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# **Caroline, or Change**

Tony Kushner



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"*Caroline* is a breakthrough—a story so grounded in the ordinary details of life that it almost seems to have discovered a new genre." –Richard Zoglin, *Time* 

"Acute, smart and witty: a telling snapshot focusing with sharp clarity on characters captured at a fraught turning point in history—a culture's and a family's." –Charles Isherwood, *Variety* 

"Thrilling. You've never seen anything quite like *Caroline, or Change* and likely won't again anytime soon. There's never a moment that the part-pop, part-opera, part-musical-theater score Jeanine Tesori has conjured up doesn't ideally match Tony Kushner's meticulously chosen words with clarion precision." –Matthew Murray, *talkinbroadway.com* 

"A monumental achievement in American musical theater. Joyful, wholly successful, immensely moving, told with abundant wit and generosity of heart." –John Helipern, *New York Observer* 

**Louisiana, 1963:** A nation reeling from the burgeoning Civil Rights Movement and the Kennedy assassination. Caroline, a black maid, and Noah, the son of the Jewish family she works for, struggle to find an identity for their friendship after Noah's stepmother, unable to give Caroline a raise, tells Caroline that she may keep the money Noah leaves in his pockets. Through their intimate story, this beautiful musical portrays the changing rhythms of a nation. Tony Kushner and composer Jeanine Tesori have created a story that addresses contemporary questions of culture, community, race and class through the lens and musical pulse of the 1960s.

**Tony Kushner**'s plays include *Angels in America*; *Hydriotaphia, or the Death of Dr. Brown*; *The Illusion*, adapted from the play by Pierre Cornelle; *Slavs!*; *A Bright Room Called Day*; *Homebody/Kabul*; *Caroline, or Change*, a musical with composer Jeanine Tesori; and *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures*. He wrote the screenplays for Mike Nichols's film of *Angels in America* and for Steven Spielberg's *Munich* and *Lincoln*. His books include *The Art of Maurice Sendak: 1980 to the Present; Brundibar*, with illustrations by Maurice Sendak; and *Wrestling with Zion: Progressive Jewish-American Responses to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, co-edited with Alisa Solomon. Among many honors, Kushner is the recipient of a Pulitzer Prize, two Tony Awards, three Obie Awards, two Evening Standard Awards, an Olivier Award, an Emmy Award, two Oscar nominations, and the Steinberg Distinguished Playwright Award. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2012, he was awarded a National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama. He lives in Manhattan with his husband, Mark Harris.

**Jeanine Tesori** composed the scores for Tony Award-winning musicals *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Shrek the Musical* as well as *Violet* and *Caroline, or Change*. She is the recipient of multiple Drama Desk and Obie Awards, and her film composition credits include *Nights in Rodanthe, Winds of Change, Show Business*, and *Wrestling With Angels*.

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