

All about Tap dance



Tap dance was developed in the United States over 100 years ago, and now it is popular in many parts of the world. The name comes from the tapping sound made when the small metal plates on the dancer's shoes touch a hard floor. This type of dance comes from the traditional clog dance of northern England, the jigs and reels of Ireland and Scotland, and possibly the rhythmic foot stamping of African dances.

History



Tap dancing may have begun in New York City. It was a combination of dances. Dancers who had come from different countries would get together to compete and show off their best moves. According to stories from that time, as the dancers started to do moves they saw others doing, the new American style of tap dancing emerged.

Characteristics of tap dance

Tap dancers usually start on the eighth or first beat count. Another aspect of tap dancing is making up steps as the music plays. This is called “improvisation”. You can improvise with music or without. If you dance without music it’s known as “a capella” dancing. Hoofers are tap dancers who dance only with their legs, making a louder, more grounded sound. Steve Condos was an expert in rhythmic tap. His innovative style influenced the work of some of today’s best tap dancers, like Gregory Hines, Savion Glover and Marshall Davis, Jr. Common tap steps include the shuffle, flap, cramp roll, buffalo, Maxie Ford, time steps, pullbacks, wings, Cincinnati, the shim sham shimmy, and the paddle and roll.