

Vancouver Tap Dance Society

2011-2012 Program

Vancouver Tap Dance Society strives to be an innovative leader in the promotion and preservation of tap dance and is dedicated to developing awareness of this art form. The Society's mandate includes the Tap Academy, Vancouver International Tap Festival, TapCo, a youth performance ensemble, Professional Tap Company, Adult recreational performance ensemble and an Outreach Program that provides tap classes to hundreds of children each year.



Photos: GT FOTO FX

THE ACADEMY

Hallmarks of the VTDS Academy include: professional faculty, a commitment to preserving the legacy of the tap masters, high profile performance opportunities and a culture of respect and passion for tap dance.

The Academy offers program instruction from the introductory recreational level to the rigorous curriculum offered to the pre professional student.

A colorful palette of tap classes have been created for adults from the absolute beginner to dancers seriously committed to studying the art of tap dance.

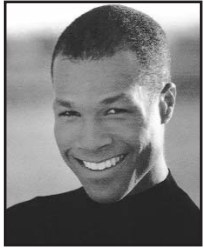


VTDS

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Academy Faculty

TROY MCLAUGHLIN



Troy hails from Richmond, Virginia and holds a B.F.A. in Jazz Dance from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. There he studied under the master

hooper and tap legend Lavaughn Robinson. Troy co-founded Tap Team Two and has danced with the illustrious Manhattan Tap and had the privilege of working with the late great Harold Nicholas. He has shared his talent with universities, public schools and studios all over North America. Troy's performance career has taken him around the world, performing in Andrew Lloyd Weber's "Starlight Express", Disney's "Lion King", with the Radio City Rockettes. Locally he danced in "Miss Saigon" and Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" for the Arts Club Theatre Company.

MARY LOU BRIEN



Mary Lou has worked extensively in Canada as a dancer, choreographer and teacher trained in the disciplines of ballet, jazz, tap and modern. She first studied in

the Vancouver area and continued her training in London, England and Los Angeles, Calif. She was a member of the Pacific Western Ballet Theatre under the direction of Joy Camden and Norbert Vesak and carried on to be a part of the Paula Ross Dance Co., and The Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers. She co-founded the Great Canadian Tap Co. and was a founding Board Member of the West Coast Tap Dance Collective. She has recently developed a masters tap competitive group who have won Gold at the World Tap Dance Competition in Reisa, Germany. For the

last 8 years she has focused her energies and talents to her first love, Tap, and is currently teaching, choreographing and adjudicating.

AMANDA GEORGESON



Amanda's training began at Peggy Peat School of Dance at the age of three. Studying extensively in all forms of the art, she excelled in jazz/lyrical and tap.

Amanda was Provincial Representative in the Stage category for four consecutive years. In 2005 she was the BC Provincial Runner - up in Vernon. In 2004 Amanda and her partner competed at the Tap World Championships in Germany, taking first in their category. She began her professional career at the age of 16 working in various venues through out Greater Vancouver. Amanda has been featured in many shows. The most recent being the opening ceremonies for the 2010 Olympic /Paralympic Games. She has worked with Michael Buble and closely with Cirque du Soliel. Amanda also took on the leading role in The Source Dance Company 2005/06. After graduating in 2005 Amanda was offered a position with Princess Cruise Lines. She completed 2 contracts on board with them before going to work for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines.

ANGELA LOWNDES



Angela was born in Costa Rica and has studied dance all over the World. She is a choreographer, Dancer, Teacher, and Singer. Her technique ranges in many different

styles such as Old Skool, New Skool, Locking, Popping, Street Jazz, Jazz and Ballet. Her many credits include Moka

Only, Rascalz, MTV Canada, MTV US, Much Music and many more. Her Dance crew, Grandmaster C and the Funky 5+1 are the recent Hip Hop Champions in the West Coast of Canada. The group traveled to Los Angeles this summer to represent Canada in the World Hip Hop Championships.

TERYL ROTHERY



Teryl started dancing at the age of 9, and by the time she was 13 she was one of the lead dancers entertaining for a major cruise line. Upon her return she

began teaching tap and jazz and also fell in love with Musical Theatre and performed with various theatre companies, including Theatre Under The Stars, where she received the "Most Outstanding Performer" award for 'Annie Get Your Gun'. Professionally she has danced on television specials for CBC Vancouver, ITV Edmonton, and two seasons on The Tom Jones show. In addition, Teryl's an actor in voice-overs, animation, and on stage and screen. She spent seven years as a series regular on 'Stargate SG-1', three seasons on 'Kyle X/Y' for ABC Family, two seasons on 'The Guard' for Global TV, and just finished her first season with NBC's sci-fi series, 'CAPRICA'. I should mention that my greatest role and favourite job came about on October 3, 2008 when I gave birth to my little girl, Londyn, so don't be surprised if you see her tap, tap, tapping away."

