



NATIONAL DANCE INSTITUTE OF NEW MEXICO

TEACHING CHILDREN EXCELLENCE

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NATIONAL DANCE INSTITUTE OF NEW MEXICO HOSTS 9th ANNUAL NEW MEXICO TAP DANCE JAM

Albuquerque, New Mexico—The National Dance Institute of New Mexico and the University of New Mexico Dance Department present the 9th Annual New Mexico Tap Dance Jam on Friday, July 13, and Saturday, July 14. The performances showcase dancers from the National Dance Institute of New Mexico, Dance Arts Center, Tara's Dance Academy, La Mesa Dance Academy, Fishback School of the Dance, Sandra's School of Dance, and many other studios.

The three performances star tap legend Bill Evans, Nicole Hockenberry, Brenna Kuhn, Wendy Leverenz Barker, Jackie Oliver, with Sara Hutchinson and Robbie Peterson and continue the legacy of the Annual Bill Evans Rhythm Tap Dance Jams. Students from the Albuquerque and Santa Fe areas unite for an evening of rhythmic and percussive dance.

The 9th Annual New Mexico Tap Dance Jam will be presented at Keller Hall, Center for the Arts, University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Performances are at 7:00pm on Friday July 13, and Saturday July 14. Tickets are \$10 for students, \$15 for adults. For tickets, please call (505) 277-4569 or visit www.unmtickets.com. Master classes will be held July 11-13 at Carlisle Gym at the University of New Mexico. For more information on master classes, please call (505) 872-1800, extension 1101.

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Founded in 1994, **National Dance Institute of New Mexico** reaches 6,100 underserved children from kindergarten through high school annually through the state. NDI-NM's highly trained instructors bring award-winning arts and physical education programs to these students and to 784 public school teachers in urban, rural and Native American communities. More information is available at www.ndi-nm.org, or by calling (505) 872-1800.

FURTHER INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS, IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

NEW MEXICO TAP DANCE JAM PARTICIPANTS

PROFESSOR BILL EVANS was artistic director for 30 years of the Bill Evans Dance Company, a professional touring ensemble which performed in all 50 states and internationally under the Dance Touring and Artist-in-the-Schools Programs of the National Endowment for the Arts. Evans has served as artistic coordinator of Utah's Repertory Dance Theatre, as Artistic Director of Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers, and founded the Evans Rhythm Tap Ensemble in 1992. Evans' awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship, the New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, and two Awards for Excellence in Dance from Albuquerque Arts Alliance. Evans is a member of the Board of Directors of National Dance Education Organization, and earned his MFA from the University of Utah. He is a Visiting Professor at the State University of New York College at Brockport; Professor Emeritus at the University of New Mexico; Permanent Guest Artist in the Professional Program of Winnipeg's School of Contemporary Dancers; and Artistic Director of the annual Bill Evans Dance Intensives and Evans Technique Certification Program at Centrum, Port Townsend, WA.

NICOLE HOCKENBERRY is founder and artistic director of Teach All People (TAP), adjunct professor of Dance at Cedar Crest College (Allentown, PA) and master lecturer at University of the Arts (Philadelphia, PA). She has been a member of A&G Dance and Manhattan Tap, and her choreography has been commissioned by tap companies nationwide. Hockenberry has taught and performed with the New York Foundation for the Arts, St. Louis Tap Festival, Soul to Sole, Columbus Taps, Third Coast Rhythm Project, Southeastern Tap Explosion, Everything on Tap!, Traditions in Tap, Tap City: The New York Tap Festival, and many more. Hockenberry was a founding member, performer, and production manager of the women's tap trio, The Shelley Oliver Tap Dancers, and is featured in the *Doctors of Dance Documentary*.

JACKIE OLIVER is currently the Albuquerque Artistic Director for National Dance Institute of New Mexico. She has been dancing, performing, and choreographing throughout the Santa Fe and Albuquerque areas for over 21 years. She began her training under Patricia Dickinson and Suzanne Johnston in Albuquerque. Jackie has served on the faculty and performed for both the Annual Bill Evans Rhythm Tap Dance Jams, as well as Centrum's Bill Evans Dance Intensive this summer in Port Townsend, WA. She has performed and choreographed for the New Mexico Ballet Company, the Bill Evans Rhythm Tap Ensemble, and the University of New Mexico Dance Department. Jackie has been a member of NDI-NM's artistic staff since 2000.

WENDY LEVERENZ BARKER has been choreographing, producing and performing for over 25 years. She graduated from University of New Mexico with a BA in Theatre and a Minor in Vocal Performance. She has over 20 credits with ACLOA/MTS for performance and choreography. Other choreography credits include UH OH, HERE COMES CHRISTMAS with Albuquerque Little Theatre and the Sandia High School Show Choir 2003/2004 who won the regionals in Anaheim, CA. She also choreographed/CO-produced the highly acclaimed: WHEN PIGS FLY at the Vortex Theatre in 2003 and again in 2004 by popular demand at the MTS Ana Chavira Theatre. Wendy is a member of the Bill Evans Rhythm Tap Ensemble.

BRENNA KUHN is currently a principal dancer with *Tapestry Dance Company*, (Austin, TX) and Director of the Tapestry Dance Company Academy. Prior to moving to Austin, she lived in Chicago, where she performed with *Especialy Tap Chicago*, was the rehearsal director and a founding member of *Chicago Tap Theatre*, and directed her own youth dance company, *Visual Rhythm*. She has her BA in dance from the University of New Mexico and is a published author in *Medical Problems of Performing Artists*. She is proud to have been a member of the *Lloyd Storey Tap Ensemble* in Detroit and the *Bill Evans Dance Company* in New Mexico. A few of her teaching credits include Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Giordano Dance Center, Brant Lake Dance Camp (NY), Tap West and the Maui Tap Experience. She was recently honored to be nominated as Best Dancer by the Austin Critics Table for 2007.