

THE TAP TIMES

SUMMER 2003

A quarterly newsletter of the American Tap Dance Foundation

Coming soon! Tap City – The New York City Tap Festival

Message from the Producer

In 2001, Gregory Hines, Hoagy Carmichael and I took a leap of faith in 2001 to establish Tap City, The New York City Tap Festival. Our desire to celebrate tap in the city of its birth ignited a spark that has touched people around the globe.

Tap City presents an amazing roster of preeminent tap artists from around the world, performing, teaching, studying, collaborating and exploring. The New York City Tap Festival features an extensive tap training program, a week of dynamic performances, an innovative Youth Program for children and teens, the annual Hooper and Tap Preservation awards, the new Tap Dance Hall of Fame, and a series of tap talks, tap films, and tap jams throughout Manhattan. Please join us, as we once again gather a vibrant and diverse global tap community in celebration of this uniquely American art form.

On behalf of our dedicated team, I invite you to celebrate with the tap dance community at Tap City 2003.

TONY WAAG, PRODUCER

TAP CITY 2002'S GREAT SUCCESS

- 6000 participants
- 169 classes, taught by 38 world-renowned teachers
- 117 talented young students had opportunities to perform
- 13 Broadway performances
- 26 scholarships awarded
- 241 performers

Corporate Partners Make It Possible!

Announcing this new partnership, Tony Waag, recognized the importance of corporate partners. Continental Airlines has made it possible for Tap City to expand its programs and fundraising strategies. Thanks to Continental's Leonor Villanueva and Millie Uriarte, Tap City was able to establish the Tap Dance Hall of Fame.



The Heckscher Foundation has expanded its support of the Tap City youth scholarship program by awarding \$15,000.

The National Endowment for the Arts announced a \$10,000 grant to the American Tap Dance Foundation to continue its Tap City educational activities.



Applebees (Apple Metro), an early Tap City supporter, has expanded its support of Tap City's Youth Programs.



We welcome our newest sponsor, Target.

And thanks also to our steadfast supporters SAAB, Leo's Dancewear, Capezio Ballet Makers Inc., the Association for a Better New York, the Rudin Foundation, Inc., 212-Postcard and our truly gracious anonymous angel.

The International Tap Dance Hall of Fame 2002



DR. FAYARD NICHOLAS, TONY WAAG AND DR. JENI LEGON

THE HALL OF FAME WAS CREATED TO:

- Honor legendary tap dance artists.
- Promote tap's multicultural roots.
- Educate and engage the public.

The first inductees affirm Tap's historic importance: Fred Astaire, the Nicholas Brothers, Eleanor Powell, Steve Condos, Dr. Jeni LeGon, Baby Laurence, Bill (Bojangles) Robinson and John Bubbles.

Save the Date! Annual Tap City Gala

Wednesday, July 16th, 7:00 p.m.
The Duke on 42nd Street Theater

Benefit performance followed by a meet-the-artists reception. All proceeds go to the American Tap Dance Foundation and the creation of the American Tap Dance Center. Artists include: Brenda Bufalino, Jay Clayton, Barbara Duffy & Company, Gregory Hines, Kazu Kumagai, Mable Lee, the North Carolina Youth Ensemble, Sarah Petronio, Dr. Jimmy Slyde, Tony Waag and other surprise guest artists. Ticket Price \$250. For additional information and tickets call 646-230-9564.

(photo by Louis Boone, Jr)

Tap Youth/Tap Future



THE PUSSYCATS 2003

(photo by Peter Petronio)

“(Tap City is) Working with other groups and learning to be with other students and getting to know different styles of dance.”

LEAH BROWN, 13

Tap’s future is bright because of the incredible young people who are dedicated to tap dance. Each year, Tap City opens with a focus on the future by presenting performances of “Tap Youth/Tap Future” where children, teens and youth ensembles have a chance to perform and share their talents.

Of growing importance is the Tap City Scholarship Fund that assures a Tap City opportunity to children and youth who can take full advantage of dynamic tap classes, performances, and special events.

Consider sponsoring a scholarship for a deserving young person. (\$1,200)

WHAT DO THEY SAY ABOUT US? IN THE WORDS OF OUR TAP YOUTH:

“It’s not just the classes that make this festival so appealing, it’s also getting a chance to meet great new people from all over the world, experiencing the excitement of a Tap City tap jam, and having a chance to celebrate the art with the masters of tap.”

