



**Young
Audiences
New York**

A word from Tap City Youth Ensemble

“It’s all about kids performing for kids! Our young dancers will entertain, educate, and inspire your students about tap dance”

STUDENT EXPERIENCE:

As in all YANY performances, *Tapping into New York* is a 45 minute musical and educational experience. Through a performance with the Tap City Youth Ensemble, your students may experience:

Dance:

- Performance of tap dance by professional dancers
- learn why tap dance is different from other styles of dance
- explore various styles of tap dance
- learn the difference between choreography and improvisation

Music:

- learn about call and response
- learn simple rhythms through listening and clapping exercises
- explore counterpoint rhythms

History:

- learn about how tap dance is an American art form
- learn how Irish and English dance styles were influenced by African dances and rhythms which created tap dance

Community:

- learn how to be an active and engaged audience member
- learn about historic New York City landmarks that were important in tap history
- learn about Bill “Bojangles” Robinson, a famous New Yorker, and honorary “Mayor of Harlem”

Tapping into New York

The Tap City Youth Ensemble

Dance – Grades K – 12 – Audience limit: 250

Arts Residency
Performance
Family Workshops
Professional Development

“Tapping into New York” is a high energy, educational show exploring the history of tap dance and its connection to New York City.

The teen dancers of the Tap City Youth Ensemble lead students on a lively journey from the early beginnings of tap dance in the cultural immigrant center of Five Points in lower Manhattan, to Harlem and it’s famous honorary Mayor Bill “Bojangles” Robinson, to global rhythms around the world, including South African Gumboot dance.

Throughout the show the Tap City Youth Ensemble explores these questions: What is tap dance? Why is tap dance an American art form? What is choreography? What is improvisation? How are they different? Can tap dancers play music with their feet? Does tap dance exist in other parts of the world?

Students learn rhythms through audience participation including clapping & listening games, call and response,

This dynamic show of kids performing for kids features classic and contemporary choreography, improvisation, and audience participation.

About The Tap City Youth Ensemble:

The Tap City Youth Ensemble features the best and brightest young tappers from the New York City area. The ensemble was founded in 2006 by the American Tap Dance Foundation to give young tap dancers from the ages of 13 – 19 an opportunity to work with professional choreographers. The ensemble preserves the rich heritage of tap dance through learning classic/historical tap repertory and new contemporary works. The Tap City Youth Ensemble performs in a range of New York area venues including formal concerts, school hospital shows, free public events, and Tap City - The New York City Tap Festival each July.

Learning before the residency begins...

Take time to complete suggested activities and share these common words and phrases with the class.

Helpful activities to prepare your students for a performance of Tapping Into New York:

- Find Africa, Ireland, England and New York City on a map of the world
- Discuss and explore the various cultures that immigrated to America through the New York during the early 1800's
- Explore the neighborhood of Harlem, it's history, some of it's famous residents, theaters, especially the Apollo Theater and Bill "Bojangles" Robinson
- Discuss how many cultures today are represented in NYC, and how we mix and mingle and affect each other's music and dance styles
- How is tap dance a musical instrument?
- Why do people dance?

Spatial and technical needs:

- Stage or performing area of at least 20 x 20
- Wooden floor is necessary
- Dressing area near or backstage
- 10 chairs (without arms)
- Sound system to play music/cd
- Microphone for speaking/addressing the audience

Vocabulary

Rhythm: The variation of the duration of sounds over time; a beat or meter

Tap dance: Style of American theatrical **dance** using precise rhythmical patterns of foot movement and audible foot tapping.

Choreography: the art of composing dances and planning and arranging the movements, steps, and patterns of dancers

Improvisation: make something up on spot: to perform or compose something, especially a sketch, play, song, or piece of music, without any preparation or set text to follow

Counterpoint: the technique of combining two or more distinct lines of music that sounds simultaneously, esp. with an emphasis on melodic, as opposed to harmonic, progression

To book this residency or if you have any questions please contact

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