



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Playbill for Marie Christine

Extracted on Mar-29-2023 09:11:07

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[[column 1]]

[[image - portrait shot of a woman]]
CAROL PUTS IT TOGETHER

"Every song that Stephen Sondheim writes is a three-act play"—that's the way Carol Burnett sees it, and that's the way she plays it 13 times a show, 7 shows a week (Kathie Lee Gifford steps in for an eighth show once a week), in the musical "review" at the Barrymore, Putting It Together. "Then we have ensemble stuff."

When you add up all this, you have 35 separate playlets pretending to be songs—twirling like dervishes around Carol & Co. (George Hearn, John Barrowman, Ruthie Henshall and Bronson Pinchot)—during the course of a not-so-simple, two-hour songbook cavalcade.

There are no spoke words allowed here. Lyrics are the lifeline of the show, linking one number to the next with some degree of logic. What "plot" progression there is comes from the way the existing Sondheim rhymes have been arranged

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A self-described "team player," Carol Burnett relishes being part of the ensemble bringing Stephen Sondheim's Putting It Together to Broadway

along with the way that director Eric D. Schaeffer and his musical stager, Bob Avian, have maneuvered the actors. Sondheim being Sondheim, there are dark, gray skies galore in Putting It Together. In point of fact, Burnett fancies she's doing *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* —The Musical.

"That's how I describe it to people," she admits. "Cameron [producer Mackintosh] and Stevie insisted it's more of a revue, but I kept saying, 'No, there really is a story going on here, something for audiences to follow where they get involved with these characters.' Even though we are singing, there is a thin little storyline, which I find intriguing. Whether it exists onstage or not, it's certainly in my mind—and it helps me in doing the songs."

As advertised, Putting It Together is a "re-veiwng" of Sondheim songs outside the context of the shows for which they were invented—roughly his work over the past two decades (songs born before that were replayed in more conventional revue form in 1977's *Side by Side* by Sondheim)—and, by definition, this necessitates a rethinking of the material. If Burnett sees George and Martha in the older couple she and Hearn play—and Nick and Honey in the younger couple played by Barrowman and Henshall—who's to say these Albee ghosts aren't dramatically haunting the premises (especially if the idea plays)? "The older couple are very rich-in

[[/column 2]]

20 WWW.PLAYBILL.COM [[image - computer cursor]] PURE THEATRE ONLINE

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It may take a little Courage to ask your doctor about Erectile Dysfunction. But everything worthwhile usually does.

When I was diagnosed with prostate cancer, my first concern was ridding myself of the cancer. But I was also concerned about possible progression to sick others. Male erectile dysfunction (E.D.), often called impotence, has led my doctor about treatment options.

In speaking out now, in the hope that men with E.D. will get proper treatment for a condition that affects millions of men and their partners.

Most E.D. cases are associated with physical conditions or systems, like the prostate cancer surgery I underwent. The most common causes of E.D. include diabetes, high blood pressure, spinal cord injury, or surgery for the prostate or colon. E.D. can also be associated with smoking, alcohol abuse, or psychological conditions such as anxiety or stress.

The good news is that many effective treatments are available for E.D. For the important first step, you should see your doctor. Together, you and your doctor can decide which treatment is best for you. Now it's up to you to get the treatment you need for E.D. My advice is to get a medical checkup to be the best way to get ahead about E.D. and what can be done to treat it. It may take a little courage, but I've found that everything worthwhile usually does.

For more information about erectile dysfunction, please call 1-800-435-8215.

GET EDUCATED ABOUT E.D.

[[image - Bob Dole sitting in a chair in a suit]]
It may take a little Courage to ask your doctor about Erectile Dysfunction.

But everything worthwhile usually does.

Bob Dole

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For more information about erectile dysfunction, please call 1-800-433-4215.

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