

# Gregory Hines

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Gregory Hines was a dancer in movies and Broadway. He was the lead singer in his band, Severance, and he was in the movies *The Cotton Club*, *White Nights*, *Running Scared*, *Tap*, and *Waiting to Exhale*. He had his own show called *The Gregory Hines Show*. In Broadway, Gregory was in the shows *The Girl in Pink Tights* and *Comin' Uptown*. He won many awards from the movies and shows.

Gregory was born in New York, New York on February 14, 1946. At the age of 5 Gregory started dancing with his brother Maurice. When Gregory was eleven, he and his brother began touring, taking along their private tutor to continue their training. The instructor, Henry LeTang, was a successful choreographer who had taught many famous dancers, including Eleanor Powell and Savion Glover.

Gregory and Maurice performed for two weeks in the Apollo Theater when Gregory was only six years old. As a teenager, Hines and his brother performed with their father, who played the drums in their little group called "The Hines Kids." Hines wanted to write rock music and then decidedly left the group for his newfound career. He later rejoined and together once again, Hines and Maurice started performing in Broadway. From there, Gregory performed in his first comedy film, "History of the World Part I." Hines's acting career was beginning to take off. He appeared in "Waiting to Exhale" along with Whitney Houston and Angela Bassett. Gregory earned many Emmy Award Nominations, most recently in 2001. Gregory's show, "Tap Dance in America" was nominated in 1989. Hines did many other shows and movies and he even had his own sitcom, "The Gregory Hines Show."

I watched a clip from the movie "Tap" and I was amazed at how good his technique was. He had been practicing tap by himself when an old man came in and eventually challenged him to a tap dancing duel. Many older men came in and took turns showing off their moves to Hines. Hines took his turn and showed the others what he could do, and believe me, he could do a lot. Each person did extremely well, but in from my point of view, Hines did the greatest out of them all.

Gregory Hines was known to be one of the greatest tap dancers in the entire world. He was a dancer, actor, singer, and a choreographer. Hines impresses me with his ability to perform in so many different aspects. He also impresses me with his flexibility to fill in for others. In "History of the World Part I," Hines filled in last minute for Richard Pryor. I want to be like Gregory because of his determination and hard work. He grew up in the ghettos of New York and yet he managed to work his way to the top of the ladder of success. I also admire him because he could sing and dance to his own music. I admire him most for his wonderful technique and lovely dancing.

Gregory Hines was a great dancer and much more. I would like to get his autograph instead of anyone else because of the way he "takes care of business." In 2003, Hines died because of liver cancer. He accomplished much in the short life that he lived in dance. He did what he wanted and he made it far. He succeeded in the world of the white man where the color of your skin labeled you as "good" or "bad." He did what many other African Americans couldn't do: rise past all of the racism and show the world what he could do. That is why I admire Gregory Hines and that is why I would like his autograph the most.