

# ONSTAGE

CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS AT PENN STATE



## ***THANK YOU GREGORY*** ***A Tribute to the Legends of Tap***

underwritten by  
The Penn State International Dance Ensemble Endowment

CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Today's performance  
is sponsored by

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**CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
AT PENN STATE**

presents

**THANK YOU GREGORY**  
***A Tribute to the Legends of Tap***

Directed by **Ann Marie DeAngelo**

Created and Staged by **Tony Waag**

Produced by **Dance Affiliates**

Technical Direction/Lighting Design by **Peter Jakubowski**

Musical Supervision by **Jim Morgan**

Costumes Coordinated by **Charles Schoonmaker**

Dancers

**Jason Samuels Smith** Featured Dancer

**Chloe Arnold Michelle Dorrance**  
**Dormeisha Sumbry-Edwards Donovan Helma Heather Holohan**  
**Kendrick Jones Brent McBeth Melinda Sullivan**

Choreographers

**Chloe Arnold Brenda Bufalino Charles "Honi" Coles Michelle Dorrance**  
**Dormeisha Sumbry-Edwards Derick K. Grant Donovan Helma**  
**Heather Holohan Kendrick Jones Brent McBeth Jason Samuels Smith**  
**Melinda Sullivan Tony Waag**

Pianist **Theo Hill**

*This tour of Thank You Gregory, A Tribute to the Legends of Tap has been funded, in part, by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development.*



*This tour of Thank You Gregory, A Tribute to the Legends of Tap is made possible by a grant from Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program.*

**7:30 p.m. Friday, October 2, 2009**  
**Eisenhower Auditorium**

*The performance includes one intermission.*

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*The 2009–2010 season of the Center for the Performing Arts is supported, in part, by grants from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.*

# PROGRAM

## **VIDEO MONTAGE ONE**

Created by Tony Waag and Forward Motion Theater  
"Swing Me Swing Song" Hoagy Carmichael Recording Ella Fitzgerald  
"Rhythm is Our Business" Sammy Cahn, Saul Chaplin, and Jimmie Lunsford  
Recording Jimmy Lunsford Big Band  
"Rockin' in Rhythm" Harry Carney, Edward Kennedy Ellington, and Irving Mills  
Recording Bunny Briggs with the Duke Ellington Orchestra

## **TRIBUTES TO A FEW TAP LEGENDS**

### **BILL "BOJANGLES" ROBINSON**

"Buck Dance" A Cappella  
Dancer Jason Samuels Smith

### **RAY BOLGER**

"Crazy Rhythm" Caesar, Meyer, and Kahn  
Dancer Donovan Helma

### **RUBY KEELER JENI LEGON ANN MILLER ELEANOR POWELL**

"Begin the Beguine" Cole Porter  
Dancers Chloe Arnold, Michelle Dorrance, Heather Holohan, and Dormeisha Sumbry-Edwards

### **FRED ASTAIRE AND GINGER ROGERS**

"Puttin' on the Ritz" Irving Berlin  
Dancers Brent McBeth and Melinda Sullivan

### **THE NICHOLAS BROTHERS**

"Blue Skies" Irving Berlin  
Dancers Brent McBeth and Kendrick Jones

### **CHARLES "HONI" COLES**

"BS Chorus" Traditional  
Dancer Kendrick Jones

### **BRENDA BUFALINO**

"Reincarnation of a Love Bird" Charles Mingus  
Dancer Michelle Dorrance

### **GREGORY HINES**

"Funk it Up" Jim Morgan  
Dancer Jason Samuels Smith  
"I've Got Rhythm" George Gershwin  
Dancers The Ensemble  
Choreography Derick K. Grant

## **TRIBUTE TO FRED ASTAIRE AND HIS DANCE PARTNERS**

ADELE ASTAIRE VERA ELLEN JUDY GARLAND  
RITA HAYWORTH JOAN CRAWFORD GINGER ROGERS  
ANN MILLER ELEANOR POWELL JANE POWELL  
"Dream Dancing" Cole Porter  
Dancers and Choreography Brent McBeth, Kendrick Jones, and Melinda Sullivan

# PROGRAM

## ***TRIBUTE TO THE LEADING LADIES OF HOLLYWOOD***

ANN MILLER ELEANOR POWELL CORA LARED GINGER ROGERS SHIRLEY TEMPLE  
RUBY KEELER JUANITA PITTS JENI LEGON  
"Fascinating Rhythm" George and Ira Gershwin  
Dancers and Choreography Heather Holohan and Dormeisha Sumbry-Edwards

