



PRESS RELEASE

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“TAP CITY”- JULY 6-13

International Tap Dancers Flock to NYC for Week-Long Festival

“TAP IT OUT” - 300 Tapping Feet in the Center of Times Square Saturday, July 13 at Noon



(L-R) The Late Paul Draper, 2013 Tap Dance Hall of Fame Inductee; *Tap it Out* 2012, Photo: Debi Field; Barbara Duffy, 2013 Hooper Award Recipient

New York, NY, May 14, 2013 – *Tap City*, the weeklong **International Tap Festival**, will take place **Saturday, July 6 to Saturday, July 13** with a series of events and showcases in Tap’s home town, New York City. Drawing participants from around the world, **Tap City**, presented by **The American Tap Dance Foundation** (ATDF), will feature film presentations, awards, master classes and performance events by international artists. The week’s happenings will culminate at **noon on Saturday, July 13**, with 150 tap dancers hoofing it out in the heart of Manhattan at **Father Duffy Square/Times Square** in a free, public, outdoor celebration.

Tap City has become the premiere meeting place where hundreds of American and international tap dancers come to study, teach, and perform – to share new ideas and to collaborate on new productions, celebrating a vibrant and diverse global tap community.

“Our goal, in addition to giving audiences great entertainment- is to establish a higher level of understanding and examination of tap dance as an art form. The creation of an international tap dance festival in New York City secures the preservation of tap dance and perpetuates its continued growth as a thriving contemporary art form. The **New York City Tap Festival** also makes a lasting statement about New York City and its dedication to this uniquely American form of art. We pay homage to tap dance by producing a festival in the city known for much of its major development,” said Tony Waag, Artistic and Executive Director of ATDF.

Tap City is committed to presenting new work and new voices from around the world. Tap dance, which began in America in the 1800’s on plantations and on city streets, is now produced all over the globe. Thanks to the efforts of numerous U.S. tap soloists and companies (including the **American Tap Dance**

Orchestra) who toured, taught, produced and promoted tap internationally, tap dance has been seen all over the world. Tap dance festivals and tap dance studios have sprung up as far away as Beijing!

Highlights of this year's **Tap City** Festival include:

TAP AWARDS

Tuesday, July 9 at 730pm – The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Bruno Walter Auditorium

(Enter at 111 Amsterdam Avenue - 65th Street)



Tickets: \$15 - Advanced purchase required!

Contact ATDF at 646-230-9564

Hosted by ADTF Artistic/Executive Director Tony Waag, **Tap Awards** will feature film presentations and performances honoring recipients of this year's **Hoofer** and **Tap Preservation** awards and inductees into the **International Tap Dance Hall of Fame**. **Recipients** this year include:

2013 Hooper Awards

Barbara Duffy

Dean Diggins

2013 Tap Preservation Awards

The late Ernie Smith

Sally Sommer

2013 Tap Dance Hall of Fame Award

The late James "Buster" Brown

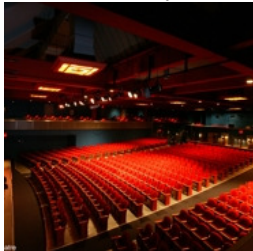
The late Paul Draper

TAP INTERNATIONALS

Thursday, July 11 at 7:30pm - Symphony Space

PJ Sharp Theater

2537 Broadway at 95th Street, New York, NY 10025



Tickets: General \$36 (Day of Show \$40)

Children 17 & under/Symph. Member/College Student/Senior: \$20 (Day of Show \$24)

<http://www.symphonyspace.org/event/7937-tap-international-global-rhythms>

Box Office: 212.864.5400 **Hours:** Tues - Sun from 1 - 6pm. (Box office windows remain open on the night of a show until one half hour after curtain)

TAP INTERNATIONALS will feature leading artists from around the world who will mix and make global magic. New work will be introduced and explored demonstrating tap's fluidity and evolution, particularly its ability to intersect with a broad cross-section of percussive dance, music and cultures.

A global community of artists that include international soloists, contemporary tap ensembles, raw talent and leading tap masters, will combine tap dance with world music, body percussion, gumboot, funk, swing, step dance, vocals, film, and storytelling.

Participants include Brenda Bufalino (US), Flavia Costa (Brazil), Michelle Dorrance (US), Felipe Galganni (Brazil), Corey Hutchins (US), Chikako Iwahori (Japan), Ryan Johnson (US), Kazu Kumagai (Japan), Lisa La Touche (Canada), Winston Morrison (Australia), Claudia Rahardjanoto (Germany/Indonesia), Rumba Tap (Cuba), Lynn Schwab (US), the Tap City Youth Ensemble (Africa/US), and Nicholas Young (US).

