

presented by TAPESTRY DANCE COMPANY

# SOUL 25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TAP FESTIVAL **SOLE**

June 17th - 21st  
Austin, Texas

## S2S Festival Artists

Dianne Walker

Elizabeth Burke

Acia Gray

Brinae Ali

Nicholas Van Young

Jeremy Arnold

Margaret Morrison

Siobhan Alexis

Luke Hickey

MC - Tony Waag

## JUST FRIENDS! FACULTY CONCERT

Saturday, June 20th @ 8pm

- Rollins Theatre / The Long Center

[www.tapestry.org](http://www.tapestry.org)

# TAPESTRY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Libbi Toye Sampleton**, President  
**Sandy Stewart**, Vice President/Secretary  
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**Deirdre Strand**  
**Mark Kazanoff**

*Though dance, music, and art we empower individuals to take authentic action toward making the world a better place.*

*Tapestry is a multi-form dance center with a variety of dance classes, performances, and collaborations. We cater to all levels of dancers, patrons of the arts, and all styles of dance. We like to play at the intersections of dance, music, and art around the world and across Austin, Texas. Join our community and start weaving dance into your life.*

*Rhythm Is Life. Let's Do It Together!*

## TAPESTRY OPERATIONS

**Co-Founders**  
Acia Gray & Deirdre Strand

**Executive / Artistic Director**  
Acia Gray

**Resident Production Designer**  
Stephen Pruitt



# ABOUT TAPESTRY DANCE

As a resident company of The Long Center since 2008, Tapestry is a professional, non-profit dance organization founded in 1989 by rhythm tap dancer Acia Gray and ballet/jazz artist Deirdre Strand for the purpose of developing a foundation in multi-form dance performance and education. Initially, a performing company of three, the organization expanded to a professional company of seven resident artists, a diversified administrative and production support staff and a pre-professional and adult training facility in Austin, TX sharing the unique Strand/Gray training syllabus.

In 2021, COVID shifted the organization into a streamlined production and artistic organization collaborating with global and Austin, TX artists to continue to share its mission. Tapestry Dance Company shares the power of dance, music and theatre through numerous events and programs sponsored by individual contributors, corporations, the National Endowment for the Arts, Elevate grant under Austin Cultural, Music & Entertainment Division and the Texas Commission on the Arts as well as its wonderful audiences and touring sponsors. These programs have traditionally included seasonal multi-form concert premieres, an annual international tap festival, community outreach programs, pop up masterclasses and workshops in dance, theatre and music as well as touring residencies throughout the US and abroad for over 37 years.

Tapestry is also proud to have produced over 69 premiere full length concert works since its inception; produced 35 years of *The Annual Soul 2 Sole Festival* (previously *The Austin Tap Jam* – started in 1991) and hosted numerous Austin based as well as international dance and music artists including Fayard Nicholas of the famous Nicholas Brothers, Arthur Duncan of *The Lawrence Welk Show*, Brenda Bufalino, Gregory Hines, Sarah Petronio, Bill Evans, Dr. Harold Cromer, Keith Cross, Dianne Walker, James Clouser, Tina Marsh and the Creative Opportunity Orchestra, many contemporary leaders in the dance, theatre and music fields today as well as dozens of incredible resident artists from the US and abroad as part of Tapestry Dance Company.

As a member of The Texas Commission on the Arts, The Mid-American Arts Alliance and Heartland touring programs for over the 33 years, the multi-form choreographic works and training of Tapestry Dance Company have been lovingly woven throughout the U.S. and abroad to include Cyprus, Britain, Austria, the Czech Republic, Spain, Ireland, Canada and China. The company has been honored by numerous “Best of” awards by *The Austin Chronicle* as well as Best Dance Company, Best Dance Production and Best Ensemble by the Austin Critics Table Awards. The company toured the award-winning National Endowment for the Arts: Masterpiece Dance original production of Acia Gray's *The Souls of Our Feet – A Celebration of American Tap Dance* throughout the USA, Canada and China and shifted to a focus on tap dance from 2008 to 2021.