## ***TRIBUTE TO THE ECCENTRICS AND CLASSIC VAUDEVILLE***

THE COMEDY TEAMS OF COOK AND BROWN STUMP AND STUMPY  
AND THE ECCENTRIC DANCING OF DONALD O'CONNOR RAY BOLGER  
BUDDY EBSEN DICK VAN DYKE HAL LEROY  
"Breezing Along with the Breeze" Haven Gillespie, Seymour Simons, and Richard Whiting  
Dancers Donovan Helma and Brent McBeth  
Vocals and Ukuleles Michelle Dorrance and Melinda Sullivan  
Choreography Tony Waag

## ***TRIBUTE TO THE CLASSIC AND CLASS ACTS***

JOHNSON AND DEAN JACK WIGGINS WILLIE COVAN EDDIE RECTOR  
COLES AND ATKINS THE DUNHILLS THE 5 HOT SHOTS PETE PEACHES AND DUKE  
"Taking a Chance on Love" Duke Vernon, Ted Fetter, and John Lafourche  
Dancers Chloe Arnold, Michelle Dorrance, Kendrick Jones,  
Jason Samuels Smith, and Melinda Sullivan  
Choreography Charles "Honi" Coles and Chilly Atkins/Brenda Bufalino

## ***TRIBUTE TO THE KINGS OF RHYTHM TAP***

EDDIE RECTOR JOHN BUBBLES TEDDY HALE PETE NUGENT  
BABY LAWRENCE JIMMY SLYDE CHUCK GREEN BUNNY BRIGGS SANDMAN SIMMS  
CHOLLY ATKINS EDDIE BROWN LEON COLLINS JERRY AMES PAUL DRAPER STEVE CONDOS  
HENRY LETANG BUCK AND BUBBLES SAMMY DAVIS JR. LEONARD REED  
LAVAUGHN ROBINSON LON CHANEY  
THE MILLER BROTHERS AND LOIS THE BERRY BROTHERS  
THE CONDOS BROTHERS THE FOUR STEP BROTHERS  
TIP, TAP, AND TOE THE NICHOLAS BROTHERS PEG LEG BATES  
"On a Clear Day" Burton Lane and Alan Jay Lerner  
Dancer and Improvography Jason Samuels Smith

## [ INTERMISSION ]

## ***VIDEO MONTAGE TWO***

Created by Tony Waag and Forward Motion Theater  
"Tap Dance" Moondog  
"Tap Dance on Your Face" Harris Rap  
"Tap-dance" David Foster

# PROGRAM

## ***TRIBUTE TO SWING TAP***

"Flying Home" Benny Goodman  
Dancers The Ensemble  
Choreography Dormeisha Sumbry-Edwards

## ***TRIBUTE TO CHARLES "HONI" COLES AND THE COPASETICS***

CHARLES "COOKIE" COOK ERNEST "BROWNIE" BROWN CHARLES "HONI" COLES  
LEROY MYERS LESLIE "BUBBA" GAINES BUSTER BROWN LON CHANEY  
BERT GIBSON  
"The Copasetic Song" Charles "Honi" Coles  
Dancers The Men  
Vocals The Ladies

## ***TRIBUTE TO BRENDA BUFALINO, THE TAP REVIVAL, AND THE PIONEERING WOMEN OF THE 1970s***

HARRIET BROWNE BRENDA BUFALINO LYNN DALLY JANE GOLDBERG  
SARAH PETRONIO TINA PRATT LADY DI DIANNE WALKER LINDA SOHL ELLISON  
CAMDEN RICHMOND HEATHER CORNELL THE RHYTHM QUEENS  
MARION COLES AND THE SILVER BELLES MABLE LEE  
THE COTTON CLUB GIRLS THE SWINGIN SENIORS  
"The Too Tall, Too Small Blues" Brenda Bufalino  
Dancers The Ladies  
Choreography Brenda Bufalino

## ***GO CLASSICAL***

Piano Sonata No. 16 in C Minor Mozart  
Dancer Kendrick Jones

## ***FOOTAGE***

Created by Tony Waag and Forward Motion Theater  
Choreography Brenda Bufalino  
The Feet Barbara Duffy

