

"ENDEARING, HARSH, NO-HOLDS-BARRED MUSICAL...A MUST SEE" – Arkansas Tribune

"TAPS OUT A WINNER...FLAWLESS AND INVENTIVE" – Milwaukee Journal

I REMEMBER



A TAP DANCE TALE

BOOK BY KEVIN RAMSEY & LEE SUMMERS | MUSIC & LYRICS BY LEE SUMMERS & KEVIN RAMSEY

"ONE OF THOSE BROADWAY-BOUND MUSICALS DEVELOPED OUTSIDE NEW YORK THAT CAN WIN TONY AWARDS" – Arkansas Times

SYNOPSIS

TIME: Somewhere in the 1990's.
PLACE: Harlem, USA/ 125th St.
SETTING: Shoe Shine Stand/Various Locations
Cast Size - 7 Principals (2 Women | 5 Men) | Ensemble/Harlemites 6-10 ppl.)



**I REMEMBER
HARLEM**
A TAP DANCE TALE
BOOK BY KEVIN GARRETT & LEE LAMARQUE | MUSIC & LYRICS BY LEE LAMARQUE & KEVIN GARRETT

I Remember Harlem: A Tap Dance Tale (previously titled *If These Shoes Could Talk*) opens at the funeral of Maxwell “Maxey” Ford, a song and dance man of yesteryear whose deferred dreams of stardom have ended with his burial. Maxey leaves behind a vintage shoe-shine stand and building where he ran one of Harlem’s last number running operations out of the shop. His estranged son, Wellington Ford, a successful investment banker, returns to settle his father’s affairs, only to uncover a painful family secret, as the community rallies against the sale of the building, and the rise of gentrification infiltrating the neighborhood.

Maxey was a pillar of the community, and Wellington encounters an array of colorful characters who mourn Maxey most, Reverend Ruby Fletcher, a former Apollo chorus dancer turned preacher, Fast Money, the neighborhood numbers runner, Malcolm, a young tap protege of Maxey’s, and Ivy, Malcolm’s single mother, and childhood-sweetheart of Wellington. But it is the unexpected arrival of Meander “Dr. Rhythm” Miller, an elderly, charismatic, mysterious tap dancing sage, and Maxey’s former dance partner, which challenges Wellington to reconcile with himself, his past, and the musical dance legacy he rejects. After 35 years aboard, and unaware of Maxey’s death Dr. Rhythm arrives back to a changed Harlem to accept on behalf of Maxey and himself, the “Bill Bojangles Lifetime Achievement Honor” at the Apollo Theater.

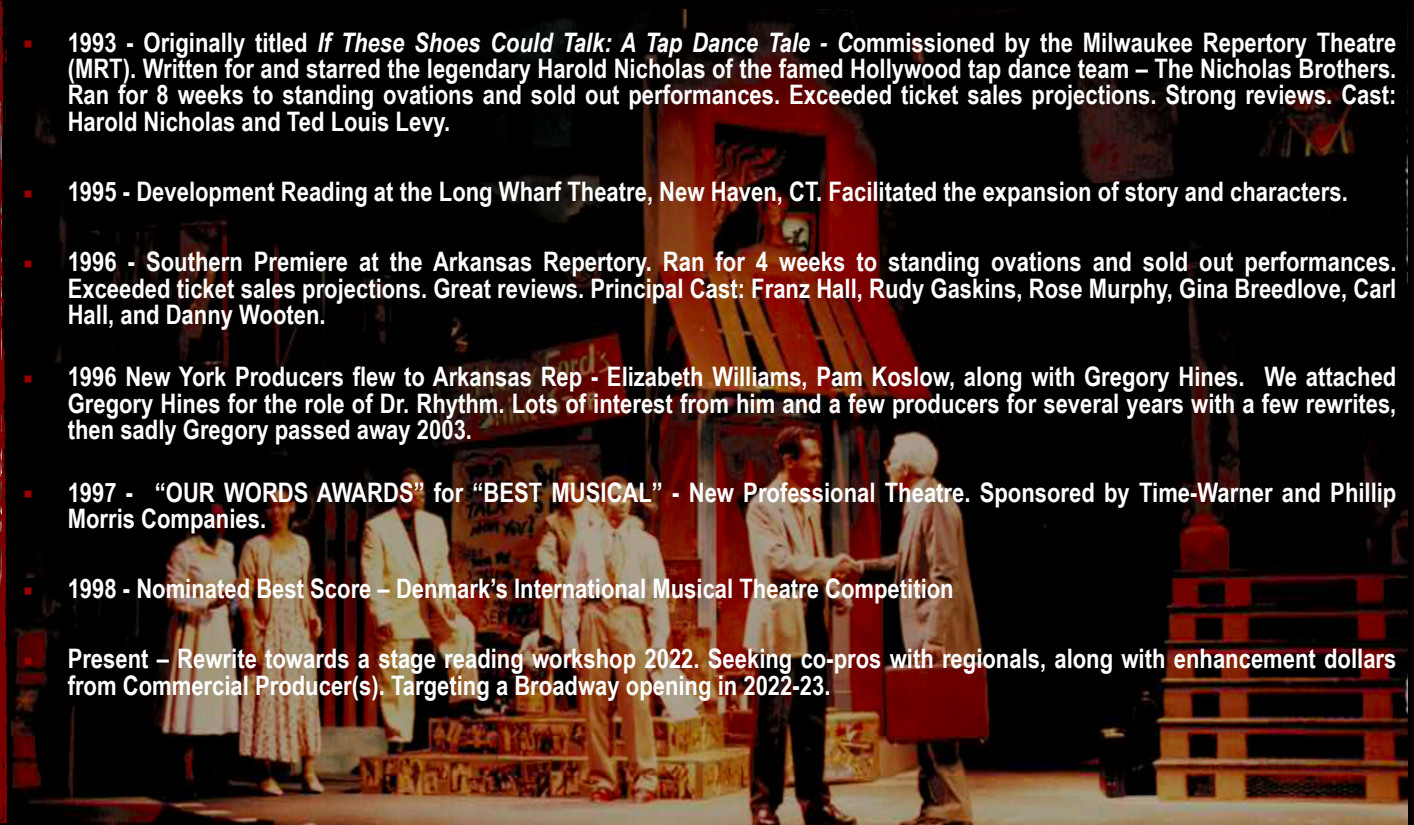
I Remember Harlem: A Tap Dance Tale tells a story of family and legacy, reconciliation and redemption, while celebrating the history of Harlem as the cultural capital of the world, and its rich musical traditions.