The organization is proud to return to its founding roots as a multi-dimensional, multi-form performance and educational organization.

# OUR 2025/2026 FOUNDATIONAL SUPPORT

Austin Arts, Culture, Music & Entertainment  
The National Endowment for the Arts  
St. Paul & Minnesota Foundation  
Josie Bruni Knight  
The Texas Commission on the Arts

## SPECIAL THANKS

Katherine Harris & Tom Keyser  
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# SOUL 2 SOLE 2026 PRODUCTION STAFF

## **Artistic & Musical Direction**

Acia Gray

## **Production Design**

Stephen Pruitt

## **Sound Engineer**

Cody Hancock

## **Stage Manager**

Amy Meyers

## **Assistant Stage Manager**

TeeDee Simons

## **Follow Spot Operator**

Lisa Kobdich

## **Electricians**

Matthew Zapata, Gabriella Rendon, Lisa Kobdich

## **Festival Onsite Operations Manager**

Sandy Stewart

## **Festival Intern**

Anisa Johnson

## **Public Relations**

Motley Crew Media / Sherri Cline

## **Volunteers**

Laura Mattingly, Mia Ansel, Ashley Davis, Eliza Parker, Michelle Kilgus  
Libbi Toye Sampleton, Ellen Keane, Deirdre Strand

# RESIDENT ARTISTIC PRODUCTION GURU

## Stephen Pruitt - Lighting & Production Designer

Stephen Pruitt is a former engineer who has been working in theater and the arts as a designer, writer, director and performer for nearly twenty years. He is currently splitting his time between Austin, Texas, and Cincinnati, Ohio, where he is the resident technical consultant and production designer for The Requiem Project - an effort to restore the historic Emery Theater. In Austin, Stephen has collaborated with many of the city's most creative theater and dance groups, as the resident production designer for Forklift Danceworks, Kathy Dunn Hamrick Dance, and Tapestry Dance Company; resident lighting designer for Trouble Puppet Theater; a company member with the Rude Mechanicals; and in various design and creative roles for many others. When not designing for theater and dance, he spends his time with photography, hacking printers to create carbon ink prints, kayaking, and making oddball performance art. His current project is 100yr.org - a nonprofit with the mission of creating public art projects that last 100 years. Stephen can be found at [www.fluxiondesigns.com](http://www.fluxiondesigns.com)

For More Information - [www.tapestry.org](http://www.tapestry.org)  
For Tickets - [www.thelongcenter.org](http://www.thelongcenter.org)



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# THE SOUL 2 SOLE TRIO

## Masumi Jones (Drums)

Voted best drummer by the Austin Chronicle in 2013, Masumi has played with Slim Richey (RIP) and the Jitterbug Vipers since 2009 and Sarah Sharp since 2015 among other numerous musical adventures in Austin and on tour. Masumi is Tapestry's live music backbone (literally) since 2011 with the company's five-week tour of China with *The Souls of Our Feet - A Celebration of American Tap Dance*. [www.masumijones.com](http://www.masumijones.com)

## Dylan Jones (Bass)

Dylan began his professional music career at the age of sixteen and has since spanned the globe for over 20 years as a performer and instructor of just about every genre imaginable. A student of iconic music pedagogues Dwayne Heggar, Chuck Rainey, Francois Rabbath, Ali kbar Khan and country legend Ruby Allmond (his great Aunt), Dylan has gone on to write, record, perform and collaborate with countless artists, including Grammy Award winner Vishwa Mohan Bhatt. A multilingual, multi-instrumental, self-described "proud nerd", Dylan is also the founder of music education non-profit, Anthropos Arts. [www.anthroposarts.org](http://www.anthroposarts.org)

## Angelo Lembesis (Piano)

Angelo is an in-demand educator, composer, and performs regularly with: La Mona Loca, Cienfuegos, The Copa Kings, and the Royal Dukes Band. He can be seen performing at such venues as: The Elephant Room, Central Market. [www.pianobyangelo.com](http://www.pianobyangelo.com)