## ***NEW VISIONS/NEW VOICES***

Created from the following:  
"Body Percussion" A Cappella  
Choreography The Ensemble  
"La Negara Tine Temba" Celia Cruz  
Choreography Chloe Arnold  
"Eleanor Rigby" The Beatles  
Choreography Michelle Dorrance  
"The Panties" Mos def  
Choreography Kendrick Jones  
"Music Box" Regina Specter  
Choreography Michelle Dorrance

# PROGRAM

## **NEW VISIONS/NEW VOICES**

(continued from previous page)

“Little by Little” Susan Keechi  
Choreography Heather Holohan  
“Variation of a Variation” Tchaikovsky  
Choreography Brent McBeth  
“All is Fair in Love” Stevie Wonder  
Choreography Melinda Sullivan  
“Hollywood” Jay-Z and Abeyance  
Choreography Chloe Arnold

## **HOOFERS LINE**

Dancers/Improvography The Ensemble

## **THE CHAIRDANCE**

Music Traditional  
Dancers The Ensemble  
Choreography The Copasetic

## **SHIM SHAM SHIMMY**

“Lester Leaps” Lester Young  
Dancers The Ensemble  
Choreography Leonard Reed

*Cast and program order subject to change.*

*All recorded music mastered and/or created by Jim Morgan.*

*All video footage, visual images, and photographs compliments  
of the American Tap Dance Foundation Archives.*

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## STAFF

Producer	Dance Affiliates under the artistic direction of Randy Swartz
Associate Producers	Ann Marie DeAngelo and Tony Waag
Artist Coordinator	Da Valdes
Director of Education and Special Projects	Anne-Marie Mulgrew
Project Coordinator	Elizabeth Flynn
Costumes Coordinator	Charles Schoonmaker
Assistant Lighting Director/Stage Manager	Michelle Harvey
Company Manager	Katie Hughes

Artist Touring Representative: Elsie Management  
718-797-4577  
55 Washington St. Suite 327 Brooklyn, NY 11201

## ABOUT GREGORY HINES (1946–2003)

“I love tap dancing.  
I love my tap shoes.  
I get so inspired,  
so filled up.”



Photo by Rose Eichenbaum

Gregory Hines has been called the Ambassador of Tap. “He did for tap what Bob Fosse did for Broadway and what Balanchine did for ballet.” (Rose Eichenbaum) He redefined tap for a new generation. He made tap sexy, fun, hip, and athletic. Always seeking new steps, he devised a system called improvography. Early in his career, when tap acts were in demand, he watched Teddy Hale during a performance at the Apollo Theater. Teddy did three shows a night but never danced the same. From that point on, Hines decided to keep working on finding new steps.

Hines came from the vaudeville tradition, whereby the performer is working to get applause. Tap master Henry LeTang, who took the 3-year-old Hines under his tutelage, used to say: “If they applaud for you four times, do it nine times.” At a certain point in Hines’ brilliant career, he became more interested in listening to what he was feeling. Once he connected to a specific emotion—anger, sadness, joy—he could dance directly to it, and it became more meaningful.

Hines developed his unique style through his own evolution—by performing at 5 years of age with his brother Maurice

in nightclubs and theatres around the country and by emulating his heroes, such as Sammy Davis Jr. He also ‘stole’ steps from Honi Coles, LeTang, and Sandman Sims. Hines received multiple Tony nominations for his performances in *Sophisticated Ladies*, *Comin’ Uptown*, and *Eubie*. He acted and danced in Hollywood films: *The History of the World Part 1* (1981), *The Cotton Club* (1984), *White Nights* (1985) with Mikhail Baryshnikov, *Running Scared* (1986), *Tap* (1989), *Waiting to Exhale* (1995), *The Tic Code* (1998), and *Bojangles* (2001).

His work in television includes an Emmy-nominated performance in *Motown Return to the Apollo*. His PBS special *Gregory Hines: Tap Dance in America* won an Emmy Award in 1989. In 1990, he starred with Annette O’Toole in the critically acclaimed USA Network original film *White Lies* and in the psychological thriller *Hit Radio* for USA Network. Hines made his network television film debut in CBS’ *A Stranger in Town*, costarring Jean Smart. He also played Ben Doucette, a recurring character on the popular NBC primetime television comedy *Will and Grace*. Recording credits include the Epic release *Gregory Hines*, an LP produced by friend and colleague Luther Vandross.

