

RAW



PROJECT X



Welcome!

The State Theatre in New Brunswick, New Jersey welcomes you to the school-day performance of *Raw Dance: Project X*. The show, a 90-minute rhythm and dance extravaganza, blends tap dance, hip hop, beatboxing, music, and more. Along with the athletic, inventive, and charismatic dancers, there’s fabulous live music—from funk to techno to Latin—and amazing sounds of beat boxer “Dr Rhythm.”

These *Keynotes* provide information and activities to help you understand and enjoy the performance. You’ll learn about the show and the performers, as well as the cultural and historical influences that helped shape their distinctive style.

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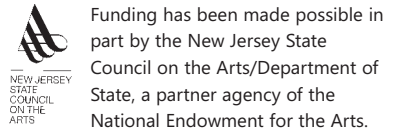
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ENJOY THE SHOW!



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The State Theatre, a premier nonprofit venue for the performing arts and entertainment.

Meet Raw Dance

Raw Dance Company (originally called Raw Metal) was founded in 1998 by Andrew Fee, when he was just 18 years old. The company presents a high-energy fusion of popular street youth culture, featuring elements of “funk tap,” hip hop, break dance, beat-boxing, circus arts, contemporary dance, guitar, and percussion.

The company’s home base is Moorooka, a suburb of Brisbane, the state capital of Queensland, Australia. Their members have performed throughout Australia and around the world, wowing audiences in New York, London, Singapore, Switzerland, Germany, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Taipei, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas.

Education is an important part of the company’s mission. They partner with a number of organizations to provide opportunities for young people from urban, rural, and regional communities to participate in fun and interactive dance workshops and performances. Raw Dance’s training programs are designed to help students develop into the professionals of tomorrow.

Raw Dance Company website:

www.rawmetal.com.au

Follow them on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/rawcompany>



Artistic Director:Andrew Fee

Choreography:Andrew Fee & the Raw Cast

Set Design:Andrew Fee

Sound Design:Jamie Taylor

Dancers:Andrew Fee, Reece Hopkins, Daniel Sintes, Sam Windsor, Matthew Sintes

Guitar:Andrew Keppie

Bass:Jeremy O’Connor

Drums:Joel Warden

Beatbox:Jonathan Grant



Project X: Program



Program

Opening Funk	Radio Noise
Rhythmic Voice	Tribal
Bin Swing Tap*	Thong Tap**
Vocal Rhythms	Flipper Tap
Extendo	Closing Funk
Funk Tap	
Beatbox	
Air Band	

***BIN** - a storage box or wastebasket

****THONGS** - flip flops (shoes)

Bring on the Funk!

Raw Dance Company calls their style "funk tap." Funk is a style of African American music that emerged in the late 1960s. It blends elements of soul, R&B, and jazz. Funk is all about "the groove": a swinging rhythm that drives the music forward and makes you want to get up and dance!

Well-known funk artists include [James Brown](#), [George Clinton](#), [Bootsy Collins](#), [Rufus & Chaka Khan](#), and [Sly and the Family Stone](#).

Observation Checklist

Here are some things to watch and listen for during the show.

- SOLO** - One dancer performing alone
- ENSEMBLE** - Two or more dancers performing at the same time
- FORMATION** - How the dancers are arranged on stage. Look for lines (straight or curved), clumps, symmetrical and asymmetrical shapes.
- UNISON AND NON-UNISON** - When the dancers do the same moves at the same time, or all do something different.
- LOCOMOTOR AND NON-LOCOMOTOR MOTION** - When the dancers travel across the floor or stay in the same spot as they dance.
- POLYRHYTHM** - When different rhythms are played at the same time.
- CALL AND RESPONSE** - A conversation in rhythm. A dancer or instrument performs a rhythm, then another dancer or instrument responds.
- CHALLENGE** - When the performers try to outdo each other in skill and speed.
- PROPS** - Items (such as flip flops or sticks) that the performers use in the show.
- LIGHTING** - How the lighting designer uses color, intensity, movement, and direction of the lighting to create dramatic visual effects.

Thong Tap

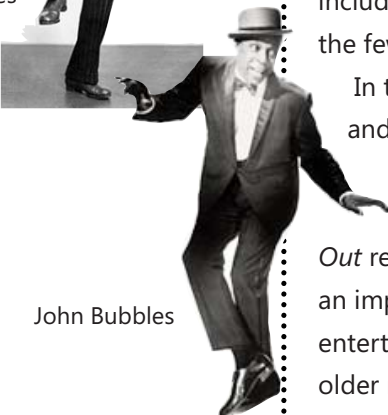


History of Tap

Henry Lane, known as "Master Juba," was the first black performer in America to appear with a white minstrel group. His dance style combined plantation shuffles and Irish clog dances.



