charts. In the ensuing years, Lena's musical career flourished, but her movie career stagnated, partially because she was blacklisted during the McCarthy Era of the 1950's. After *Meet Me in Las Vegas* (1956), Lena left films to concentrate on music and the stage. In 1978, she returned to the screen in the all-black musical *The Wiz*, where she played Glinda the Good Witch. In 1981, she starred in a one-woman show, *Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music*, which ran for more than three hundred performances on Broadway and earned her numerous awards and accolades. She continued recording and performing sporadically into the 1990s, disappearing from the public eye in 2000. Horne died on May 9, 2010, in New York City of heart failure.

Historical Settings

Apollo Theatre - The building that later became the Apollo Theater was built in 1913-14 and was designed by architect George Keister who also designed the First Baptist Church in the City of New York. It was originally Hurtig and Seamon's New (Burlesque) Theater, which enforced a strict "Whites Only" policy. The theatre was operated by noted burlesque producers Jules Hurtig and Harry Seamon, who obtained a 30-year lease. It remained in operation until 1928, when Billy Minsky took over. The song "I May Be Wrong (But I Think you're Wonderful)" by Harry Sullivan and Harry Ruskin, written in 1929, became the theme song of the theater. During the early 1930s the theatre fell into disrepair and closed once more. In 1933 it was purchased by Sidney Cohen, who owned other theaters in the area. And after lavish renovations it re-opened as the "Apollo Theater" on January 16, 1934. Catering to the black community of Harlem. On February 14, 1934, the first major star to appear at the Apollo was jazz singer and Broadway star Adelaide Hall in Clarence Robinson's production *Chocolate Soldiers*, which featured Sam Wooding's Orchestra. The show ran for a limited engagement and was highly praised by the press, which helped establish the Apollo's reputation.



Sands Hotel – The Sands Hotel was a historic Las Vegas Strip hotel/casino that operated from December 15, 1952, to June 30, 1996. Designed by the architect Wayne McAllister, the Sands was the seventh resort to open on the Strip. During its heyday, the Sands was the center of entertainment and "cool" on the Strip, and hosted many famous entertainers of the day. Regulars were able to mingle with the stars in the lounge after their late-night shows. In its time, the Sands was located next door to the Desert Inn. The two adjacent properties were owned by the reclusive businessman Howard Hughes in the mid-1960s. Arguably the hotel's biggest claim to fame was a three-week period in 1960 during the filming of *Ocean's 11*. During that time, the movie's stars Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Jr., Joey Bishop and Peter Lawford performed on stage together in the Copa Room. The performances were called the "Summit at the Sands" and this is considered to be the birth of the Rat Pack. Sinatra also owned a stake in the Sands for a time.

Klein's Department Store - *S. Klein on the Square*, or simply, *S. Klein*, was a popular priced department store chain based in New York City that is now defunct. The flagship stores (a main building and a women's fashion building) were located along Union Square in Manhattan; this location would combine with the 1920s idiomatic catch phrase "on the square" (meaning "honest and straight-up") to provide the subtitle. *S. Klein* positioned itself as a step above regional discount stores of its time (Two Guys, Great Eastern Mills), more fashion-aware than E. J. Korvette, and a more affordable option than traditional department stores like Macy's or Abraham & Straus. *S. Klein* stores were full-line department stores, including furniture departments, fur salons, and full service pet departments.

Songs in the Show

Tappin' includes more than a dozen standards from the mid-1900's. Here is background information on some of them.

"All the Way" is from the 1950's, written by Jimmy Van Heusen, with lyrics by Sammy Cahn. It was introduced in the film *The Joker Is Wild*. Frank Sinatra had the best-selling record of the song in 1957. The song received an Academy Award for Best Song.

"Caravan" is a jazz standard composed by Juan Tizol, with lyrics by Irving Mills, and first performed by Duke Ellington in 1936. Woody Allen used the song in two of his films, *Alice* and *Sweet and Lowdown*, while The Mills Brothers recorded a famous a capella version, making the instruments' sounds with their voices.

"Come Fly with Me" was composed in 1957 by Jimmy Van Heusen, with lyrics by Sammy Cahn. "Come Fly with Me" was written for Frank Sinatra.