# ABOUT *THANK YOU GREGORY*

Six years ago we lost an exceptional artist and major ambassador of tap dance, Gregory Hines. With this production, we pay tribute to Gregory and to the numerous legends of tap dance with a fresh and dynamic glance at the past, as well as a contemporary look at the many generations of gifted tap artists whose “soles” they have guided and touched to the present.

Today, tap dance is enjoying another wave of popularity that has supported a new generation of hoofers who are at the top of their game, creating fresh concepts and collaborating on innovative ensemble work, moving tap into the future as one of the most innovative and exciting dance forms in modern history.

We are delighted to announce that a portion of the proceeds from the tour dates of *Thank You, Gregory!* will support ongoing training scholarships for kids and teens through the Gregory Hines Youth Scholarship Fund, a project of the American Tap Dance Foundation.

Help us celebrate the amazing variety of rhythms of tap dance and the incredible people who brought us the American dream of hope, success, and individual expression! This production is our way of saying thank you to Greg and also to the amazing cornucopia of tap dance heroes, Hollywood royalty, and modern tap dance innovators of an American art form that has consistently brought joy to our hearts, a smile to our faces, and that uncontrollable beat to our feet.

Tony Waag    September 2009

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## WHO'S WHO

**DANCE AFFILIATES (PRODUCER)** Founded in 1983 by artistic director Randy Swartz, Dance Affiliates is one of the nation's few remaining dance-only presenters. Its Dance Celebration program, Philadelphia's most acclaimed and longest-running series of contemporary dance, has presented 175 companies in 1,500 performances. In addition to its original production of *Thank You Gregory* in 2005, Dance Affiliates also conceived and produced in 2006 *The Music That Made Us Dance: From Lindy to Hip Hop*, its first commission for the series featuring Philadelphia's most inventive choreographers and dancers. Dance Affiliates partners with other nonprofit, educational, and community organizations. Examples include its symposium at the Philadelphia Museum of Art with the Merce Cunningham and Trisha Brown dance companies; the Mann Center for the Performing Arts to develop extensive outreach activities for its Royal Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, and Bolshoi Ballet engagements; the Baryshnikov Dance Foundation to present the play *Forbidden Christmas* or *The Doctor and the Patient* at Prince Music Theatre; the University of the Arts and The Rock School to sponsor

on-site visits by artists; the Merriam Theater to bring Mikhail Baryshnikov's *PASTForward* with White Oak Project; and *Kids Dancing for Kids* showcasing some of America's most talented young dancers in a joint production with the Prince Music Theater.

**ANN MARIE DEANGELO (DIRECTOR)**, former principal with the Joffrey Ballet, was featured in *Backstage* as a “multiple-career artist.” She was the founding artistic director of Ballet de Monterrey and associate director of the Joffrey Ballet. DeAngelo has created and directed more than forty works. Choreography on ballet companies includes the Joffrey Ballet, National Ballet of Cuba, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, BalletNY, and American Ballet Theatre Studio Company. Her one-act ghost story, *The Bell Witch*, was nominated for a “Benois de la Danse” Award and performed at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow. DeAngelo participated in the inaugural season of The National Choreography Initiative and was one of six choreographers chosen for Dance Break 2006, a showcase for choreographers in the Broadway community. She created *Jugglin' Styles*, which premiered on the Dance Celebration Series; The Hamptons Dance Festival with Cynthia Gregory; *An Evening of Jazz and Dance*, hosted by Chevy Chase; and the dance project for the Richard Rodgers Centennial. This year she directed *IN*

*THE MIX* featuring cross-genre artists. She has directed and produced benefit evenings, including *Shall We Dance*, hosted by Bebe Neuwirth; *That's Entertainment*, hosted by Liza Minnelli; *One World*, featuring James Earl Jones and Chita Rivera; and *On Broadway*, hosted by Angela Lansbury. [www.annmariedeangelo.com](http://www.annmariedeangelo.com)

**PETER JAKUBOWSKI (LIGHTING DESIGN/TECHNICAL DIRECTOR)** is an assistant professor and production/design specialist for the Department of Dance at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He holds a bachelor of arts in theatre from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a master of fine arts in design from Temple University. He is a union lighting and scenic designer (IATSE USA 829). His work has been awarded the ARTIE for best lighting design, and he has been nominated five times for the F. Otto Haas Award. His designs have been seen in more than thirty states and abroad. He has designed lighting for North Shore Music Theater, The Prince Music Theatre, Walnut Street Theatre, and the Lenape Reginald Performing Arts Center. He is resident designer and production manager for Jeanne Ruddy Dance, the Koresh Dance Company, and the Snowy Range Dance Festival.