# THE FESTIVAL FACULTY ARTISTS



## Dianne Walker

Dianne "Lady Di" Walker, a pioneer in tap dancing's resurgence, has a 45-year career spanning Broadway, Television, Film and International Jazz Concerts and Tap Festivals. Savion Glover and his contemporaries affectionately call her, "Aunt Dianne," acknowledging her unique role as mentor, teacher and confidante. Dianne performed in both the original Paris Production of *Black and Blue* as well as the Broadway Production, where she was a featured dancer, Dance Captain and Assistant to the Directors. Film credits include the movie *Tap*, the PBS special, *Great Performances: Tap Dance in America, JUBA!* (WTTW), and *Songs Unwritten*. Dianne has been dubbed the "Ella Fitzgerald" of Tap Dance.

For two years, Dianne directed the Tap Program at Jacob's Pillow and is presently Artistic Advisor to the Program. Holding a master's degree in education, Dianne has taught at numerous universities including Harvard, MIT, Wesleyan, Bates, UCLA, and Williams College. Dianne is a participant on many educational task forces and sits on numerous boards throughout the dance community. In 1998, Dianne received the "Living Treasure in American

Dance” Award from Oklahoma City University, The Flo-Bert Award (NYC), The Hoofers Award (NYC), The Gregory Hines Humanitarian Award (Los Angeles), and was the 2008 USA Rose Fellow. Most recently, Dianne received the prestigious Dance Magazine Award, presented to her at the Alvin Ailey School in New York, adding to a long line of awards and lifetime tributes recognizing her contribution to the art form and excellence in teaching. Grant awards include The National Endowment for the Arts, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Jacobs Pillow, The New England Foundation for the Arts, and American Masterpieces Program.

Dianne has been generously mentored by many musicians and Tap Dance legends throughout her career, notably Leon Collins and Jimmy Slyde. Dianne has worked with Savion Glover, Jimmy Slyde, Buster Brown, Gregory Hines, Honi Coles, Cholly Atkins, Tina Pratt, Bunny Briggs, Barry Harris, Max Roach, Alan Dawson, Major Holley, Paul Arslanian, Andy McGhee, John Lockwood, Ruth Brown, Nicholas Brothers, Peg Leg Bates, Arthur Duncan and many others. Leon Collins passed away in 1985, leaving Dianne to continue as one of the Directors of his school in Boston. It is with a great sense of pride that Dianne continues to share this rich legacy with her students.



## Acia Gray

As a musician, soloist, choreographer and master teacher, Ms. Gray has toured extensively across the U.S. and abroad and in 1989 co-founded Tapestry Dance Company in Austin, TX with Deirdre Strand and currently serves as Producing Artistic Director & Artistic Director of The Soul 2 Sole International Tap Festival here in Austin. A graduate of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts/NYC, Ms. Gray has shared the stage with legends of the form including Donald O'Connor, Fayard Nicholas, Arthur Duncan, Savion Glover, Jimmy Slyde, Sarah Petronio, Dianne Walker, Brenda Bufalino and many other legends in such productions as *The Great Tap Reunion*, *Tap Do/Wop*, *Just Friends*, *Masters of Tap*, *Chicago on Tap*, *Women in Tap* at UCLA among other productions and tap festivals around the world. She was chosen to work with legend Charles 'Honi' Coles in America's first creative residency for tap at The Colorado Dance Festival and again with Jimmy Slyde and was featured in the documentary *A Class Act: The Magic of Honi Coles* - the biggest event that completely changed her life.

She served on the Steering Committee of The National Tap Plan of The International Tap Association and served as its director from 2008-2018. She has also danced, choreographed and taught for numerous academic institutions and festivals around the world including courses at UT Austin and ACC in tap pedagogy. Her book *The Souls of Your Feet - A Tap Dance Guide for Rhythm Explorers* has been translated in the Czech Republic and China and debuted as an Amazon.com Bestseller in its category in 1998.