"Every Day I Have the Blues" was written by Pinetop Sparks and his brother Milton. First performed by the brothers in the taverns of St. Louis, it was recorded in 1935 by Pinetop with Henry Townsend on guitar. Four different versions of the song reached the Top Ten of the Billboard R&B chart and two—one by the Count Basie Orchestra with Joe Williams and one by B.B. King—received a Grammy Hall of Fame Award.

"Get Me To the Church On Time" was written in 1956 by Alan Jay Lerner, with lyrics by Frederick Lowe, for the musical *My Fair Lady*. First sung by Stanley Holloway, it has been recorded by such singers as Rosemary Clooney, Andy Williams, Mel Tormé, and Frank Sinatra.

"It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)" is a 1931 composition by Duke Ellington, with lyrics by Irving Mills, now considered jazz standard. The song was first recorded by Ellington and his orchestra in 1932. The title is credited to Ellington's former trumpeter Bubber Miley. The song became famous, Ellington wrote, "as the expression of a sentiment which prevailed among jazz musicians at the time." The song introduced the term 'swing' into everyday language and presaged the Swing Era.

"It's Only a Paper Moon" was written in 1933 by Harold Arlen, with lyrics by E. Y. Harburg and Billy Rose. Originally composed for an unsuccessful Broadway play called *The Great Magoo*, it was subsequently used in the movie *Take a Chance*. The song's fame stems from recordings by popular artists during the 1940's, including Ella Fitzgerald and Nat King Cole.

"I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face" is from the 1956 musical *My Fair Lady*, with music by Frederick Loewe and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner. It was originally performed by Rex Harrison as Professor Henry Higgins. He also performed in the 1964 film version.

"I've Never Been in Love Before" was written by Frank Loesser, and featured in the 1950 musical *Guys and Dolls*. It is considered a standard, having been recorded by many artists, including Doris Day, Bobby Darin, and Linda Ronstadt.

"L-O-V-E" was written by Bert Kaempfert and Milt Gabler for Nat King Cole's 1965 album *L-O-V-E* (the last album released before his death in 1965). The song had already been an instrumental track on Kaempfert's *Blue Midnight* album in 1964.

"Luck Be a Lady" was written by Frank Loesser in 1950 and first performed by Robert Alda. The song was featured in the musical *Guys and Dolls*. Later, it became a signature song for Frank Sinatra. It was also recorded by Barbra Streisand for her album *Back to Broadway*, and Dee Snider performed it as a duet with Clay Aiken on his 2012 album *Dee Does Broadway*.

"(Get Your Kicks on) Route 66" (often simply called "Route 66") was composed in 1946 by Bobby Troup. It was first recorded by Nat King Cole, and subsequently covered by many artists including Chuck Berry (1961), The Rolling Stones (1964), Depeche Mode (1987), John Mayer (2006), and Glenn Frey (2012). The song's lyrics follow the path of Route 66, a highway that ran across the U.S. from Chicago, Illinois, to Los Angeles, California.

Topics to Consider

Movie Musicals - The movie musical is a film genre in which songs sung by the characters are interwoven into the narrative. The songs are used to advance the plot or develop the film's characters, but some musical films simply include the songs as unrelated "specialties" (also called "production numbers"). A subgenre of the musical film is the musical comedy, which includes a strong element of humor as well as the usual music, dancing and storyline. The movie musical was a natural development from the stage musical. Typically, the biggest difference between film and stage musicals is the use of lavish background scenery, which would be impractical in a theater. Movie musicals characteristically contain elements reminiscent of theater; performers often treat their song and dance numbers as if there is a live audience watching. In a sense, the viewer becomes the audience, as the performer looks directly into the camera and performs to it. The 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s are considered to be the golden age of the movie musical, when the genre's popularity was at its highest in the Western world.

Sibling Performers - *Tappin'* focuses on Maurice and Gregory Hines, who performed together for many years. Sibling acts are both wonderful and complicated, and not uncommon. Here are a few other famous sets of show business siblings.

The Pointer Sisters are a trio of sisters from Oakland, CA, that experienced great success during the 1970's and 1980's. The group consisted of Ruth, Anita, Bonnie and June Pointer. Their father was a minister, and their parents encouraged them in Gospel Music; for other styles, they had to practice at friends' homes. Their songs included not only R&B, but rock, blues, country and other genres. They were the first African-American vocal group to perform at the *Grand Ole Opry* and won the 1974 *Grammy for Best Country Vocal Performance by a Duo or Group*.

