

THE TAP TIMES

WINTER 2004

A bi-annual newsletter of the American Tap Dance Foundation

Message from ATDF's Executive Director Tony Waag



Tony Waag
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings everyone, and Happy New Year! 2004 has already awarded, and rewarded us on many levels and in many ways. Our hope for a productive, happy and prosperous new year, already promises to become a true reality thanks to the numerous organizations and individuals, especially our incredible anonymous angel, who continue to support the ATDF. Our dedicated staff has managed to move forward, with new inspiration, offering outstanding annual programs such as our Winter Tap Intensive and Tap City, the New York City Tap Festival, as well as create numerous other new and exciting projects just underway!

We've recently expanded our programming which will now be presented year-round, and will encompass and reach a far larger group of students, professionals and audience members throughout the year. We've established a new partnership with the New York Dance Center where we now offer ongoing tap dance instruction, (see schedule of classes) as well as produce a series of Tap Choreography Showcases throughout the year, presenting the cutting edge of tap dance choreography, contemporary works-in-progress and the classic tap dance legacy of our late master choreographers.

I am very pleased to announce the recent creation of The Gregory Hines

Collection of American Tap Dance, which will document the history of tap dance on film and video, print, and photos, and will be housed in the Dance Division of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. The Collection is named in loving memory of Gregory Hines (1946-2003), tap dancer, actor, teacher, choreographer, and performer, who led the legislation to establish National Tap Dance Day. Gregory was on the founding board of directors for the American Tap Dance Foundation, and he always recognized the desperate need to document this American vernacular dance form. In tribute to Gregory, the ATDF is very proud to have the honor and permission to establish such a great testament of his love for tap dance.

I'd also like to announce the new addition to our board of directors! On behalf of our entire organization, I welcome tap dance historian, writer and friend Constance Valis Hill. The ATDF looks forward to her continued participation and fantastic elevating advice and energy! It was her idea to create the Gregory Hines Collection!

Last but not least, it gives me great pleasure to announce that Tap City has just joined the touring roster of Gary Lindsey Artists Services for the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 seasons. If you can't make it to New York in July, maybe you can catch us on the road in the Fall or next Spring.

So hold on to your tap shoes and watch out everybody! It seems we have a lot going on.



In Memory of Gregory Hines

"Gregory Hines brought international attention to tap dance as an American art form, as well as a positive, accessible, forward, and inclusive mode of self expression! He courageously instigated, supported, created, produced, and starred in numerous tap dance productions on the stage, in film and on television. He co-chaired the New York City Tap Festival from the very beginning, and he was always there for me. I completely relied on him for his honesty, his very sound advice, and his total moral support. He exemplified true class all the way. He also had a sense of humor that kept me laughing at myself, and at the world! He was the tap dance community's chief ambassador, totally dedicated to the preservation of tap dance, its history, education and presentation. So, in his spirit, we continue! We will miss Gregory terribly, but we will never forget him. And in his honor, we will continue to present numerous programs which help to promote and preserve the art of tap dance. That's what he would want us to do."

- Tony Waag

Check out our websites at:
www.atdf.org and www.nyctapfestival.com

From the desk of Tap City's Festival Manager



Hjördis Linn
FESTIVAL MANAGER

One of my favorite parts of my job as Festival Manager is the contact I have with all the students. I have the pleasure of talking to tap dancers from all over the world, this year we had a total of 81 foreign students from Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Portugal, Singapore, Slovenija, Spain, and Switzerland. It's



TAP CITY INTERNS 2003

especially heartening and inspirational that people are tapping all over the world at a time when the tap community has experienced a great deal of loss. It makes a lot of sense that Tap City, being in New York, would have this international aspect, but it is certainly not guaranteed. Artists all around the world have the potential to be the ultimate diplomats by communicating in ways that can transcend words and offer alternative active ways to articulate human experience. The international students really inform and enrich the whole experience at Tap City and we're thrilled that they travel so far to be a part of the New York City Tap Festival.