HISTORY OF SHOW

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- 1993 - Originally titled *If These Shoes Could Talk: A Tap Dance Tale* - Commissioned by the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre (MRT). Written for and starred the legendary Harold Nicholas of the famed Hollywood tap dance team – The Nicholas Brothers. Ran for 8 weeks to standing ovations and sold out performances. Exceeded ticket sales projections. Strong reviews. Cast: Harold Nicholas and Ted Louis Levy.
- 1995 - Development Reading at the Long Wharf Theatre, New Haven, CT. Facilitated the expansion of story and characters.
- 1996 - Southern Premiere at the Arkansas Repertory. Ran for 4 weeks to standing ovations and sold out performances. Exceeded ticket sales projections. Great reviews. Principal Cast: Franz Hall, Rudy Gaskins, Rose Murphy, Gina Breedlove, Carl Hall, and Danny Wooten.
- 1996 New York Producers flew to Arkansas Rep - Elizabeth Williams, Pam Koslow, along with Gregory Hines. We attached Gregory Hines for the role of Dr. Rhythm. Lots of interest from him and a few producers for several years with a few rewrites, then sadly Gregory passed away 2003.
- 1997 - “OUR WORDS AWARDS” for “BEST MUSICAL” - New Professional Theatre. Sponsored by Time-Warner and Phillip Morris Companies.
- 1998 - Nominated Best Score – Denmark’s International Musical Theatre Competition
- Present – Rewrite towards a stage reading workshop 2022. Seeking co-pros with regionals, along with enhancement dollars from Commercial Producer(s). Targeting a Broadway opening in 2022-23.



PRODUCTION PHOTOS

Arkansas Rep Archival Photos

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BOOK BY KEVIN GRADY & LEE LAMARCA • MUSIC & LYRICS BY LEE LAMARCA & KEVIN GRADY





Kevin Ramsey Co-Author Book, Music & Lyrics



A New Orleans native, Kevin is a multi-talented producing artist who continues to cross-over varied artistic mediums, ranging from serving as the Co-Producer/Director/Writer on the award-winning short film Tap Rap, starring Savion Glover, to starring on Broadway in the award-winning musical *"The Life,"* as well as, *"Five Guys Named Moe,"* *"Oh, Kay,"* *"Black and Blue,"* and *"The Lion King"* (1st Natl. LA). He is an honored recipient of the Astaire and Theater World Awards for 'Best Performance on Broadway, as well as, a nomination from the Outer Critics Circle Awards. He received The Barrymore Award for developing an Arts Literacy program at the Ferris School, which is a maximum secured facility for adjudicated youth. Also, he is a recipient of The Zoni and Audelco Awards, and is a recipient of the Tapology Award for his contribution to preserving the art of tap dance.

