

## CAROL BURNETT'S GAY DAUGHTER SINGS FOR SUICIDE LOVER

CAROL BURNETT's daughter Erin Hamilton was beside herself with grief at the funeral of her beautiful lesbian lover, Tanya Sanchez.

Unable to hide her heartache, the 33-year-old singer sobbed uncontrollably as friends tried in vain to console her.

Nearly 200 people attended the Catholic service for Tanya, who days earlier committed suicide by hanging herself in the couple's bedroom. The women had been together for only four months, but Erin says, "We were very much in love."

The comic's daughter, wearing tinted sunglasses and a dramatic black dress that showed off her

colorful tattoos, soulfully sang two songs.

The first was Angel, made famous by rocker Rod Stewart. "This song will always remind me of Tanya and what she meant to me," she explained. And at the close of the

funeral, Erin warbled Amazing Grace.
A photo collage of childhood

A photo collage of childhood snapshots and professional modeling photos traced the short life of 30-year-old Tanya, a part-time actress and model.

6 June 5, 2001 / GLOBE



Tanya (left) committed suicide in the home of her lover Erin, who wept at her funeral (right)

Friends and family wept over the open coffin, surrounded by about 20 enormous flower arrangements.

In their eulogies, Tanya's sister and pals spoke about her beauty,

both inside and out.

Erin bowed her head and cried as the priest briefly addressed the fact that Tanya had taken her own life. "There are many questions left unanswered," he said.

Adding to Erin's sorrow was that her mom, who accepted

her lesbian lifestyle, never met her girlfriend. Neither Carol nor Erin's two sisters attended the funeral.

Says Erin wistfully, "They never even had the chance to get to know Tanya." - ROBIN MIZRAHI



Carol Burnett and her daughter Erin