The Smothers Brothers were a popular music and comedy duo. Thomas and Richard Smothers had their own comedy show on CBS called *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour* during the 1960's, which often created controversy because of political stands on social issues. They were nothing alike: Tom acted "slow" and Dick acted "superior" which led to constant conflict and humor.



The Pointer Sisters



The Smothers Brothers



The Jackson Five

The Jacksons were very popular family group in the late 70s. The Jackson Five, consisting of Jackie, Tito, Jermaine, Marlon, and Michael, was influenced by major stars like The Temptations, The Isley Brothers, and Marvin Gaye. Their first four major label singles ("I Want You Back", "ABC", "The Love You Save", and "I'll Be There") reached the top of the *Billboard* Hot 100. They were one of the first black teen idols to appeal equally to white audiences.

The Osmond Brothers consisted of Alan, Wayne, Merrill and Jay. They started their career by doing street performances by barbershops. But their career started expanding when Andy Williams caught their act and let them perform for the *Andy Williams Show*. When Donny Osmond got older he joined the group with a nice crisp voice. Later their career their sister, Marie Osmond made appearances with the group.

The Carpenters, Richard and Karen, were a sibling duo known for their smooth popular songs in the 1970's. Their hits included "Close to You", "We've Only Just Begun", and "Bless the Beats and the Children." During their career, the duo's popularity started declining due to personal problems. Richard had an addiction to prescription drugs for which he sought treatment at a recovery clinic. Karen was a patient of anorexia nervosa, and died on February 4, 1983, from a cardiac arrest.

The History of Tap - Tap is a uniquely American dance form that draws from diverse cultural roots. African slaves, prohibited from cultural and religious expression, modified their traditionally exuberant movements into low shuffles, sweeps and stomps. Drumming was replaced with foot tapping and clapping. This phenomenon blended with step and clog dancing that was brought to America by Scottish and Irish laborers. One of the earliest known African-American 'rhythm' dancers was William Henry Lane, also known as 'Juba'. In the early part of the 20th century, tap was appearing in musicals written by black artists, such as the 'Darktown Follies' in 1913. The Prohibition Era of the 1920's brought 'speakeasy' clubs, where illegal alcohol was available alongside live entertainment. By this time, tap dancing had become established as a distinct dance form. It was popular at Harlem's Cotton Club, where black artists

performed for exclusively white audiences. The famous Bill 'Bojangles' Robinson was an innovative and notable performer who introduced a much lighter style of tap. In the 1930s, tap musicals, such as those choreographed by Busby Berkeley, featured hundreds of young women dancing in spectacular formations. During the golden era of the Hollywood movie musical, tap became associated with screen greats such as Fred Astaire, Paul Draper, Ray Bolger, Gene Kelly and the Nicholas Brothers. In the 1980s, inspired by the Broadway success of *Black and Blue* (1989) and the talent of Gregory Hines, who starred in *Sophisticated Ladies* (1983) and in *Jelly's Last Jam* with Savion Glover, as well as in the movies *White Nights* (1985) and *Tap* (1989), many young African American men became interested in tap again. In 1989, Congress recognized its cultural significance, and May 25 was established as National Tap Dance Day. Savion Glover has become the leader of a new generation of tappers. His hip-hop-funk tap has caused a stylistic revolution within the field and connect tap with modern music.



Bill 'Bojangles' Robinson



Fred Astaire



Savion Glover

The World of the 1940's - The Great Depression and World War II cast long shadows over American life in the 1940's. During the 1930's President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal created a sense of economic optimism and eased the suffering of many, but it did not eradicate poverty or solve the economic crisis. In 1941, as many as 40 percent of all American families lived below the poverty level. Nearly eight million workers earned less than the legal minimum wage. Another eight million Americans were unemployed, and the median annual income was only \$2,000. While the economic outlook improved during the 1940s, the sense of crisis created by the Depression permanently altered lifestyles and attitudes. The mentality of fear and economic caution marked an entire generation, even as the economy boomed after World War II.

The economic hardships of the Depression created strain in marriages and family. Family life in 1940s was very simple and basic. Many homes still had no electricity, indoor toilets or telephones. People often lived in the same town all their lives, which would normally be near their extended families. The most popular music style during the 1940s was swing, which prevailed during World War II. "Film Noir," a film style that incorporated crime dramas with dark images, became largely prevalent during the decade.