**TONY WAAG (CREATOR AND STAGING)** is the artistic director of the American Tap Dance Foundation, which he founded in 1986 along with Brenda Bufalino and the late Charles "Honi" Coles. In 2001, Waag renamed the American Tap Dance Orchestra 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 and an extensive training program, city-wide events, tap jams, student showcases, panel discussions, lectures, and film screenings. The festival assures the Big Apple's position as the tap center of the world, a dream that Tony shared with the late Gregory Hines, an influential board member from the organization's inception. Waag has received numerous grants toward the presentation and preservation of tap dance. In 2002, he initiated the first International Tap Dance Hall of Fame honoring the contributions of legendary tap dancers. 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. In 2005, Waag directed and performed as master of ceremonies for the original production of *Thank You Gregory, A Tribute to the Legends of Tap*. He has appeared in hundreds of concerts and productions worldwide.

Waag is opening the American Tap Dance Center in New York City, housing three studios for year-round training programs, rehearsals, performances, films, and related events, as well as the administrative offices of American Tap Dance Foundation. [www.atdf.org](http://www.atdf.org)

**JIM MORGAN (MUSICAL SUPERVISOR)** A pianist, conductor, and award-winning composer, Morgan has written music for hundreds of commercials, promos, documentaries, and films—most notably for the National Geographic Channel's *Explorer* series. On Broadway, he has played in the orchestra for three Tony Award-winning shows—*Fosse*, *Aida*, and *Hairspray*. He also served as associate conductor for *Hairspray*'s second national tour. Morgan enjoys working as a music director and supervisor for cabarets, concerts, and benefits in the New York City area.

**CHARLES SCHOONMAKER (COSTUME DESIGNER)** has twenty years of experience in the concert dance field. He has collaborated with leading dance companies and choreographers in the United States and Europe, including the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the Atlanta Ballet, the Limon Company, The Juilliard School, Garth Fagan, Mark Morris, and David Parsons. He was the resident costume designer at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, where for seven seasons he designed costumes for choreographers such as Choo San Goh, Rosalind Newman, Jim Self, and Benjamin Harkarvy, as well as for revivals of classic modern dance works. A recipient of four Emmy Awards, he holds a master's degree in costume design from New York University and is on the faculty at Brandeis University.

**FORWARD MOTION THEATER (VIDEO-DIGITAL MEDIA)**, a New York City-based company founded in 1995 by choreographer Eric Dunlap and media artist Holly Dagggers, explores the combination of movement and technology through live performance and digital media. Their first collaboration featured costumes threaded with fiber-optic lights and a color-change mechanism—invented by Dagggers—that responded to dancer movements. Four self-produced, full-length dance theatre productions followed. Their projects moved from traditional stages to media and venues collaborating with artists, performers, filmmakers, video jockeys, engineers, puppeteers, and the music and fashion industries. Dunlap and Dagggers have created live shows incorporating lasers, digital projections, and interactive music elements. The company reaches

new audiences by developing works for live theatre and creating performance venues through video and the Web. [www.FORWARDmotiontheater.org](http://www.FORWARDmotiontheater.org)

**JASON SAMUELS SMITH (FEATURED DANCER)**, referred to by Gregory Hines as “possibly the next greatest” tap dancer, won Emmy and American Choreography awards for his opening-number tribute to Gregory Hines on the Jerry Lewis/Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon. Additional honors include the Gregory Hines Humanitarian Award and an Izzie Award for his collaboration with Kathak master Pandit Chitresh Das in *India Jazz Suites*. He most recently appeared as a special guest on TV’s *So You Think You Can Dance*, as a choreographer for Grammy artist Mya on *Secret Talents of the Stars*, and as an associate choreographer for *Dancing with the Stars*. He co-starred with Arthur Duncan in Dean Hargrove’s short film *Tap Heat* (2004) and is featured in the 2006 film *Idlewild*. Credits include *Soul Possessed*; *Cool Women*; *Sammy*; Broadway’s *Bring in ‘da Noise, Bring in ‘da Funk*; Savion Glover’s NYOTs; *Cross Currents: Turned on Tap*; *The Cotton Club Returns*; and Dance Celebration’s 2005 *Thank You Gregory* production. He founded the tap company Anybody Can Get It (A.C.G.I.) and co-founded Jaja Productions.