Her numerous awards include the "Hooper Award" by The New York City Tap Festival, nominated for a Princess Grace Award in the early 1990's and honored at the 2018 Dance USA Conference among numerous tap festival honors. She has produced and choreographed for over 96 original full length works for Tapestry Dance Company many of which have toured the US and abroad including her work *The Souls of Our Feet - A Celebration of American Tap Dance* that was chosen as an NEA American Masterpiece production and toured throughout the US, Canada, and China from 2009-2012.

Ms. Gray has also received numerous local "Best Of" awards by the Critics Table in Austin and she can also be seen in *Gotta Move - Women in Tap*, *Tap or Die*, *Thinking on Their Feet - Women of the Tap Renaissance* and *Passing it Forward* produced by the PBS series Arts In Context based on Tapestry Dance Company's 2015-2016 Season and performance and mission legacy.

Ms. Gray is proud to be a premiere member of the Austin Arts Hall of Fame, a 2019 Austin Creative Alliance Honoree and is a past member of the Austin Arts Commission. She currently teaches at Texas State University and holds educational programs at Tapestry. [www.aciagray.com](http://www.aciagray.com)



## Brinae Ali

Alexandria “Brinae Ali” Bradley has an interdisciplinary approach in using the power of the arts to uplift and inspire the human spirit. Through heredity and the mentorship of her father Alfred Bruce Bradley, Mable Lee, Dianne Walker, and others, Bradley has been studying performing arts since the age of 3 years. In 2004, Ali began working on her solo performance showcasing her vocals, compositions, dance, and poetry. She has performed at Ashford and Simpson’s Sugar Bar, Bowery Poetry Club and Joes Pub with Reg E Gaines, and at the Fox Theater in Atlanta, GA in George Faison’s adaptation of *Bubblin’ Brown Sugar* starring Diahnn Carroll. She also performed at Witzigman Palazzo in Hamburg, Germany for 4 months as a solo vocalist and dancer. Ali has recorded vocals singing on Abiodun Oyewole of The Last Poets children’s album, songs called *Butterfly am I* and *We are One*.

In 2008, Ali debuted one of her original compositions Stono Rebellion, a tribute to the Africans who fought for freedom and rebelled against slavery in South Carolina in 1739. She was selected as an evolving choreographer in the Harlem Stage’s *E-Moves 9* showcase of professional dancers and choreographers. She also toured Canada and the United States in Roxanne Butterfly’s *World Beats: Journey of the Migrating Sole* as a dancer and vocalist. She is also an award-winning playwright, garnering Best Short Play at the 2011 Downtown Urban Theater Festival for her one woman show called *Steps*. While doing philanthropic work in the community of Philadelphia, Ali landed a principal role in a show called *Cotton Club Parade* produced by City Center and Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York directed by Warren Carlyle and Wynton Marsalis. Additionally, she was casted as a member of the Off-Broadway show *STOMP*. A feature tap dancer in Gerri Allen’s *Great Women of Jazz* at the Apollo sharing the stage with Dianne Reaves, Lizz Wright, Terri Lynne Carrington, and Tia Fuller. She was the 1st tap dancer to be invited to the University of Pittsburgh 43rd Annual Jazz Concerts and Seminar featuring Ravi Coltrane, Jeff “Tain” Watts, and great line up of jazz all stars. Currently she serves as a board member for Flint Red Ink Local 432, program director of Beyond Words, and artistic director of Destination Forever, LLC. Her debut album called *Destination Forever: Vol.1* which encompasses original compositions created through sounds of tap, song, and poetry was nominated by the Independent Music Awards in the Urban EP Category. As a choreographer she was recently commissioned by Harlem Stage for their E-Moves Dance Festival to create a piece called *Black Matter*. She uses the essence and influence of James Baldwin and his ability to articulate the struggles of Black Americans. Through Afro futuristic, spirituality, and traditions, this journey of music and expression explores stigmatism and social injustice issues that still exist today. Brinae Ali and company of dancers and musicians celebrate the innovators and freedom fighters by tapping into the higher consciousness of ourselves that vibrates with the universe while healing from the traumatic experiences of our past. Her latest accomplishment was joining the cast and becoming the assistant dance captain of the Broadway show *Shuffle Along: the 1921 Sensation and All That Followed* directed by George C. Wolfe and choreographed by Savion Glover.



