

KAREN ZIEMBA

TONY AWARD-winning actor/singer/dancer KAREN ZIEMBA, currently playing 'Georgia Hendricks' in CURTAINS, is one of Broadway's most versatile and honored performers. For her performances in CURTAINS she won the Outer Critics Circle Award and was nominated for the TONY Award, Drama Desk Award, the Ovation Award (in LA). CURTAINS is Karen's 8th Broadway show.

Karen received the TONY, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for her role as the abused wife transformed by her fantasy world in Susan Stroman and John Weidman's hit musical CONTACT at Lincoln Center Theatre.

On and off-Broadway Karen has played murderers and marathoners, a spinster and a party girl, a simple gal of the West, several wives and the daughter of a bombastic American President. She starred as *Roxie Hart* in Kander and Ebb's CHICAGO and as *Rita Racine* in their STEEL PIER (which was written for her and for which she received her first TONY nomination as well as Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle nominations.) Karen also starred as *Polly Baker* in the 'new' Gershwin musical CRAZY FOR YOU on Broadway and around the country (winning the Joseph Jefferson Award in Chicago, IL.)

The Michigan native began her Broadway career in A CHORUS LINE, then followed that by playing *Peggy Sawyer* in 42ND STREET (where co-star Jerry Orbach gave her her first Broadway stage kiss), and appeared as *Alice Roosevelt* in TEDDY AND ALICE. She later earned raves in Kander and Ebb's popular off-Broadway revue AND THE WORLD GOES 'ROUND, capturing the Drama Desk Award and the attention of the musical theatre world.

She won another Drama Desk nomination for her performances as *Agnes* in the revival of I DO! I DO! and her third TONY Award nomination and the Outer Critic's Circle Award for her turn as the wisecracking *Mabel Pritt* in NEVER GONNA DANCE. Karen appeared in the New York City Opera productions of 110 IN THE SHADE as *Lizzie Curry* and THE MOST HAPPY FELLA as *Cleo* and starred in the NY City Center Encores! revivals of THE PAJAMA GAME and BYE, BYE, BIRDIE, appearing as well in ZIEGFELD FOLLIES OF 1936 and Rodgers & Hammerstein's ALLEGRO.

On television, Karen has been featured in several PBS Great Performances telecasts including *Sondheim: A Celebration at Carnegie Hall*; *Ira Gershwin at 100*; and *My Favorite Broadway: The Leading Ladies*, as well as *An Evening at Pops Tribute to George Gershwin*. Karen performed for President and Mrs. Clinton in the East Room of the White House in PBS's *Dance in America*; and was featured in the *Kennedy Center Honors* tributes to both Angela Lansbury and Julie Harris, broadcast on CBS.

On NBC, she's been featured on *SCRUBS*, *LAW AND ORDER*, *LAW AND ORDER: Criminal Intent*, and *LAW AND ORDER: Special Victims Unit*. She also appeared in the film version of *The Producers* (2005) and in Alec Baldwin's film *Shortcut to Happiness*, starring Anthony Hopkins. She appears in Ben Hayfllick's film short, *Pedalfoot* and in James Horvath and Jeffrey Sweet's *The Rub*.

Regional theatre work includes an all-star production of *THE THREE PENNY OPERA* at the Williamstown Theatre Festival; *Beatrice* in *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* (directed by Mark Lamos) at the Hartford Stage and The Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C.; Alan Ayckbourn's dual comedies *HOUSE* and *GARDEN* at the GeVa Theatre in Rochester, NY; Ken Ludwig's *LEADING LADIES* at Ford's Theatre, Washington, D.C.; and *THE OPPOSITE OF SEX* at San Francisco's Magic Theatre, for which she received the Bay Area Theatre Critics' Award.

Karen can be heard on numerous original cast recordings and studio releases of Broadway classics including the complete versions of *THE MOST HAPPY FELLA* and *110 IN THE SHADE* (both recorded at London's Abbey Road Studios). She is currently recording her first solo CD for Jay Records.

Karen has recorded audio books for Simon & Schuster, Harper Collins and Random House Publishers, and is a top voice-over artist.

(647 WORDS)