**CHLOE ARNOLD (DANCE CAPTAIN)** Debbie Allen’s protégé choreographed the opening number for the 2008 Jerry Lewis/Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon and was featured with the Jazz Tap Ensemble at the 2008 Joyce Theater season in New York City. She has participated in *Imagine Tap*, the film *Idlewild*, Beyoncé’s *Upgrade You* video as her dance double, Sean Paul’s music video for the movie *Step Up*, and in New York City in Jason Samuels Smith’s Anybody Can Get It (A.C.G.I.). She is co-director of the Los Angeles Tap Festival and choreographer for her group Syncopated Ladies. She was associate choreographer for *American Celebration* and Allen’s *Pearl*. Performance credits include Allen’s *Brothers of the Knight*, *Soul Possessed*, *Sammy*, and Savion Glover’s *All Star Tap Revue*. Arnold, a Columbia University film graduate, has produced more than twenty shows and directed short films.

**MICHELLE DORRANCE (DANCER)** was mentored at an early age by youth tap trailblazer Gene Medler, at the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble, and at her mother’s school, the Ballet School of Chapel Hill. She has worked with Heather Cornell’s Manhattan Tap, Barbara Duffy & Co., Max Pollak’s RumbaTap, Cintia

Chameki’s Ritmico, and Tony Waag’s Tap City on Tour. She was a founding member of Savion Glover’s company Ti Dii, performing with him at the Joyce Theater, the Monaco Dance Festival’s Nijinsky Awards, the 2002 Winter Olympics, and elsewhere. Her credits include Ayodele Casel’s *Diary of a Tap Dancer*; Mable Lee’s *Dancing Ladies*; Harold Cromer’s *Opus One*; Jazz Tap Ensemble’s *American Masterpieces*; Jason Samuel Smith’s *Charlie’s Angels*; and the off-Broadway cast of *STOMP*. She has a bachelor of art from New York University.

**DONOVAN HELMA (DANCER)** danced under the direction of his mother’s dance studio in Denver since the age of 3. He lives in New York City, where he takes classes, performs, and teaches for numerous studios and national conventions. Performance credits include General Motors, Charles Schwab, Holland’s International Shipping Yard grand opening, and an appearance on *Monday Night Football*’s halftime show with Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. He has recently performed for Montreal’s Danse Encore International Festival in a production by *Tap’d Out*. In 2004, 2006, and 2009, Donovan toured the United States, Europe, and South Africa as a lead dancer in *Tap Dogs*.

**HEATHER J. HOLOHAN (DANCER)** is honored to be a part of the “new” American Tap Dance Orchestra under her mentor Brenda Bufalino. Heather has appeared in *Soundcheck* (Brenda Bufalino’s “Woods Walking”), as well as in pieces choreographed by Chloe Arnold and Jason Samuels Smith. Regional theatre credits include Amneris in *Aida*, Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes*, Ziegfeld’s Fave in *The Will Rogers Follies*, and Cassie in *A Chorus Line*. Heather owns and operates The Studio: School for Dance and Theatre Arts and is the director and choreographer of Kinetic Chaos Dance Company.

**KENDRICK JONES (DANCER)**, at age 13, made his mark in New York City’s *King of the Hill*. He is a soloist for Tap City, touring nationally. Credits include *Broadway by the Year 1947, 1954, and 1965*; *All Singin’ All Dancin’* (The Town Hall); Young Checkers in *Bubbling Brown Sugar* (Fox Theatre, Atlanta); *Stairway to Paradise* (City Center Encores!); *Barack on Broadway* (New Amsterdam Theatre); and *Looking for Josephine*, a world premiere directed by Jerome Savary (Opera Comique, Paris). Kendrick appeared with Gregory Hines in *Ebony*, and *Dance Spirit Magazine* named him “one of the top upcoming hoofers of his generation.” He is a drama student at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts.

**BRENT MCBETH (DANCER)**, a native of Houston, received a bachelor of fine arts in musical theatre from Sam Houston State University. A performer, teacher, and choreographer, he resides in New York City. He is the co-creator/performer of *Time Step*, a three-man tap show to be presented at New York City's New Victory Theater. Other performance credits include *Fosse* (with Ben Vereen and Ruthie Henshall); *No, No Nanette* (with Sandy Duncan and Rosie O'Donnell); *42<sup>nd</sup> Street*; *The Who's Tommy*; and *Singin' in the Rain*.