## Elizabeth Burke

Elizabeth is a New York City based tap dancer, performer, choreographer, and teacher from Chapel Hill, North Carolina. A "deft and impassioned" (*The New York Times*) dancer, she has worked with Dorrance Dance consistently since their inaugural 2011 season; highlights include being an original cast member of many repertory works. With Dorrance Dance Productions, she and lifelong collaborator Luke Hickey are currently touring their work *A Swing Suite* throughout the United States. She trained under her mentor, Gene Medler, in the acclaimed North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble, performing worldwide. Elizabeth is a sought-after teacher, frequently teaching worldwide in festival and conservatory settings. Stage: Carnegie Hall; New York City Center; Sadler's Wells; The Joyce Theater; Birdland Jazz Club; Screen: *The Bride!* (dir. Maggie Gyllenhaal); *Keeping Time* (dir. Skyler Poiley); *I Love Susu* (dir. Dina Amer). @ElizabethRBurke



## Jeremy Arnold

Jeremy is currently on the faculty of Temple University where he teaches various courses rooted in American vernacular dance. He earned his MFA in Dance and Social Justice from the University of Texas at Austin in May 2020. He is an alumnus of the tap program at The School at Jacob's Pillow under the direction of Michelle Dorrance. Jeremy was a principal dancer with Tapestry Dance Company from 2014 through 2017, performing in the United States and abroad. He was and featured in the PBS docuseries *Arts in Context* with *Passing It Forward - Tapestry Dance Company*. Before joining Tapestry, Jeremy toured nationally with Shelley Oliver Tap Dancers.

From 2015 through 2020, Jeremy was a lecturer on the faculty of University of Texas at Austin dance department, teaching courses in rhythm tap, jazz, composition, and music theory. He served as artistic director for several mainstage productions.

Since 2013, Jeremy has worked with Charles O Anderson's Dance Theatre X, performing in and choreographing works which premiered at American Dance Festival, MANCC at Florida State University, The Fuzebox Festival, and The Kennedy Center for Performing Arts. In 2020, he was associate director of and performed in the dance film *(Re)current Unrest*, described by Sightlines Magazine as a "masterpiece." Jeremy has served on the faculty of many tap festivals including Soul 2 Sole, True Sound Rhythm Festival, Riff, Phoenix Tap Fest, Little Rock Tap Fest and SynCoPate. His work has been commissioned by Tap Ties, Third Coast Rhythm Project and Tapestry Dance Company. He tours nationally with Revive Dance Convention and National Dance Honors. Most recently, Jeremy can be seen dancing alongside Karissa Royster in *Mood Indigo*, a short dance film produced by Amplified Productions.



## Luke Hickey

Luke "never unmusical" (*New York Times*), is a NYC based tap dancer, choreographer, teacher and actor hailing from Chapel Hill, NC, and was named by Dance Magazine among their "25 to Watch" in 2020. Hickey began studying at the age of seven with his lifelong mentor, Gene Medler (JUBA Award recipient). Under the tutelage of Mr. Medler, Hickey spent ten consecutive seasons studying and touring with the internationally acclaimed North Carolina Youth Tap

Ensemble (NCYTE). In addition to his study with Medler, he is also an alumnus of the School at Jacob's Pillow and Pace University NYC (BA Film & Screen Studies, BA Communications Studies, cum laude). Since 2018, Hickey has been a company member of MacArthur Fellow, Michelle Dorrance's acclaimed company, Dorrance Dance.

His choreographic career began with the debut of his evening-length work, *A Little Old, A Little New*, which premiered at the world-famous Birdland Jazz Club. The work later traveled to Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Battery Dance Festival, the Joyce Theater's season at Chelsea Factory and headlined the American Dance Festival's fall series in 2022. *In This Time* was a site-specific work commissioned by Little Island for their Music and Dance Festival in 2022 and was restaged at the 92NY for their inaugural Uptown Rhythm Dance Festival. Hickey's newest solo project is *Strike*, his percussion ensemble which has played The Glade at Little Island and Birdland Jazz Club. Hickey's choreography can also be seen in Patrick Wang's feature film *A Bread Factory: Part II* which was listed on The New Yorker's "The Best Movies of 2018." With Dorrance Dance Productions, he and longtime collaborator Elizabeth Burke are currently touring their work *A Swing Suite* now into 2026 across the United States.