This last year and a half at Tap City I've discovered that tap is so much about being human and connecting to the rhythms of the world: cultural rhythms as well as planetary and universal. I've discovered this while in my role as an administrator and manager, witnessing

many moments of the festival: on stage and in the classes. At the end of one of Tap Youth/ Tap Future shows when everybody does the shim sham Ernest Brownie Brown hopped up on stage and was right next to Byron Tittle, a young dancer taught by David Rider, who was dancing with so much joy and enthusiasm that he was glowing. Seeing Brownie and this young man on stage at the same moment in time dancing their hearts out made me so happy and fulfilled, this I thought, is what it's all about.

A group of people who deserve applause are the Tap City interns who are crucial to the festival; they take attendance in classes, help with administrative duties, pick up VIPs and teachers, answer students' questions and last but not least schlep equipment and materials to the studios and theater in exchange for classes. Well, by the last Sunday

of the festival, the on site Tap City office went from intern tap zone to nap zone. Brenda Bufalino dropped in after her last master class of the festival and a spontaneous round table discussion began between Brenda and the interns. It was a moving moment to see all these sleepy workers perk up asking Brenda all sorts of questions, from inquiring about tap shoes to the subtleties of creating choreography. Looking at a couple of completely sacked out sleeping helpers Brenda decided that they'd all worked so hard she would teach a special master class for them later that week. They were thrilled and Brenda did. Tap City is determined to encourage these kinds of connections between seasoned professionals and young dancers beginning their careers.

If you are interested in volunteering at Tap City 2004, contact Ms. Linn at: administration@nyctapfestival.com or call (646) 230-9564

Note from ATDF's Artistic Director Brenda Bufalino



Brenda Bufalino
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Tap Dance is now practiced and performed by artists internationally. Once considered to be a uniquely American phenomena, its appeal is now worldwide. Tap dancers arrive in New York City expecting to find excellent training and professional opportunities. But because there is no coherent approach to tap dance studies in New York, they do not find what they are looking for. The only instruction available are individual classes at Broadway Dance, or Steps Studio, where an ever changing faculty with no supervisory direction, teach fragmented manipulations, and steps of eight bar phrases that never become part of a compositional whole. They do not learn technique, composition, theory or structures for improvisation. Their training is unsupervised and extremely limited. This situation is disappointing for the student and extremely detrimental for the health and future of Tap Dance, America's own indigenous art form.

The American Tap Dance Foundation wishes to change all that. Our goal is to develop a comprehensive program that includes many styles taught by the most professional teachers; masters of their own styles who can articulate their methods clearly and are eager to help the student develop virtuosity, and a thorough knowledge of the form; it's history, diversity, vernacular, various techniques and choreographic structures.

Knowledge of the history of tap, and its' unique development, is the glue that holds our family together. Acknowledging the contributions of past masters and teaching their styles, builds pride in our community and encourages the student to excel and make their own innovations and contributions.

The American Tap Dance Foundation intends to make New York City the true home of tap dance, so that students who come here from around the world, know that they will be receiving the best training, and see the best tap performances in the country.

The Gregory Hines Collection of American Tap Dance



THE LEGENDARY COPASETICS, BUSTER BROWN, LESLIE "BUBBA" GAINES AND CHARLES "HONI" COLES - THE DANCING THEATER, NEW PALTZ 1975

To honor the memory of Gregory Hines, master of Twentieth Century American tap dance, The American Tap Dance Foundation, in collaboration with the Dance Division of The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, is proud to announce the development of the Gregory Hines Collection of American Tap Dance. This project aims to create an archived collection of tap dance on film and video,

print and photographs.

The mission is to preserve, acquire, and make available for public viewing rare materials representing the heritage of the American art form tap dance.

Any funds raised for this project will go directly into the project to cover program costs and expenses associated with the project, and will not benefit any particular individual or organization.