TAP IT OUT

Saturday, July 13 noon, 1 & 2pm – *Father Duffy Square/Times Square*



Between 45th and 47th Streets, Broadway and Seventh Avenue

Tap it Out is a free, public, outdoor event, and will be presented and performed three times on the afternoon of Saturday, July 13th in the heart of Manhattan. Dancers and students of all ages and levels, from all over the world, will join together to create a thunderous chorus of 300 hundred tapping feet in a pre-choreographed orchestral collage of a cappella unison rhythms, contrapuntal sequences, individual riffs, movements and grooves. *Tap it Out* will be conducted by *Tap City* producer **Tony Waag**.

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MORE ABOUT THE “TAP AWARDS”:

The annual [**Hoofer Award**](#) recognizes prominent tap artists as leaders in the community for their unique contribution to the form and for inspiring future generations.

The annual [**Tap Preservation Award**](#) is given to an outstanding individual or organization in the field for the superior advancement of tap dance through presentation and preservation.

The International [**Tap Dance Hall of Fame**](#) is the only tap dance hall of fame exclusively focused on tap dancers. It features founding and innovative 20th and 21st century professional tap dancers. With a collection of photographs, biographies, and videos, the Hall of Fame is becoming a colorful and diverse retrospective of America's seminal tap dance personalities. ATDF Artistic Director **Tony Waag** created the first International Tap Dance Hall of Fame in July of 2002 at the request and suggestion of the late

[Gregory Hines](#). Its purpose is: to honor the contributions of legendary tap dance artists by preserving their legacy for future generations to enjoy; to increase public awareness of the diversity inherent in the form; and to provide an educational experience available to local, national, and international professionals, students, and the general population.

MORE ABOUT THE “TAP INTERNATIONALS”:

Tap Internationals was introduced at the very first *Tap City* in 2001 at the Duke on 42nd Street Theater. Since then it has become a favorite and often requested concert event receiving much praise and critical acclaim.

"The all American art of tap-dancing has taken on a life of its own in Barcelona, Nuremberg, and cities throughout Japan and Brazil as well, to judge by 'Tap Internationals' ...the spirited, warmhearted evening emphasized choreographed routines in a traditionally improvised, idiosyncratic art form," said Jennifer Dunning in the [NY Times](#) 7/17/06.

Like its kissing cousin jazz, tap has become an international form of expression. It now returns to us subtly transformed by the many cultures that have adopted it as an art form. *Tap Internationals* present outstanding dancers representing Africa, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, France and the USA.

MORE ABOUT “TAP IT OUT”:

Tap It Out is a contemporary percussion and movement “soundscape” that promotes tap dance as pure music. Numerous eight and 16 bar phrases are developed through repetition, creating multiple canons and conversations, mixing and blending unison segments with overlaid beats that build to crescendos or diminish to a silence creating a super “hybrid” explosion of tones and rhythms.

“As a producer and director, I am always trying to find new ways of inspiring the next generation of hoofers, creating and building new audiences and educating the general public about this wonderful, yet very complex American art form we call Tap Dance. *Tap It Out* is not only an opportunity to celebrate the form, but also to expand and challenge the limited perception that tap dance is either old fashioned, only for the exceptionally talented, or too immature to be taken seriously.... as we celebrate this fantastic American art form this July, we’re reintroducing Tap Dance to the public where it was actually born and developed, on the street corners of Manhattan.” - **Tony Waag, ATDF Artistic/Exec Director.**

ABOUT THE AMERICAN TAP DANCE FOUNDATION

ATDF was founded in 1986 by tap master [Charles “Honi” Coles](#), his protégée [Brenda Bufalino](#), and the Foundation’s current artistic and executive director, [Tony Waag](#). Called the American Tap Dance Orchestra until 2001, the organization was directed and choreographed by Ms. Bufalino and presented hundreds of stage performances and films from 1986 through 1999. From 1989 to 1995, it also operated **Woodpeckers Tap Dance Center**, where tappers from all over the world gathered for classes, workshops, jam session and performances. In 2002 with a new generation of tap dancers and enthusiasts, the Orchestra was renamed under the artistic direction and leadership of **Tony Waag**.

