



MAURICE
HINES

BRING
THEM
BACK

A FILM BY JOHN CARLUCCIO

MAURICE HINES, CHITA RIVERA, DEBBIE ALLEN, MEL JOHNSON JR., MERCEDES ELLINGTON,
THE MANZARI BROTHERS, ZACHARY HINES, DARIA HINES, AND THE SPIRIT OF GREGORY HINES.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DEBBIE ALLEN & CHARLES RANDOLPH-WRIGHT WRITER TRACY E. HOPKINS

PRODUCERS JOHN CARLUCCIO & TRACY E. HOPKINS DIRECTOR JOHN CARLUCCIO



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Maurice Hines: Bring Them Back

Press Notes

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Running time: 93 mins

Logline

An outspoken and overlooked elder entertainer navigates the highs and lows of his showbiz career, and a complex relationship with his superstar brother.

Synopsis

Maurice Hines: Bring Them Back is a portrait of the charismatic song-and-dance man from his tap-dancing childhood to today. Maurice and friends—Chita Rivera, Mercedes Ellington and Debbie Allen tell tales from his seven-decade career, including Broadway shows, Hollywood films like Francis Ford Coppola's *The Cotton Club* and about his loving yet difficult relationship with superstar brother Gregory Hines. Ever battling the challenges of being a gay, black man in showbiz, Maurice shares his story with humor and grace.

The documentary magically intercuts archival flashbacks with present-day Maurice, from age 73 to 75. Captured are explosive bursts of tap, comedic moments, and a palpable loneliness as he grapples with growing older without his younger brother by his side.

Maurice, however, is anchored by the love and support of his family and friends.

Director's Statement

Creative partnerships are difficult. They are more difficult when working with family. They are even more difficult when you are in the public eye. I am especially drawn to telling this heightened story about brotherly love and the uneasiness of being estranged from a sibling. The personal and professional dynamic between Maurice and Gregory mirrors challenges I have faced with my younger brother, with whom I once made films.

Maurice has said, "I didn't always respect Gregory, but I never once stopped loving him." This challenging gray area is what I desire to offer insight into. I'm fascinated by how publically two brothers can appear connected, but in private they carry the lingering secret of separation.

Stylistically, archives of the late Gregory Hines haunt the film, similar to how he casts a shadow (and light) over Maurice's daily life. Art imitates life as uncanny clips are strategically interwoven into the story. The fictional dancing and bickering Williams brothers in Coppola's *The Cotton Club* mirror the real-life tension and break-up/make-up of the Hines duo. I re-contextualize clips from TV, movies and award shows, featuring the celebrated Gregory, so they now are seen through the lens of the lesser-known brother. Contrasting the creative paths of the brothers helps give meaning to Maurice's point of view and reveals how it affects him today.

As an overarching theme, I hope viewers gain a better understanding of the nuances of familial love. As a character study, I invite viewers to fall in love with this queer, senior, African-American man, and his lively world of Broadway and tap. The importance of preserving the story of elders like Maurice and the legacy of African-American dance is of great importance to me and my team. This documentary offers insight and new opportunities for compassion at a time when our world truly needs it. Maurice's story is beautifully complex and relevant.

- John Carluccio, Director/Producer

Production Bios

John Carluccio | Producer, Director

John is a two-time Emmy nominated filmmaker with an eye for documenting under-recognized creative communities. His biographical portraits have aired globally (Current TV, MTV, Shorts HD). *Battle Sounds*, his documentary about DJ culture, appeared at the coveted *Whitney Museum Biennial* (1997). John was an AP on Doug Pray's *Scratch* (Sundance, 2001) and portions of his archives have appeared in *Exit Through the Gift Shop* (Oscar nomination, 2010), *Beautiful Losers* (Sundance, 2008) and *Stretch & Bobbito* (2015).

Tracy E. Hopkins | Writer, Producer

Tracy is an award-winning and widely published arts and entertainment journalist. With over 25 years of experience, she has interviewed hundreds of performing artists and written and reported for numerous media outlets including The Associated Press, PEOPLE, Essence, Entertainment Weekly, AARP, Dance Business Weekly and Broadway World, as well as produced news packages for BRIC TV (BRIC Arts Media).

Debbie Allen | Executive Producer

Ms. Allen is an acclaimed actress, dancer, choreographer, director and producer, and currently executive producer on *Grey's Anatomy*. A legend in the dance world, Ms. Allen's body of work has earned her three Emmy Awards, a Golden Globe Award, five NAACP Image Awards, a Drama Desk Award, an Astaire Award (Best Dancer), and the Olivier Award. Her school, The Debbie Allen Dance Academy (DADA), is a non-profit committed to expanding the reach of dance and theater arts to enrich, inspire and transform the lives of thousands of young people around the world.

Charles Randolph-Wright | Executive Producer

Mr. Randolph-Wright is a film, television, and theater director (*Motown: The Musical*, *Greenleaf* on OWN), television producer, screenwriter and playwright. He directed his mentor, Maurice Hines, in Arena Stage presentations of *Guys and Dolls* and *Sophisticated Ladies*.

DIRECTOR
John Carluccio

PRODUCERS
John Carluccio, Tracy E. Hopkins

WRITER
Tracy E. Hopkins

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
Debbie Allen, Charles Randolph-Wright

CO-PRODUCERS
Reuben Atlas
Ron Gillyard

CAST
Maurice Hines

with

Debbie Allen
Cheryl Davis
Silas Davis
Mercedes Ellington
Daria Hines
Zachary Hines
Mel Johnson Jr.
Leo Manzari
John Manzari
Elise Neal
Richard Nurse
Chita Rivera
Jason Samuels Smith
Molly Smith
Jeffery V. Thompson
Charles Randolph-Wright

And the Spirit of Gregory Hines

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS
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Mark Kotlinski
Anthony R. Phillips
Yolande N. Spears

ARCHIVAL PRODUCER

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RESEARCH & COPY EDITOR

Deanna L. Martin

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Derek Shane Garcia (LA)

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Zhongbo Wen

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John Carluccio

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Mattison Thor Carter

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Mark Leiman

Lovelyne Legreme

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Brian Boyd / Blue Table Post

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Doug Pray

Vernon Reid

Amir Bar-Lev

Earle Sebastian

ARCHIVAL | FILM

Luke Hickey

Silas Davis

Broadway Dance Center

Bill Boggs Productions Inc.

Veritone / CBS News Archive / 60 Minutes

Carson Footage courtesy of Carson Entertainment Group

SOUL Footage courtesy of George Schlatter Productions

Sesame Street excerpts courtesy of Sesame Workshop, New York, New York

ARCHIVAL | STILL

Daria Hines

Maurice Hines Jr.

Ken Hanson

Pam Koslow

Richard Nurse

Patricia Panella

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The Republican Newspaper, Springfield, Mass.

Getty Images

Jack Mitchell Frazer Harrison

Jack Vartoogian

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ABC Photo Archives

Rick Maiman/Sygma

Dan Jacino/New York Daily News Archive

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Ouida Washington

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Carluccio Sr., Concetta Carluccio, Diahann Carroll, Bernard J. Marsh,
Maurice Hines Sr., Alma Hines and Gregory Hines

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