KENDRICK JONES, 18

“Tap has taught me how to have more discipline, respect for other people, and respect for myself.”

TREVON JACKSON, 13

Tap Spans the Globe

The first tap dance recorded in history began as a simple moment of joy in the 5-Points District of Lower Manhattan during the 1860s. Through the years, tap dance has

found new life around the world as countries adapt this original American art form and blend it with their own music styles and cultural rhythms. Tap City continues to fea-

ture prominent performers from more than 28 nations including Russia, Japan, Israel, Estonia, Brazil, Germany, The Netherlands, England, France, Spain, Canada, etc.

Leadership Committee Is Launched

ATDF’s creative team is brimming with more and more ideas and concepts everyday. To raise funds and to promote our growth, we recently established a Leadership Committee.

This newly formed Committee is getting involved with all aspects of our organization and spearheading a full blown fundraising and outreach effort. As ambassadors of ATDF and development leaders, they are spreading the word to new communities about our exciting programs and events, and pursuing tap lovers who may provide critical funding to support our work.

We extend our gratitude to the founding members of our Leadership

Committee and introduce them to all of you. We have engaged unique individuals from all walks of life and various areas of industry and the arts. Their commonality

is their passion for tap dance and their dedication to ATDF. The founders include: Alex Kirk, Managing Director at Lehman Brothers; Jerry Goodwin, who brings vast experience in the financial and non-profit worlds to the Committee; Laila Robins, a former ballerina from Latvia and a real estate expert; and, Philip White, presently Director of Claims at Norman Reitman (a

well-renowned reinsurance agency) with former editorial experience at the New York Times, and a passionate supporter of

the arts. Leadership Committee members are working on recruiting additional members, selling gala tickets, and assisting with a number of other projects.

The Leadership Committee is an important new addition to the ATDF family. We will keep you posted on their activities and successes.

For more information about the Leadership Committee, please email Jill Alcott at jalcott@speakeasy.net.

Fundraising

In 2002, we launched a concentrated fundraising campaign to ensure success for all of our Tap Programs and build towards a capital campaign for our own Tap Dance Center. We are focused on corporate sponsorships, foundations and an individual giving campaign. Consider joining our efforts. For corporations and foundations, call Aileen Schlef at 212-942-5893.

“I am absolutely delighted to be involved, once again, with the ATDF organization and its marvelous staff. It is tremendously exciting to find that ATDF is keeping this unique art form alive - both here in the US and around the world.”

JERRY GOODWIN

Winter Tap Intensive February 15 - 17, 2003

This February, we introduced our first **Winter Tap Intensive** featuring a newly developed Tap Teacher Seminar, a Choreography Residency, a Youth Program and Showcase, a Tap Jam and numerous dynamic master classes for adults, teens and children.

Master Classes

Professional level master classes for youth and adults were taught by leading New York tap instructors focusing on a cornucopia of different tap styles, techniques, and choreographic material.

Teacher Training Program

The first in an ongoing series of seminars was dedicated to providing tap teachers with the very best information on rhythm tap technique and tap artistry.



BUFALO RESIDENCY STUDENTS

TAP CITY: CONTINUING BRENDA BUFALINO'S CHOREOGRAPHY RESIDENCY

The first of an ongoing series of reviving classic tap dance choreography passed down from legendary artists and choreographers in the field.

In this 15-hour residency, Brenda Bufalino taught her work, "The White Buffalo Suite." Created in 1991 for the American Tap Dance Orchestra, this innovative work of orchestral choreography uses counter-point and poly-rhythmic overlay for a large ensemble of tap dancers, all wearing white buffalo masks. On the fifth day, dancers selected from the Residency will be invited to perform this work at the **Tap City Spectacular III** on Saturday night July 19.

Report on Winter Intensive

**DANCER/PROFESSOR ANN KILKELLY
MARCH 28, 2003**

It was an intensive experience in many ways —storms and deep snow outside, stampedes and jams inside. Tap City's Winter Intensive, produced by the American Tap Dance Foundation, kept moving even when the city outside was virtually at a standstill. I took two courses, both of which were new to ATDF's offerings — a choreographic workshop in Brenda Bufalino's "White Buffalo" dance that opens her American Landscape Suite, and the Teachers' Intensive workshop led by Margaret Morrison and Michele Ribble.