Hickey has had the honor to perform with artists including Grammy winners Arturo O'Farrill and Keyon Harold, Michelle Dorrance, Elizabeth Burke, Paul Arslanian, Marcus Gilmore, Ayodele Casel and Cartier Williams. Recently, Hickey has performed with acclaimed drummer Allison Miller in her multi-disciplinary show *Rivers in Our Veins* at the Detroit Jazz Festival, The Strathmore, Savanna Music Festival, and on WNYC's hit radio show *Soundcheck*.

Hickey is very passionate about teaching and educating the next generation of tap dancers. He has been on faculty at Harlem School of the Arts, guest faculty at STEPS on Broadway, and tap dance festivals around the world including the North Carolina Rhythm Tap Festival, American Tap Festival, Stockholm Tap Festival, Tap City Tap Festival, SMASH (Mexico), Oslo Tap & Swing Explosion, RIFF Dallas, Chicago Human Rhythm Project, and the Monterrey Tap Festival. [lukehickey.myportfolio.com](http://lukehickey.myportfolio.com)



## Margaret Morrison

Margaret is a rhythm tap artist, dance historian, teacher, and writer. She received the Flo-Bert Life Achievement Award and the ATDF Hooper Award for her contributions to tap dance. Her dance and theater productions, fiction, and scholarship explore tap at the intersections of gender, race, history, and queer identity. Margaret has performed across the globe and began her career in the 1980s with the American Tap Dance Orchestra, directed by Brenda Bufalino. A featured soloist with *Tap City on Tour* and other productions, critics hailed her "feather-footed and musically astute" and a "consummate artist who breaks the mold." Margaret has choreographed for ensembles and film, and she wrote, starred, and tap danced in her play *Home in Her Heart*, and is currently working on a novel about 1930s jazzwoman.

Her tap scholarship has been published in *Dance Research Journal*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and her research on tap dancer Juanita Pitts is included in the *Oxford Handbook of Black Dance Studies*, edited by Thomas F. DeFrantz.

Margaret mentors tap dancers in the art of choreography, educators in rhythm tap instruction, and serves on PhD committees for graduate tap researchers. She is a popular master teacher of tap technique, classic and contemporary tap repertory, improvisation, dance composition, and tap history. She holds an MFA from American Dance Festival/Hollins University, taught at

Barnard College and New York University, and served as Education Advisor for the American Tap Dance Foundation, where she created and co-directed the Tap Teacher Training Program. [MargaretMorrison.com](http://MargaretMorrison.com).



## Nicholas Van Young

Nicholas is a dancer, musician, choreographer, and a 2014 Bessie Award recipient. He began his professional career at age 16 under Acia Gray and Deirdre Strand with Tapestry Dance Company in Austin, Texas, dancing in the company from 1994 to 2002 and rising to principal dancer and resident choreographer. Since moving to New York, he has performed with Manhattan Tap, RumbaTap, Dorrance Dance, and Beat the Donkey; he has toured as a drummer for Darwin Deez; and he spent almost a decade

performing with *STOMP*, where he performed the lead role and acted as rehearsal director.

Young tours both nationally and internationally teaching and performing at various tap festivals, and founded Sound Movement dance company and IFTRA, The Institute for the Rhythmic Arts. Nicholas was the Associate Artistic Director of Dorrance Dance and enjoyed co-creating and developing *ETM: Double Down*, and the *Guggenheim Rotunda Project*, both collaborative efforts with Michelle Dorrance the company's founder and Artistic Director.

Nicholas is the director of The Rhythmic Arts Center in NYC - a community-driven space rooted in Tap Dance, Percussive Arts, Movement, and Spiritual Practice.

