



The Gay & Lesbian Theatrical Legacy

A Biographical Dictionary of Major Figures in American Stage History in the Pre-Stonewall Era



hymn "Many Gifts One Spirit" is contained in the new *Methodist Hymnal* and the new *UCC Century Hymnal*.

Carmines
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As a singer and pianist, **Carmines** has appeared in concert and cabaret in New York, London, Paris, and Canada, alone and with **David** Vaughan, singing his own songs and those of such composers as Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, and Jerome Kern. He began acting as a student at Union Theological Seminary, playing the lead in T. S. Eliot's *The Family Reunion*, under the direction of E. Martin Browne. Professionally, he has appeared in Peter Parnell's *Romance Language* (as Walt Whitman) at Playwrights Horizons (1984), in William Gaskill's production of *The Comedy of Errors* for Theater for a New Audience (1990), on the television series *The Equalizer* and *Kojak*, on the *Tonight Show* and the *Today Show*, and in the film *Lorenzo's Oil*. With Margaret Wright (a frequent Judson performer) and Vaughan, he appeared in a CBS *Camera Three* show about Irving Berlin.

In addition to Columbia, he has taught at New York University, the New York Seminar of Earlham College, and Union Theological Seminary, frequently collaborating with his students on the creation of an original musical, for example, *Maslova*, adapted by **David Boles** from Tolstoy's novel *Resurrection*, with music and lyrics by **Carmines** (Columbia University, 1992) and *Martyrs and Lullabies* (Union Theological Seminary, 1996). He has served on the board of Christians and Jews and Arts, Religion, and Culture and as vice moderator of the Metropolitan United Church of Christ. In 1995, he was awarded the Union Theological Seminary's Distinguished Alumnus Medal. Since 1996, with Howard Stein, the former chair of the Columbia University Theater Department, he has taught yearly courses at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church on the problems of various religions and philosophies throughout the world. In these courses, he has been assisted by the choreographers Gladys Roman and, more recently, Elaine Shipman. In 2003 he received the Robert Chesley Award for lesbian and gay playwriting.

Concerning his sexual orientation, Reverend **Carmines** has said that he regards being bisexual as a fact of which he is neither particularly proud nor ashamed. He regards being a Christian and an artist as facts of his life for which he is grateful. Being bisexual is simply what he is—a creation of God, who seeks to create in words and music his view of the universe.

See the **Al Carmines** file, Billy Rose Theatre Collection, New York Public Library of the Performing Arts. This essay is based on interviews and materials furnished by **Carmines** and the archives of the Judson Memorial Church.

David Vaughan