Over his 25+ year career Kevin has been mentored by and/or worked with a "who's who" list of illustrious producers, directors, writers, actors, and tap dance legends. As a master storyteller, he is committed to the historical examination and retelling of the African-American musical experience, and its artistic contribution to American, and world culture. His catalogue of commissioned and market-tested musical works include: *"Sirens of Song,"* *"Fire On The Bayou,"* *"Chasin' Dem Blues: Untold Story of Paramount Records,"* *"Sam Cooke: Forever Mr. Soul,"* *"A Cappella Humana,"* and *"Soulttime."* Kevin's directorial/choreographic and/or acting works have been presented at Carnegie Hall with *"Black Stars of the Great White Way,"* The Apollo Theater with *"Malik Yoba's Harlem To Hollywood,"* Off Broadway with *"From My Hometown,"* and at a number of the nation's most prominent regional theaters - The Guthrie, The Alley, Milwaukee Rep, Delaware Theatre Company, Arizona Theater Company to name a few. He has directed and choreographed several national television commercial spots - GM Pontiac's *"It's in the Blood,"* and Prilosec's *"The Purple Pill,"* as well as, a number of industrial corporate films, including MetLife.

Kevin has made numerous guest starring and recurring appearances on such prime-time shows as *"Cold Case,"* *"Saving Grace,"* *"Judging Amy,"* *"24,"* *"The District,"* *"The Hughleys,"* *"State of Grace,"* and *"Charmed,"* as well as, feature films *"Night Falls On Manhattan,"* and *"Trial By Jury."* Presently, he has a slate of Film/TV/Theater projects in development, and he is a distinguished graduate of New York University's Tisch School of Arts, as well as, graduate course work towards his M.S. at The New School's Graduate Media Management program. Presently, he is an Adjunct Professor at both Florida Atlantic University's MFA theater program (online), and at AMDA College for the Performing Arts (LA). www.urbanmusicaltours.com



Lee Summers Co-Author Book, Music & Lyrics



Lee Summers is an award-winning librettist, lyricist, director, performer and producer. As Founder/C.E.O. of Butterfly Theatricals, LLC Summers' body of work is noted for having a strong commitment to the creation and development of musical theater works centering upon African American culture and historical figures. This Tennessee State University/SUNY Empire State/NYU/Tisch Graduate School alum was winner of the 2018 AUDELCO award for "Best Director of a Musical," winner "Best Musical" and a self-directed nomination for "Best Supporting Actor" for *On Kentucky Avenue*, for which he is also a co-writer. Summers' awards also include a BISTRO for writing and performing his autobiographical one-man show, at Off Broadway's Triad Theatre, entitled, *Winds of Change*.

Other credits include lead producer on Off-Broadway's *From My Hometown* (8 AUDELCO nominations), for which he conceived, co-wrote and co-composed with collaborators; *The Funkentine Rapture* (National Alliance for Musical Theatre premiere, starring Billy Porter), co-authored with music and lyrics by Summers, slated for a 2022 production at CUNY's Aaron Davis Hall and *Ella, First Lady of Song*, written by Summers, conceived by Maurice Hines (4 regional productions). Lee's newest work is the *Bayard Rustin Musical*, book, music and lyrics by Summers, which was presented in concert at Bruno Walter Theatre at Lincoln Center in 2018. Other works include lyricist/librettist for *Pangaea the Musical* (Winner of 2018 Bingham Theatre/Theatre in Color Competition and Marymount College staged production). Summers' debut collaboration on a musical was with Kevin Ramsey on the Milwaukee Rep's production of *I Remember Harlem* (formerly *If These Shoes Could Talk*) starring Harold Nicholas of the legendary Nicholas Brothers.

As a young performer Summers worked with the late Michael Bennett, making his Broadway debut in the original *Dreamgirls* and briefly under Lloyd Richards at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center alongside August Wilson, Angela Bassett, Tom Hulce, Kim Staunton and others. Since that time Summers has appeared in numerous stage, film and TV projects, including an appearance at Carnegie Hall with other *Black Stars of the Great White Way*. Throughout 2020-and 2021 Summers' projects have included directing short films for Molloy College, teaching libretto-writing for AMAS musical theatre and presently serving as adjunct faculty for NYU's Steinhardt School of Music and Performing Arts Professions. In 2022 Summers will direct *Hair* for the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival and his musical, *Ella, First Lady of Song* for the Madison Theatre at Molloy College, starring Freda Payne. LeeSummersshows.com

CONTACT



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"THIS MUSICAL IS A TREAT THAT SHOULDN'T BE MISSED...A TOE-TAPPING GOOD TIME" – Milwaukee Journal