ATDF programs include:

- **Tap City, the annual New York City Tap Festival**

- **The Tap City Youth Ensemble**
- **Concert Performances & National Tours**
- **The Gregory Hines Youth Scholarship Fund**
- **The International Tap Dance Hall of Fame**
- **Annual Hooper & Tap Preservation Awards**
- **The Gregory Hines Collection of American Tap Dance** archives at the **Lincoln Center Library**

American Tap Dance Center opened in 2010 as the home to the *American Tap Dance Foundation*, and offers year-round educational programs including:

- **Tap Dance Conservatory**
- **Ongoing Classes for Youth, Teens & Adults**
- **Tap Choreography Intensives & Showcases**
- **Master Workshops for Professionals**
- **Artists In Residence Program**
- **Reconstruction & Choreography Commission Projects**
- **Rental Space for rehearsals**
- **Tap Talks, Jams & Film Presentations**

MORE:

[American Tap Dance Foundation \(ATDF\)](#)

[American Tap Dance Foundation Programs](#)

ABOUT THE FOUNDERS:

TONY WAAG (Producer/Artistic/Executive Director/Teacher) founded the American Tap Dance Foundation (formerly known as the American Tap Dance Orchestra) in 1986, along with Brenda Bufalino and the late Charles "Honi" Coles. From 1989-1995, he co-created and operated, with Ms. Bufalino, Woodpeckers Tap Dance Center which became a model for numerous tap organizations and tap studios worldwide creating, producing, and presenting various educational programs for adults and children year-round, as well as annual winter tap intensives with master classes, courses and workshops taught by leading International artists and master tap dancers. In 2001, he renamed the organization the American Tap Dance Foundation and created Tap City, the annual New York City Tap Festival with premiere performances of all styles of tap by artists from around the world, as well as an extensive training program for adults, teens and children, city wide events, tap jams, student showcases, panel discussions, lectures and film screenings. As a performer and choreographer, he has been featured in hundreds of concert, film and television productions including appearances at the legendary Apollo Theater, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the United Nations, the Atlanta Arts Festival, the Utah Arts Festival, the Colorado Dance Festival, the Lincoln Center "Out-of-Doors" Festival, the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon, PBS's "Great Performances, a national Seagram's commercial, and in a French car commercial for Renault in Paris. International appearances include USIA tours of Turkey, Poland, Cyprus, Latvia and Estonia, and recent American ambassador tours of Armenia and Romania with his production of Tap City on Tour. He has also taught and performed in Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Italy, Russia, Scotland, Singapore, and Spain. Mr. Waag has received numerous grants towards the presentation and preservation of tap dance as a unique American art form. In 2002, he created the first International Tap Dance Hall of Fame honoring the contributions of legendary tap dancers by preserving their legacies for future generations to enjoy. He also created the annual Tap Preservation and Hooper Awards, the Gregory Hines Youth Scholarship Fund, and the Gregory Hines Collection of American Tap Dance Archives which are now housed at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. In 2009, he created and staged the touring production of "Thank You Gregory", a tribute to the Legends of Tap

Dance which can now be seen in theaters across the country. In January of 2010, he opened the American Tap Dance Center in New York City where he currently directs on-going education and training programs for tappers of all ages and levels.

BRENDA BUFALINO, (ATDF Artistic Mentor/Teacher) is a mixed genre artist; choreographer and tap dancer, a dancer who sings, tells stories, writes books, works clay into shapes that dance, and paints pictures. She has performed her one person shows internationally and has appeared as a guest soloist at Town Hall, Carnegie Hall, and the Kennedy Center among other major venues. In February 2009, she premiered her latest show “Primordial Memories” at the Judson Church in NYC as part of Tony Waag’s “Sound Check Series.” She mentors, lectures and teaches master classes internationally and teaches many workshop series for the American Tap Dance Foundation in New York City throughout the year. As artistic director/ choreographer of The American Tap Dance Orchestra she toured America and Europe with her company, and appeared at The Joyce Theatre, and on PBS “Great Performances.....Tap Dance in America with Gregory Hines.” For many years Ms. Bufalino collaborated and toured extensively with her mentor Charles “Honi” Coles. She has received consecutive grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and is a NYFA fellow. Her critically acclaimed book “Tapping the Source.... tap dance stories, theory and practice” is published by Cod Hill Press. She has created numerous DVD’s and CD’s.... tapping, singing, teaching and telling stories, which are available from her web-site. She is the recipient of the Flobert Award, The Tapestry Award, and The Tap City Hooper Award, all for outstanding achievement and contributions to the field of tap dance. www.brendabufalino.com