**MELINDA SULLIVAN (DANCER)** toured as an original cast member of Disney's *High School Musical*. Credits include *Cats*, Atlanta's Theater of the Stars, Pittsburgh's Civic Light Opera, and Town Hall *Broadway by the Year* performances. She is a member of Jason Samuels Smith's tap company. Additional company work includes the Jazz Tap Ensemble, Chloe Arnold's Synco-pated Ladies, and Noah Racey's New York Tap Ensemble. She earned the Los Angeles Music Center Spotlight Award in non-classical dance. She has performed on *Star Search* and *One on One*, plus in the film *Tap Heat*. She was on the cover of *Dance Spirit Magazine's* spring 2003 issue and in 2005 was named by the magazine as "one of the top twenty upcoming young hoofers."

**DORMEISHA SUMBRY-EDWARDS (DANCER)** stars in the award-winning independent film *The Rise and Fall of Miss Thang*. In addition to opening the Harlem Tap Studio in New York City, Sumbry-Edwards appears as a special guest for shows and festivals worldwide. Her career includes the Broadway and off-Broadway shows *Black and Blue*; the Tony award-winning *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk*; and the international tour of *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk* (dance captain/principal dancer/understudy to the lead role); and as a featured soloist for *Imagine Tap!* She appeared in the national tour of *Wild Woman Blues* and Debbie Allen's *Sammy*. Film credits include *TAP* with Gregory Hines; Spike Lee's *Bamboozled* (assistant choreographer); and *The Rodgers and Hart Story: Thou Swell, Thou Witty*. Sumbry-Edwards' choreography has been featured in *The Art & Appreciation of Percussion*.

**THEO HILL (MUSICIAN)** studied jazz piano with Lee Shaw, a protégé of Oscar Peterson, and Barry Harris. He was a four-year-member of the Empire State Youth Jazz Orchestra and the College of St. Rose Jazz Ensemble. He graduated from the Jazz Conservatory at the State University of New York at Purchase. As a member of the

New York Youth Symphony's Jazz Band Classic, he received the Director's Award and performed with Jimmy Heath, Slide Hampton, Lew Soloff, and Joe Locke. Hill has performed at the Blue Note, Carnegie Hall, and other prominent venues. He has performed in South Korea with Victor Jones, in France with Groove Collective, and in India with Chitresh Das' *India Jazz Suites*.

**MICHELLE HARVEY (ASSISTANT LIGHTING DIRECTOR/STAGE MANAGER)** received a master of fine arts in lighting design from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Her work as a lighting designer was seen at UNLV in the productions *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Lysistrata*, *Mother Courage*, and *La Boheme*. She also designed works for the university's dance department. Harvey served as the stage manager/lighting director for the American Indian Dance Theatre and received her bachelor of fine arts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her work has been seen at Missouri Theatre Center of the Arts, Forestburgh Playhouse, New London Barn Playhouse, and the Santa Fe Opera.

**KATIE HUGHES (COMPANY MANAGER)** recently received her bachelor of arts in dance production and management from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where she worked with choreographers Karola Lutteringhaus, Lawrence Jackson, and Mihn Tran. Her professional career includes working with the New London Barn Playhouse, Tap City, Jeanne Ruddy Dance Company, and Lula Washington Dance Theater. She has also toured shows to the Adelaide Fringe Festival in Adelaide, Australia, and the Korea National Sport University in Seoul, South Korea.

**LAURA COLBY (BOOKING AGENT)** established Elsie Management in 1995, an artist management company representing a global roster of dance, theatre, world music, and special attractions, including the venerable Mummenschanz, Australia's Strange Fruit, and Madrid's Noche Flamenca. She is the immediate past president of the North American Performing Arts Managers and Agents and has served on the board of Dance/USA. Colby began her arts administration career as a manager for several independent contemporary choreographers and was the founding manager for Seán Curran Company. Colby has led sessions, served on panels, and moderated for the Western Arts Alliance, the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, Dance/USA, and others. She earned a bachelor of fine arts in dance at The Juilliard School. [www.elsiemanager.org](http://www.elsiemanager.org)