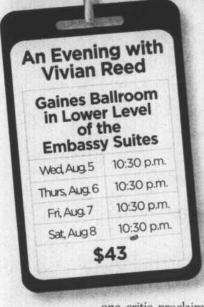
An Evening with Vivian Reed



The road to becoming a Broadway musical legend began for Vivian Reed at the famed Apollo Theater. When she was a teenager, one of her teachers at Juilliard, where she was studying classical music and singing, suggested she put her talent to the ultimate test - Apollo's Amateur Night, Apollo owners Bobby Schiffman and Honi Coles were so blown away by the budding talent, they invited Reed to regularly return to the Apollo in the evenings - after she completed her homework to study the musical legends who graced the theater's stage.

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With an education like that, there is little wonder why Reed is, as one critic proclaimed, "arguably the finest working female

performer in show business today."

She is ready to live up to that acclaim at the NBTF. Her musical revue, "An Evening with Vivian Reed" presented by New York's Kedron Productions, Inc., is designed to show her incredible vocal range. She goes from Motown to Broadway-fare to the Great American Songbook with impressive ease, blessing each tune with her unique vocal styling and pizazz.

The world discovered Reed in the 1970s when she earned a Tony nod and Drama Desk Award for the role of Young Irene in "Bubbling Brown Sugar," a musical featuring songs from the '20s and '30s. She toured with the production around the globe, performing in England, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Italy and France, where she was proclaimed "the new Josephine Baker." She would later play Baker in the French film "La Rumba." Reed has also appeared on the big screen in "Heading for Broadway," "L'Africain" (with Catherine Deneuve) and "What Goes Around," a recent short film she produced.

But it is on stages where Reed has made her mark. A long list of Broadway productions followed her "Bubbling" debut, including 1992's "The High Rollers Social and Pleasure Club," for which she received her second Tony nomination, "Sophisticated Ladies," "Roar of the Greasepaint," "Smell of the Crowd" and "Blues in the Night."

Reed took a years-long hiatus from showbiz to care for her ailing mother. She marked her return in grand style in 2013 when she debuted "An Evening with Vivian Reed" in New York City at 54 Below – "Broadway's Supper Club." Her four shows were sell-outs, and fans showed with a record number of standing ovations that Reed had been gone for far too long.

These days, Reed, who is working on the new musical "One For My Baby," is the teacher. Students at Boston's Berklee College of Music and NYC's Marymount College take their musical cues from her, just as she did from Apollo legends decades ago.

National Black Theatre Festival



Living Legend Award

Maurice Hines

Maurice Hines was 10 when he made his Broadway debut in "The Girl in Pink Tights." He and his younger brother, Gregory, had been studying tap from the time they could walk. Their immense talent often drew comparisons

to the famed Nicholas Brothers. By the time they were old enough to drive, they were touring the world, opening for Lionel Hampton, Gypsy Rose Lee and others and appearing on programs like "The Hollywood Palace" and "The Tonight Show."

As a solo performer, Hines has appeared on Broadway in musicals like "Eubiel," "Bring Back Birdie" and "Sophisticated Ladies." His performance in "Uptown ... It's Hot," which he also choreographed, earned him a Best Actor in a Musical Tony nomination. In 2006, he conceived, choreographed and directed "Hot Feet" on Broadway.

Hines honored his late brother, Gregory Hines, in 2013 with the show "Tappin' Thru Life: An Evening with Maurice Hines." It was halled by critics as a masterpiece by a master showman.