

NEW YORK

New York

The Little Engine That Could: When Gay Boys Make Good (Plays) in the BIG Apple.

By Michael C. Green

Charlie and Gary Maffei were united in a commitment ceremony fifteen years ago. At the time, Charlie took Gary's last name. Today, they are one of several couples who have applied for a marriage license in Asbury Park, New Jersey. They maintain a residence there, as well as in Manhattan.

Both Charlie and Gary love the theater. It was one of the things that first drew them to each other. Gary has served as the executive producer of *Town & Gown*, a Long Island Cablevision show. He is a graduate of the prestigious Commercial Theatre Institute and a member of the League of American Theatres and Producers. He has been a producer, writer and principal in several PSAs and short films. This past year he acted as a consultant to the Music Theatre Festival/NYC Gala. Gary is also a member of the 117-

year old "Players' Club".

Charlie "Coe" Maffei is a singer who has performed in both cabarets and stadiums in the New York metropolitan area and Atlanta, Georgia. A tenor with a sound similar to Elton John, he is as comfortable in a small intimate setting as he is singing the national anthem before thousands at a sporting event.

A perennial favorite at Pride events, Charlie has performed at the Javits Center, for Atlantis Cruises, NYC StageFest, Queens Multicultural Festival and Piedmont Park (GA).

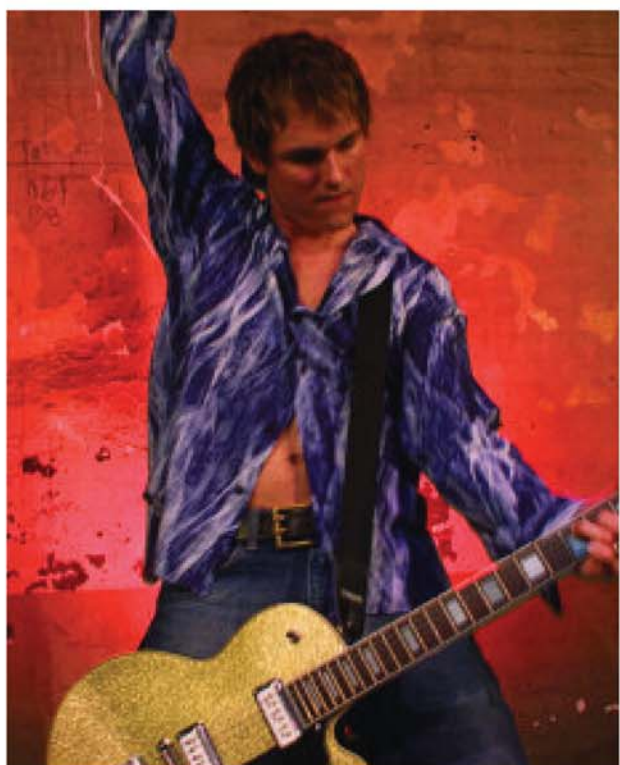
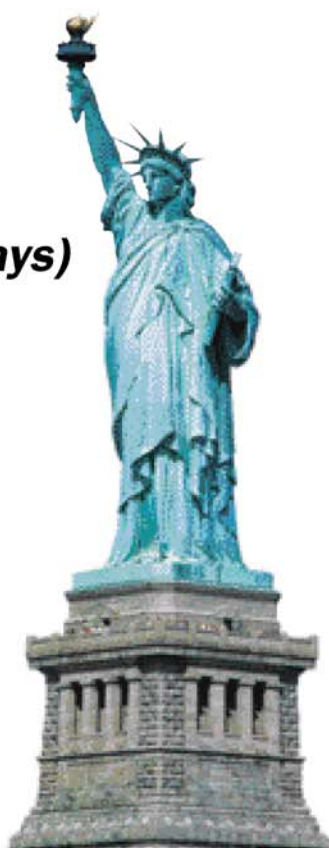
Together, Charlie and Gary are also Maffei Productions - a small production company that has been the associate producer for a number of "little gems" - plays just off Broadway that make New York the city actors flock to, and the city audiences love - shows like "Newsical" and "Brooklyn - The Musical."

Currently, Maffei Productions is co-producing another little gem: "Once Around the Sun" - a new musical featuring an original score by Robert Morris, Steven Morris, and Joe Shane, and a script by Kellie Overbey.

"Once Around the Sun" is a show about music, musicians, and the music busi-

ness - an honest, intimate and irreverent look at one man's efforts to define himself as a musical artist while trying to find his voice as a human being.

"Once Around the Sun" is playing at the Zipper Theatre (336 West 37th Street). See it if you can. It's one of those great little secrets waiting to be discovered on your next New York trip - sort of like the corner bar where tomorrow's next musical dynamo is singing, or the great little restaurant tucked at the back of an alley, and serving food better than your momma used to make!



ASA SOMERS in ONCE AROUND THE SUN.
Photo by Jason Woodruff



MAYA DAYS in ONCE AROUND THE SUN.
Photo by Jason Woodruff

Now Playing at:

The Zipper Theatre
336 West 37th Street (Between 8th and 9th Avenues)
New York NY 10018

Tickets:
Visit www.telecharge.com