If you or your organization is considering a donation of materials to be included in the Gregory Hines Collection of American Tap Dance, or if you have any questions, please contact: Madeleine M. Nichols, Curator, Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, (212) 870-1655 dance@nypl.org. Tony Waag, Executive Director, American Tap Dance Foundation, (646) 230-9564 tonywaag@nyctapfestival.com

Introducing Ms. Constance Valis Hill

Constance is a jazz dancer and choreographer dedicated to writing about and historicizing jazz tap dance. She has studied with Pepsi Bethel, Matt Mattox, Nat Horne, Charles



"Cookie" Cook and members of the Copasetics. After creating and performing The Doilie Sisters at La Mama, and directing Sole Sisters for the Changing Times Tap Company, she earned an M.A. in Dance Research and Reconstruction from City College of the University of New York, and a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from NYU. Her articles and reviews have appeared in Dance Magazine, Village Voice, Studies in Dance History, International Tap Association, and Dance Research Journals. Her book, Brotherhood in Rhythm: The Jazz Tap Dancing of the Nicholas Brothers, won the 2001 ASCAP Deems Taylor Award. She is currently an Associate Professor of Dance at Hampshire College in Massachusetts.

Tony Waag's Tap City on Tour

Tap City has just joined the touring roster of Gary Lindsey Artists Services for the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 seasons. Tap City will offer full-evening presentations that showcase the best of the annual New York City Tap Festival, touring North America for the first time with an international cast of legendary tap veterans, cutting-edge tap soloists, and up-and-coming young talent. The cast of Tap City will be drawn from a list of performers who have been featured in the New York City Tap Festival since its inception in 2001.

Lindsey Artists Services reports "Highlighting innovative and original material created by tap soloists and ensembles from around the world, three

generations of hoofers come together in celebration of America's most virtuosic and entertaining art form. Tap City presents a rich and diverse kaleidoscope of tap dance styles, rhythms, and musical feet in an exciting program filled with passion, humor, and joy."

Tap City is available for touring October-November, 2004, and February-April, 2005.

The company also offers master classes in tap for all levels of students as well as 50-minute programs for young people. If you would like to receive additional information, a promotional packet, and/or a videotape on this company, please contact: LindseyArtists@aol.com, call 1-800-949-2745, or visit: www.lindseyartists.com



Just for Percussive Kidz! Announcing On-Going Youth Tap Programs

Classes for Children and Teens ages 3-16 will now be offered year round beginning July 2004.

With an outstanding faculty designed especially for today's tap youth, classes will be offered in:

- Classical Tap
- Cutting Edge Tap
- Rhythm Tap
- Tap Technique
- Tap History
- Percussion
- Tiny Taps

Workshops and intensive study also offered for young professional children and pre-professional youth.

To learn more about our summer dance programs, summer tap camp, and fall programming, please contact Youth Program Director, Michele Ribble at: MicheleRibble@NYCTapFestival.com



TONY ON THE FORCE PLATE LAST YEAR.

What's happening inside as you dance?

We are studying joint forces and stresses that occur while tap dancing. Volunteer subjects must travel to a bio-mechanics lab at Long Island University in Brooklyn (Neveins Street) and perform several tap dance steps on a force plate while being filmed. Approximately 2 hours of time would be involved. Tap dancers' joint stresses have not been studied previously. Interested dancers may call Lester Mayers MD at (914) 773-3267 for further details.

Tap City 2003 Awards Recipients

TAP PRESERVATION AWARD

Madeleine Nichols

HOOFER AWARD

Brenda Bufalino

TOE KNEE AWARD

Yvette Glover

INTERNATIONAL TAP DANCE HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Charles "Honi" Coles
Chuck Green

Tap City / ATDF Community Outreach Events 2003



BARBARA DUFFY AND COMPANY AT STUDIO 54.



CHARLEY GARTMAN & COULEE SLATNICK WITH MAYOR BLOOMBERG.

FRIDAY MAY 16TH 2003

Benefit for the Tito Puente Performing Arts Academy, Jr. High School 117 in East Harlem

Benefit for the school's tap program (we helped raise over \$1,000)

Performers included Tony Waag as the Master of Ceremonies, Tap Dancers: The Tito Puente Tappers, Cintia Chamecki, Michelle Dorrance, Rod Ferrone, Walter Freeman, Charley Gartman, Andrea Goodman, Derick K. Grant, Susan Hebach, Corey Hutchins, Margaret Morrison, Max Pollak, Lynn Schwab, Coulee Slatnick, Kirsten Burke Smith, Sherry Stregack, Tony Waag, & Karen Callaway Williams Musicians: Larry Ham, Lee Hudson, Eddie Ornowski, Lissa Freeman & Bobby Sanabria. Stage Manager: Hjördis Linn.

