

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Adria Rolnik
973-568-0060/arolnik@netbusiness.com

AMERICAN TAP DANCE
FOUNDATION
www.atdf.org

TWO NEW PRODUCTIONS HERALD A WEEK OF TAP MARCH 19-24 AT THE THEATER AT THE 14TH ST Y

“Rhythm is Our Business” and *“Rhythm in Motion”* Present the Golden Age of Swing
Plus New Work by Michelle Dorrance, Cartier Williams and Brenda Bufalino



(L-R) Michelle Dorrance, Photo Matthew Murphy & Ken Tam; Cartier Williams, Photo: Debi Field;
Brenda Bufalino, Photo Lois Greenfield; Derick K. Grant, Photo: Laura Domnar

New York, NY, March 11, 2013 – Two separate programs, showcasing the rich diversity of American tap dance, will be on view for six nights beginning Tuesday, March 19 at the Theater at the 14th Street Y. *Rhythm is Our Business*, an [American Tap Dance Foundation](http://www.atdf.org) (ATDF) production in association with **The Duke Ellington Center for the Arts**, will feature a look back at classic nightclub/cabaret hoofing, singing and Swing, accompanied by **The Duke Ellington Center Band**. The program will run through Thursday, March 21. *Rhythm in Motion*, an evening of new work highlighting New York’s most renowned tappers and choreographers in the field today, will premiere Friday, March 22 and continue through Sunday, March 24.

Performances by **Ali Bradley, Brian Davis, Khalid Hill, Jason Janas, Mable Lee, Andrew Nemr, Hank Smith** and **The Shufflettes** will be featured in *Rhythm is Our Business*, a production honoring the golden age of Swing. **Derick K. Grant** is choreographing and directing the program. *Rhythm in Motion* will feature contemporary new work stretching the boundaries of the form, with tap luminaries **Michelle Dorrance, Derick K. Grant, Kazu Kumagai, Max Pollak, Lynn Schwab**, the **Tap City Youth Ensemble** and **Cartier Williams** participating. *Rhythm in Motion* will also feature a special appearance and new ensemble piece by tap legend **Brenda Bufalino**.

Michelle Dorrance, founder and artistic director of **Dorrance Dance**, has won numerous awards including the 2012 **Princess Grace Award**, the 2012 **Rockefeller Foundation Award** and the 2011 **Bessie Award**; **Derick K. Grant** was an original company member and Dance Captain for *Bring In ‘Da Noise, Bring In ‘Da Funk* at both **The Public Theater** and on Broadway. He also created the critically acclaimed show *Imagine Tap!* and continues to transform and inspire dance communities around the world; young gun **Cartier Williams**, protégé of Savion Glover, was youngest of the "Apollo Legends" and was a featured performer in Tony Award winning *Bring In ‘Da Noise, Bring In ‘Da Funk*; legendary dancer and choreographer [Brenda Bufalino](http://www.atdf.org), renowned for her orchestral and contrapuntal ensemble choreography, is a distinguished senior figure in the field.

“Our March productions celebrate the art of Tap Dance and expand and challenge the limited perception that tap is considered either too old-fashioned or too commercial to be taken seriously,” said **Tony Waag**, Artistic/Executive Director of **ATDF**. “There are many different styles of tap dance today, all valid and all incredibly interesting, complex and diverse. Most people have no idea tap dance is practiced, presented and perfected all over the world. Though it was developed and incubated in lower Manhattan and born from a melting pot of cultures, it has now been embraced by tappers throughout the globe, from Australia to Brazil, Cuba, Germany, Japan, Spain and more. Our March productions celebrate and honor our past as well as present the future of tap... a future that is exciting, fascinating and filled with variety,” he said.

ATDF is a non-profit organization committed to establishing and legitimizing Tap Dance as a vital component of American Dance through creation, presentation, education and preservation. The organization is in a unique position as both a promoter of the new and preserver of the living history of tap dance as an art form.

ATDF has spearheaded the development of **The Gregory Hines Collection of American Tap Dance Archives** at the [New York Public Library for the Performing Arts](#) at Lincoln Center, and has newly partnered with the **Middle School Jazz Academy**, an education program at [Jazz at Lincoln Center](#).

#

VENUE:

The Theater at the 14th Street Y



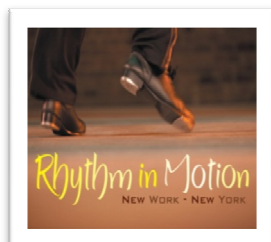
**344 East 14th St (between 1st and 2nd Avenues)
New York, NY 10003
General Information: 212-780-0800**



“RHYTHM IS OUR BUSINESS”

Tuesday, March 19 to Thursday, March 21 at 7pm and 9:30 PM

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/327158>



“RHYTHM IN MOTION”

Friday, March 22 to Saturday, March 23 at 7pm and 9:30pm

Sunday, March 24 - 3pm

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/327849>

TICKETS:

Call 800-838-3006 ext. #1 or order online:

“*Rhythm is Our Business*” - <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/327158>

“*Rhythm in Motion*” - <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/327849>

\$30 General Admission (Onsite/Day of Show: \$35)

\$15 Children, Students, Seniors & Groups of 10 or more (Onsite/Day of Show: \$20)

**75 VIP Donor Tickets for purchase through <http://atdf.org/> or call 646-230-9564. VIP Donor Seats include priority seating/refreshments/\$40 deduction credit.

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