[www.rhythmicartscenternyc.com](http://www.rhythmicartscenternyc.com)



## Siobhan Alexis

As a native of Austin, Texas, Siobhan began her multi-form dance training at the young age of 3. Her parents, Deirdre Strand and Acia Gray, co-founded Tapestry Dance Company shortly after her birth, which provided the best training in Ballet, Jazz, Tap, and Modern that Austin had to offer. Siobhan had the opportunity to learn rhythm tap from internationally renowned tap dancers, Nicholas Van Young and Acia Gray. Through her childhood, she was exposed to legends in the tap community who felt more like family, which

impacted her passion for tap dance tremendously. At age 12 she was accepted into Tapestry's pre-professional apprentice company, Visions in Rhythm (VIR). During her 6 years in VIR, under the direction of the esteemed Tasha Lawson, she performed at numerous tap festivals including *Soul to Sole International Tap Festival*, *Third Coast Rhythm Project*, *Chicago Human Rhythm Project*, and *LA Tap Fest*. Before graduating high school, Siobhan also competed in ACT-SO, a college scholarship competition hosted by the NAACP, and placed nationally.

Siobhan performed professionally with Tapestry Dance Company as a principal dancer for 12 years and spent the last 5 years assisting world-renowned director, choreographer, and performer Acia Gray, as the dance captain for the ensemble. Siobhan has performed over 23 original works, including the NEA American Masterpiece production of *The Souls of Our Feet - A Celebration of American Tap Dance*, which toured the United States, Canada, and China from 2009-2012. Throughout the early years of *Souls*, she had the privilege of dancing alongside tap legend Dr. Arthur Duncan. She also participated in the revival of this acclaimed production in 2019 which featured her in works by Ann Miller, The Nicholas Brothers, and Bill 'Bojangles' Robinson, among others. Siobhan has been on the faculty as a teacher and performer of *Soul to Sole International Tap Festival*, *Toronto Rhythm Initiative*, *Montreal Tap Festival*, *NJ Tap Fest* and

*DansEncore International Dance Festival*. Siobhan performed as the featured female dancer in an original work by Matthew R. Shields and Travis Knights, *A Chronological Life Story of a Few Tap Dancers*, at *Vancouver International Tap Festival* and has worked as an assistant teacher and demonstrator for the late tap legend Arthur Duncan on multiple occasions throughout her festival career.

In 2015, Siobhan received an Austin Critics' Table Award as "Best Dancer In Austin." and appeared in *Thelonious* in NYC, a tribute to Thelonious Monk, under the direction of Parisian tap legend, Sarah Petronio. Siobhan also had the privilege of dancing and choreographing for a commissioned work for Jeremy Arnold in his thesis performance work at The Vortex Theatre in 2020 highlighting the erasure of Black culture from the art of Tap Dance. More recently, Siobhan Alexis has been performing with Austin, Texas' first Poet Laureate, Zell Miller III, in *Hip Hop Theatre Explosion* (2024), benefit performance for The SAFE Alliance's program Expect Respect (2025), and Frontera Fest (2025) with Jeffrey "DaShade Moonbeam" Johnson as *The Rhythm* and recent Early Era Collective productions in Austin.

Currently, Siobhan serves as the Drop-In Manager for CARES, a program of The SAFE Alliance in Austin, Texas. CARES serves at-risk and exploited youth between the ages of 12-25 to assist them in rebuilding their lives after experiencing human trafficking.



## Tony Waag

Tony is a tap dancer, director, producer, choreographer, teacher, film maker & speaker and 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, the UK 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, Rhythm in Motion, Tap it Out and Tap Treasures and In 2009, he created and staged the touring production of *Thank You Gregory*, a tribute to the Legends of Tap Dance; in January of 2010, he opened the American Tap Dance Center in New York City where he directed on-going education and training programs for tappers of all ages and levels until 2024; and in 2014, he received the Dance Magazine Award for his unique contributions to the dance field. [www.tonywaag.org](http://www.tonywaag.org)

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