The experience with Brenda Bufalino was not only of learning to dance this multi-layered complex work, but also of understanding the choreography from the inside out. In 3 - 3 hour sessions, the 27 of us glimpsed the underlying mythologies of the work as Bufalino, characteristically, gave us the aesthetic narrative underlying the dance as well as the driving rhythms and dynamic shifts of the steps themselves. In the mythologies of some Native American tribes, especially the Plains Indians, the return of the White Buffalo signifies the Apocalypse. Their stampede, according to Bufalino, is magic — a force of nature. And this section of the dance is a stampede as forceful as the imagination of America and its landscape. For me these workshops are a rare opportunity to learn the choreographic art of a great jazz artist. If the energy of the showcase performance we performed at the end is any indication, our experiences were all very powerful.

Ribble and Morrison designed the Teachers' Intensive to work on a number of levels, the center of which was an opportunity for tap teachers from around the country to meet and participate in on their feet conversations about the current state of teaching in this form.

Margaret and Michele designed open conversations based on survey



DERICK GRANT TEACHING

information collected from participants, and the teachers came with a great deal to say. It was very clear that these conversations are long overdue, and that teachers and artists in the field are hungry for methods and resources to help them deepen tap curricula in schools and studios. Teaching teachers is a risky operation, and the two leaders handled this with a terrific balance of humor and sensitivity, helping us see that we can and should challenge our own understanding of basic manipulations and our assumptions about how to teach sequences and techniques. The clearest idea that emerged from this workshop was the need for more shared resources and curricula.

These two workshops were simultaneous with many ATDF's usual array of fine Master classes. The jams and showcases were great fun and evidenced the vitality and survivability of the form. Like all the festivals and workshops produced by Tony Waag and his crew of dedicated and talented staffers, this workshop re-energized me to dance and teach. On the last morning of the weekend, I trudged through knee-deep snow on the quietest streets I have ever seen in New York, arriving with others in a state of holiday excitement. Brenda said, "You can't stop tap dancers." Thank goodness and ATDF.

ATDF Staff

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Bobby Short

Mission

The American Tap Dance Foundation (ATDF) is committed to establishing and legitimizing Tap Dance as a vital component of American Dance heritage.

The ATDF seeks to:

- Create a year-round Conservatory of American Tap Dance.
- Present the annual preminent, internationally acclaimed New York City Tap Festival, performances and workshops throughout the year.
- Facilitate the creation of new works.
- Open the doors of opportunity to new generations, unify diverse communities, and bring tap dance to the forefront of the American public's artistic imagination and appreciation.

Our mission is to perpetuate a higher level of understanding, appreciation, and examination of tap dance as a unique American heritage and art form celebrating community, individuality, and diversity in age, race, sex, social and economic backgrounds.

CO-EDITORS

Aileen Schlef

Tony Waag

DESIGN

Ben Gelinas

Tap Preservation Award

Given to an outstanding individual or organization in the field, for the superior advancement of tap dance through presentation and preservation.

PAST RECIPIENTS

2002 Sali Ann Kriegsman

2001 Marda Kim and the NYC
Committee to Celebrate
National Tap Dance Day



MADELEINE NICHOLS PRESENTING
TO SALI ANN KRIEGSMAN.

(photo by Carolina Kroon)

Hoofer Award

Recognizes prominent tap artists as leaders in the community for their unique contribution to the form and for inspiring future generations.

PAST RECIPIENTS

2002 Dr. Jimmy Slyde

the late Dr. Buster Brown

2001 Gregory Hines



SAVION GLOVER PRESENTING TO DR. JIMMY SLYDE.

(photo by Carolina Kroon)

“From the beginning, the New York City Tap Festival was the most amazing, energetic, talent-packed tap dancing event this city has witnessed! A uniquely diverse crowd of families enjoyed eight days of performances, master classes, a youth program and special events.”

GREGORY HINES, CO-CHAIR



**Bring this coupon in for a
FREE Appetizer*!**

<p style="text-align: center;">On Vesey St. Next door to the United Artists Battery Park Stadium 16 (212) 945-3277</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">234 W. 42nd St. Between 7th and 8th Aves. (212) 391-7414</p>
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*Valid at locations listed above until 6/30/03 only. Appetizer sampler, tax and tip not included. Must surrender this coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Other restrictions may apply. Not valid for use 5/26/03 or 6/15/03.

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FOUNDATION

American Tap Dance Foundation
33 Little West 12th Street #105B
New York, NY 10014
tel: 646.230.9564 www.atdf.org