SHELLEY STEWART HUNT



Shelley is currently on a leave of absence.

Programs

YOUTH PROGRAMS

MOM/POP AND TOTS - Teryl and her tot Londyn invite you to this class! There is nothing better than a family dancing together. Learn some tap dance rudiments that both can share and relate to. Don't fret about tap shoes, we have rentals for mom or dad and Tot!

BEGINNER TAP - will introduce the new dancer to counting, balance, weight shifting, tap rudiments in a safe and fun environment. Class performs in the year end show.

ADVANCED BEGINNER TAP - designed to further enhance your tap skills, with a piece of choreography designed to support your development and technique. This class performs in the year end show.

INTERMEDIATE TAP - Learn a routine that is suited to your while learning more advanced tap dance combinations and development your technique. Class performs in the year end show.

JAZZ - classes from the beginner to the advanced. Jazz is an integral part of dancer's development - it enhances your tap training.

HIP HOP - come learn the latest dance moves with the most popular music. In this class, you will touch on the many different styles of hip hop, for example, Lockin, Poppin, Breakin, Old Skool, New Skool, plus many more. This is a great class to test your skills and to learn new technique from the West Coast Canadian Hip Hop Champion, Angela Lowndes.

TAP PUPS - focus on technique and developing performance skills. Precursor to Da Boyz.

JR TAP Group A & B - Develops performance skills, individual style with an emphasis on technique and performance development.

DEM GURLS Group A & B - Intermediate level training for girls 10-15 years includes a tap choreography class and performance development.

DA BOYZ - Training program that supports boys to dance in their own unique way. It is open to young males with the desire to study tap at an intermediate level and to perform. Performance development will further develop your stage presence.

SUPREME TAP - advanced study program for teenage girls. Training is a combination of tap choreography and musical development.

TAPCO - is one of BC's premiere youth ensembles known for their show stopping performances. Under the guidance of Danny Nielsen this ensemble trains through the contribution from guest artists, the rehearsal process and public performances. Auditions for all of the 3 programs September 10th, at VTDS Studio at 1:00pm.

A) TAPCO APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM - young dancers will learn the repertoire of "Just in Time" as their introduction to the company. Ages-9-13

B) TAPCO TOURING SHOW "JUST IN TIME" - This enriched program develops performance skills, technical prowess and professional protocols. There must be a commitment to the performance schedule and regular attendance at the rehearsal and training sessions. The company will perform approximately 20 shows a year. Ages-10-18

C) TAPCO PRE PROFESSIONAL - Danny Nielsen has shaped a program to develop advanced dancers in musicality, improvisational and choreographic skills. It serves as a bridge from the non-professional to the professional arena. Ages: 13+

STAGE - Stage is a form of dance which includes acting and song with choreography. This class will benefit the student's expression and performance both in class and on stage. Students will learn routines from popular stage productions. No previous experience necessary for this class!

ASSESSMENT AND PLACEMENT in classes. Placement in Tap Pups, Da Boyz, Da Boyz 2 Men, JR A&B, Dem Gurls A&B and Supreme is by invitation. For first time members we recommend attending an assessment session. The Director will assess the dancers for appropriate placement. Assessment dates: August 27th at 12:00 noon.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Classes are challenging and designed for dancers who wish to study tap in a supportive environment. With the exception of the technique classes all other classes are invited to perform in VTDS's annual celebration of tap at the year end showcase.

ABSOLUTE BEGINNER - The title says it all... you will learn the basic tap steps and technique accumulating into a variety of combinations that will have you dancing your troubles away, with shuffles, flaps and cramp rolls. We have tap shoes you can rent for the year.

ADVANCED BEGINNER - Now that you have learned some of the rudiments of tap dance you are ready to move forward with a variety of combinations, some choreography, technique and floor work.

ADV. BEG/INTERMEDIATE CHOREOGRAPHY - Troy always has a sweet and low down routine that you will be absolutely delighted with. His patience, eye to detail and sophisticated choreography will give you all the confidence you need to present this routine in our year end showcase.

ADVANCED - This varied and complex class will cover some of the magnificent combos from the masters and, of course, the cutting-edge rhythms and combination from Danny. You'll be burning up the floor in this fast paced challenging class that will move like no other class. Get your shoes on tight, bring a towel and let it rip!

THEATRICAL TAP - A combination of musical theatre and tap that always offers a show stopping routine that everyone enjoys learning and audiences just love.