MONDAY JUNE 16TH 2003

Casita Maria's Third Annual Community Event (part of Bronx Week)

Honoring Michael Bloomberg and Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion

Performers included ATDF's partner Tap Dance for Young People. Directed by Susan Hebach featuring Charley Gartman & Coulee Slatnick.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST 2003

NYC & Company Sales Meeting Held at Jimmy's Uptown in Harlem

Performance by Tap City Scholarship student Corey Hutchins. And we were graced by the inimitable company of the queen of the "talkies" Ms. Mable Lee

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27TH 2003

National Black Sports & Entertainment Hall of Fame & Museum Gala Awards Ceremony Presented by the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce

Performers included Tap City Scholarship student Kendrick Jones II and tap legend Harold Cromer who danced to honor Bill "Bojangles" Robinson and Gregory Hines

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22TH 2003

Change for Kid's 6th Annual Talent Extravaganza at Studio 54

Performance included "Boom" Choreographed by Gregory Hines, introduced by Maurice Hines and performed by Barbara Duffy and Company (Cintia Chamecki, Michelle Dorrance, Barbara Duffy & Lynn Schwab)

ATDF Supporters

A very special thanks goes to the following individuals for recent contributions:

Friends

- Eriko Amino
- Sheri Bechelli
- Nancy Dougherty
- Jim & Terry Lerman
- Ann Mitra
- Sue Morgenroth
- Ray & Renate Morrison
- Victoria Moss
- Barbara Preis
- Barbara Shenton

Donors

- The Carrubba Family
- Lorraine Condos
- Gloria Gardner
- Charles Goddertz
- Sali Ann Kriegsmann
- Gene Medler
- Nicholas & Margaretta Niles

Sponsors

- Robyn Astaire
- Maggie Brown
- Nancy Deering
- Susan Filipiak
- Jill Fitzgerald
- Virginia Harlow Habig
- Art & Ellen Jones
- Pam Koslow
- Nancy Kremisdorf
- Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Sanders
- Larry Schneider

Patrons

- Stephanie Blackmon
- Richard Ford
- Susan Goldbetter
- Jerry Goodwin
- Harvey and Donna Manger-Weil
- Jim & Helen Waag
- Mary Sean Young

Silver Benefactors

- Thelma & Steve Goldberg
- Cindy & Bill Roush

Golden Benefactor

- Jean & Larry Dinkelman

Upcoming Events & Activities

ATDF Winter Tap Intensive, February 13th - 16th

A weekend of 12 dynamic Master Classes for adults and teens, 3 Choreography Residencies, and the 2nd Annual Tap Teacher Seminar.

Tap Choreography Showcase, Friday, February 13th (8 - 10 p.m.)

Works in progress and new tap endeavors are presented. Hosted by Brenda Bufalino and Tony Waag.

Party and Tap Jam, Saturday, February 14th (8 - 11 p.m.)

In honor of Gregory Hines on his birthday!

ATDF Fundraising Reception and Performance, Monday, March 22nd (6 - 9 p.m.)

Experience an exclusive preview performance of Tap City, the annual NYC Tap Festival held in July! This event will be hosted in a private, residential loft in the East Village of Manhattan. All proceeds support future ATDF programming.

Tap City features hundreds of tap dance courses and master classes with internationally renowned teachers, teen and children's programs, premiere Broadway performances, the annual Tap Dance Hall of Fame, Tap Preservation and Hooper Awards, tap talks, tap films, tap jams and more!

Tony Waag's Tap City, the New York City Tap Festival, Saturday, July 3 - Saturday, July 10, 2004

For detailed information, locations, future updates, additional programming and general information on the ATDF, please visit our website at: www.atdf.org or call (646) 230-9564.