The Great Depression



Jim Crow Laws

Jim Crow Laws - Jim Crow laws were racial segregation laws enacted between 1876 and 1965 in the United States at the state and local level. They mandated *de jure* racial segregation in public facilities in Southern states of the former Confederacy, with, starting in 1890, a "separate but equal" status for African Americans. The doctrine led to conditions for African Americans that were inferior to those for Caucasians, systematizing economic, educational and social disadvantages. *De jure* (legally sanctioned) segregation mainly applied to the Southern United States. While Northern segregation was generally *de facto* (reflecting social attitudes, rather than explicit laws), there was segregation in housing enforced by covenants, bank lending practices, and job discrimination, including discriminatory union practices. Examples of Jim Crow laws include the segregation of public schools, public places, and public transportation, and the segregation of restrooms, restaurants, and drinking fountains for whites and blacks. The U.S. military was also segregated. These Jim Crow Laws followed the 1800–1866 Black Codes, which had previously restricted the civil rights and civil liberties of African Americans with no pretense of equality. State-sponsored school segregation was declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954 in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Generally, the remaining Jim Crow laws were overturned by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Maurice Hines Is Tappin' Thru Life in the Classroom **Pre-Show Questions**

1. What do you know about tap dancing?
2. What was life like in the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's?
3. What challenges do famous African Americans actors face today?
4. What kinds of music do your parents and grandparents like? Compare and contrast those styles with the kinds of music you like?

Post-Show Questions

1. How did the show convey the life and talent of Gregory Hines?
2. What kinds of challenges did the Hines Brothers faced?
3. How did they confront and overcome those challenges?
4. What would it be like to work so closely with your brother or sister? To become famous and successful together?

Sources and Resources

Background Information

Maurice Hines - <http://www.mauricehines.com/>

Manzari Brothers - <http://www.manzaribrothers.com/>

Divva Jazz Orchestra - <http://divajazz.com/>

Jeff Calhoun - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeff_Calhoun_%28choreographer%29

Gregory Hines - <http://www.biography.com/people/gregory-hines-9542572>

Nat King Cole - <http://www.biography.com/people/nat-king-cole-9253026>

Ella Fitzgerald - www.ellafitzgerald.com

Frank Sinatra - <http://www.sinatra.com/>

Apollo Theatre - <https://www.apollotheater.org/>

Swing Music - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swing_music

Tap Dance - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tap_dance

Jim Crow Laws - <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/303897/Jim-Crow-law>

Videos of the Hines Brothers

In the film *The Cotton Club*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OgHX2AjTNA>

Maurice in *Guys and Dolls*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4h8Zxf89rY>

At the 1979 Tony Awards

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBnGIfwPdg4>

On *Sesame Street*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGReqvRq7uk>

Gregory – “Rhythm is My Business”, 1983

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZuYM-xA-8k>

Maurice Hines – “L-O-V-E”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89bN9tTAhhc>

Videos of Songs and Singers

“I’ve Got You Under My Skin” – Frank Sinatra

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yqGujr2-Jw>

“It Don’t Mean a Thing If It Ain’t Got That Swing” – Ella Fitzgerald

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrVu9WKs498>

“Every Day I’ve Got the Blues” – Count Basie, with Joe Williams

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOCaKdqGMd8>

“Route 66” – Nat King Cole

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCYApJtsyd0>

“The Lady Is a Tramp” – Lena Horne

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLwREAX4d2A>

“Smile” – Judy Garland

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EfojCIunh6c>

Sammy Davis, Dean Martin, and Frank Sinatra on The Tonight Show

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNcfCA9UsDQ>

Dramaturgy by Students

Miller Grove High School - Joyce Scott’s Acting II



Front Row: Kadé Bess, Lauryn Hawkins, Aliyah Pickering;
Second row: Lily Snider, Afolake Adebayo, Gues’ Taylor, Anttelicia Daniels, Anifa Murrell,
Brittany Smithers, Deja Rogers, MyAsia Harris, Teacher Joyce Scott;
Back Row: Teaching Artist Barry Stewart Mann, Brandye Byars, Steven Crowder, Shadaisha
Summerall, Jaylen Roberts, Mone’t Jenkins, Shamiya James, Alexandria Sims.