HEART AND SOLE - this is VTDS's adult performance ensemble that has been under the direction of Shelley Stewart Hunt, who is on a leave of absence and Mary Lou Brien skillfully assumes the artistic leadership for this unique class. Heart and Sole has evolved out of a love to perform and many dancers in the Theatrical Tap have found this Heart and Sole ensemble an opportunity to perform several times a year at community special events. Criteria for this class is you love performing, can commit to rehearsals and that you are registered in one other VTDS tap class. Dancers interested in this program, should indicate their interest to Mary Lou, or, Anna Kramer, to ensure suitability and availability supports the artistic direction of Heart and Sole.

COMPETITION CLASS 40+-GOING FOR GOLD! - If you love performing and reaching out to an audience with the flare of Mary Lou Brien's winning choreography style, then this is your class. Mary Lou's unique style of the "Hot Flash- Hoofers" and her ability to motivate dancers and build confidence to be their best is the trademark of this class.

IMPROVISATION - An opportunity has been created for dancers wanting to develop improv skills and to trade off with each other. The non-intimidating environment will nudge you along the improvisational road of tap. The great Jimmy Slyde observed: "Tap improvisation and the ability to swing is a spiritually enlightened conversation."

JAZZ/WORKOUT - This class will not only complement your tap dancing it will strengthen and tone, it will give you one heck of work out at the same time.

Artist in Residence

September, 2011 to June 2012

DANNY NIELSEN



A native of Calgary, Danny Nielsen began his tap dance career as a founding member of MADD Rhythms Canada, studying under Lisa La Touche, Bril Barrett and Martin Tre Dumas III. In his hometown, he prepared short choreographies for Decidedly Jazz Danceworks productions Tinge and Tone and assisted the tap luminary Heather Cornell in creating a tap piece for the DJD 25th Anniversary show 25. An emerging artist on the scene, Danny performed as a principle dancer in the worldwide broadcast of the 2010 Winter Olympics Opening Ceremonies, in Heather Cornell's ensemble CanTap, with MADD Rhythms in

Chicago, in the opening number for the 2008 Jerry Lewis Telethon choreographed by Chloe Arnold, and with Calgary's Quinteto led by renowned saxophonist Oliver Miguel. Danny is extremely excited to share his passion, work ethic, and dedication with the Vancouver Tap Society. Danny adds, "My background includes mentors who fostered hard work, the history of the dance and the influence of Jazz. VTDS is a group of educated, hungry, and hard working dancers and I'm ecstatic about taking on the challenge of inspiring and mentoring them."

Guest Artist

DIANNE WALKER



Dianne 'Lady Di' Walker, a pioneer in tap dancing's resurgence has a 30 year career spanning Broadway, Television, Film and International Jazz Dance Concerts and Festivals. United States Artists selected Walker as the recipient of the USA Rose Fellow 2008, Dance. Ms. Walker holds a Master's degree in Education, and has taught at Harvard, Williams College, University of Michigan,

UCLA, Bates, and Wesleyan. She received Oklahoma City University's 1998 Living Treasure In American Dance Award, adding to a long line of awards and lifetime tributes. She began her dance training in Boston with Mildred Kennedy-Bradic and later, Leon Collins, Jimmy "Sir Slyde" Mitchell and Jimmy Slyde. Leon Collins passed away in 1985, leaving Dianne to continue as one of the Directors of his school. She continues to share this rich legacy with her students. Dianne has attended all 12 of our festivals and has supported VTDS as a member on our advisory committee. Over the years she has provided insightful leadership, razor sharp historical lessons and unconditional friendship to VTDS and to me personally. This year, with our studio purchase, we strengthen our commitment to creating an inclusive and creative space for the tap community. It seemed fitting that Dianne join us to celebrate this momentous time in shaping our legacy - a home for tap dancers. VTDS is thrilled to have the world's ambassador of tap join us as VTDS guest artist.

VTDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Barbara Stewart - Past President
Bianca Fusco Zanatta - Vice President
Maria Littlejohn - Secretary
Kathy McGrenera
Arlene McDonald

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dianne "Lady Di" Walker
Terry Brock

HONOURARY MEMBER

Dr. Jeni LeGon

ADMINISTRATION

Sas Selfjord - Executive Director
Anna Kramer - Manager

VTDS CORE PURPOSE

To preserve, enhance, promote & teach the art of tap dance.

VTDS CORE VALUES

- VTDS membership, faculty & students
- Technical Excellence
- Tap masters and history
- Inclusiveness
- Respect
- Growth and nurturing
- Teamwork
- Tap Artistry
- Innovation and creativity



VTDS gratefully acknowledges the support of the following:

City of Vancouver, Office of Cultural Affairs, Canadian Heritage,
British Columbia Gaming Commission, Burnaby Arts Council, BC Arts Council