.....

Sponsors

The ATDF welcomes our dedicated and loyal sponsors who have already agreed to support us in 2004!



TAP CITY'S SECOND YEAR PARTNER, THE NEW YORKER HOTEL. MS. AURORA CHIARELLA WITH FESTIVAL MANAGER HJÖRDIS LINN AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER TONY WAAG

The ATDF has just been awarded a grant in support of Tap City 2004 from the Fund for Creative Communities/New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program administered by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

The Heckscher Foundation FOR CHILDREN

A very special thank you goes to our friends at the Heckscher Foundation for Children for their outstanding support of Tap City's Youth Scholarship Program!



The Roya Curie Dance Scholarship Foundation



HarariVille



Staff

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

Tony Waag

ADMIN. DIRECTOR/FESTIVAL MANAGER

Hjördis Linn

DIRECTOR OF ADULT PROGRAMS

Margaret Morrison

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH PROGRAMS

Michele Ribble

MULTIMEDIA/IT MANAGER

Bojan Furlani

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Audrey Ross

DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT

Jill Alcott

Board of Directors

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/PRESIDENT

Brenda Bufalino

VICE PRESIDENT

Hoagy B. Carmichael

HONORARY - DECEASED

Charles "Honi" Coles

CORPORATE EXECUTIVE/CITIBANK - RETIRED

Jerry P. Goodwin

JAZZ TAP HISTORIAN

Constance Valis Hill

HONORARY - DECEASED

Gregory Hines

ENTERTAINER

Bobby Short

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/SECRETARY -TREASURER

Tony Waag

ACTRESS/DANCER

Sean Young

Partners

New York Public Library for the
Performing Arts

International Tap Association

New York Committee to Celebrate
National Tap Dance Day

New York Dance Center

Chelsea Dance Studios

Tap Dance for Young People

NYC & Company

Circuit Productions, Inc.

The New Yorker Hotel

Schedule of Tap Classes at New York Dance Center

The American Tap Dance Foundation is proud to announce our new partnership with the New York Dance Center in Chelsea. The ATDF and the NYDC has combined forces offering quality tap dance instruction on all levels for adults. All classes held at: **New York Dance Center**, 158 West 26th Street (between 6th and 7th Avenues)

CURRENT SCHEDULE

Barbara Duffy *Advanced Beg*
Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Lynn Schwab *Beginning*
Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Brenda Bufalino *Intermediate Tech*
Tuesdays, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Begins February 17th

On-going begins February 20th:
Derick Grant *Intermediate/Advanced*
Fridays, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

On-going begins February 23th:
Michele Ribble *Absolute Beginner*
For those with little or no tap dance
experience at all.
Mondays, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Brenda Bufalino *Inter/Advanced*
Wednesdays, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
8 Week Workshop Jan. 7th – Feb. 25th

For information on fees and how to
register, please call us at (646) 230-9564



MICHELE RIBBLE AT NEW YORK DANCE CENTER.

Contributions

The American Tap Dance Foundation, is a New York City based, 501c3 non-profit organization founded by tap dancers Brenda Bufalino, Tony Waag, and the late Charles "Honi" Coles. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to cover expenses associated with these very important programs:

- Training Scholarships for children and teens.

- The Gregory Hines Collection of American Tap Dance.

- The International Tap Dance Hall of Fame awards, retrospectives, screenings and educational programs.

- Year-Round Tap Dance programming building towards a capital campaign for our home for tap dance, The American Tap Dance Center.

As a supporter, you will formally become part of the extended Tap City Community and receive many benefits (in addition to a tax deduction), including:

- Your name and an acknowledgment in program credits for all ATDF events.

- Our bi-annual newsletter *The Tap Times*.

- Special invitations to upcoming receptions and events.

Please join us, as we gather a vibrant and diverse global tap community and communicate across cultural and national boundaries through this uniquely American art form. To make a contribution, please contact us at: (646) 230-9564 or visit our website at: www.atdf.org The ATDF deeply appreciates your support!

AMERICANTAPDANCE

FOUNDATION

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