Bill "Bojangles" Robinson



John Bubbles

Tap Dance and Race

During segregation, African American tap dancers rarely performed on stage with white dancers. In film, they were given mostly small roles, written in such a way that their scenes could easily be cut from the film when it was shown in the South.

Tap dance is an American art form that came from a collision of cultures in the New World. In colonial times, Scottish and Irish indentured workers brought clog and step dancing to America. These dances featured rapid toe and heel movements: stomping, tapping, and scraping the floor with the feet. African slaves in the South saw and imitated these dances, and combined them with West African step dances, known as "juba" dances, to create what eventually became tap dance.

Tap dancing began to be performed on stage during the late 1800s. In a type of entertainment called a "minstrel show," white performers blackened their faces with makeup and imitated African American music and dance. The shows presented racist and highly offensive stereotypes, but their popularity demonstrated the increasing influence of black culture in the United States. The term "tap dance" started to appear in the early 20th century.

The Harlem Renaissance (1920s to mid-30s) brought the rhythms of jazz music to tap dance. Tap became America's most popular form of theater dance. The top dancers were African Americans, with [Bill "Bojangles" Robinson](#), and [John W. Bubbles](#) the biggest stars of the time.

Tap dance caught on with audiences worldwide through Hollywood musicals. Among the greatest dancers on film were the [Nicholas Brothers](#), whose spectacular leaps and splits defined a style called "flash tap." Famous white dancers included [Fred Astaire](#), [Gene Kelly](#), and [Eleanor Powell](#) (one of the few female tap stars).

In the late 1950s, Hollywood stopped producing musicals, and tap went out of style. During the 1970s, the success of Broadway shows such as *Black and Blue* and *Jelly's Last Jam* and films such as *The Cotton Club* and *Steppin Out* reflected new public interest. Tap came to be considered an important American art form rather than just entertainment. Audiences rediscovered and celebrated the older masters of tap, such as Honi Coles, Jimmy Slyde, and Sandman Sims, who passed along their legacy to a new generation—most prominently, [Gregory Hines](#) and [Savion Glover](#). Glover, the Tony-winning star and choreographer of Broadway's *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk*, revolutionized tap dance by integrating hip hop and funk. His influence can be seen in shows such as *Tap Dogs* and *Raw Dance*.

Today, tap dance embraces a wide range of styles, as well as women, men, and people of all ages and cultural backgrounds.



minstrel show poster



the Nicholas Brothers



Fred Astaire



Gregory Hines



Savion Glover

Gotta Dance!



At its most basic, tap dance is about tapping out rhythms with the feet. Every tap dancer learns the basic steps, using different movements of the feet, different parts of the shoe, and different rhythms. Tap has developed two distinct styles. **RHYTHM TAP**, which is tied to the African American jazz tradition, emphasizes complicated rhythms and footwork as a form of musical expression. **BROADWAY TAP** is more closely related to the musical theater traditions from Europe. This style emphasizes the entire body—not just the legs and feet—as a form of dance expression.

Every tap dancer learns the basic steps and combinations of steps, such as time steps, shuffles, scuffles, brushes, flaps, wings, pullbacks, shim sham, heel clicks, and riffs. From this basic vocabulary of steps, dancers can create infinite variations. The very greatest tap dancers combine speed and precision with a strong sense of rhythm and style to create inventiveness new steps and combinations.

Tap Shoes

During the period between 1900 and 1920, tap dancers began to look for ways to amplify and emphasize the sound of their tapping feet. In the early days, dancers hammered pennies or nails into the toes and heels of their shoes. After 1910, they started attaching pieces of metal—called taps—to the bottoms of their dance shoes.



Resources

BOOKS:

TAP! The Greatest Tap Dance Stars and Their Stories 1900-1955, by Rusty Frank. Da Capo Press, 1995

Tap Dancing America: A Cultural History, by Constance Valis Hill. Oxford University Press, 2010

Tapworks: A Tap Dictionary and Reference Manual, by Beverly Fletcher. Princeton Book Company, 2002

FILM:

Tap (1989). Gregory Hines stars as a man, just released from prison, who struggles between returning to a life of crime or following in the footsteps of his father, a tap dancer. Also starring Sammy Davis Jr.

Tap Dance History: From Vaudeville to Film. A collection of rare film footage from short films of the 1930s and '40s, with narration providing historical context.

INTERNET:

[Fred Astaire and Eleanor Powell dance to *Begin the Beguine*, from *The Broadway Melody of 1940*](#). Considered one of the greatest tap numbers on film.

[Ray Bolger, in *The Harvey Girls* \(1946\)](#). This style of tap is called “eccentric” dancing.

[Lullaby of Broadway](#), from the film musical *Gold Diggers of 1935*, is an example of the Broadway tap style, performed here on a huge set and a large ensemble of dancers.

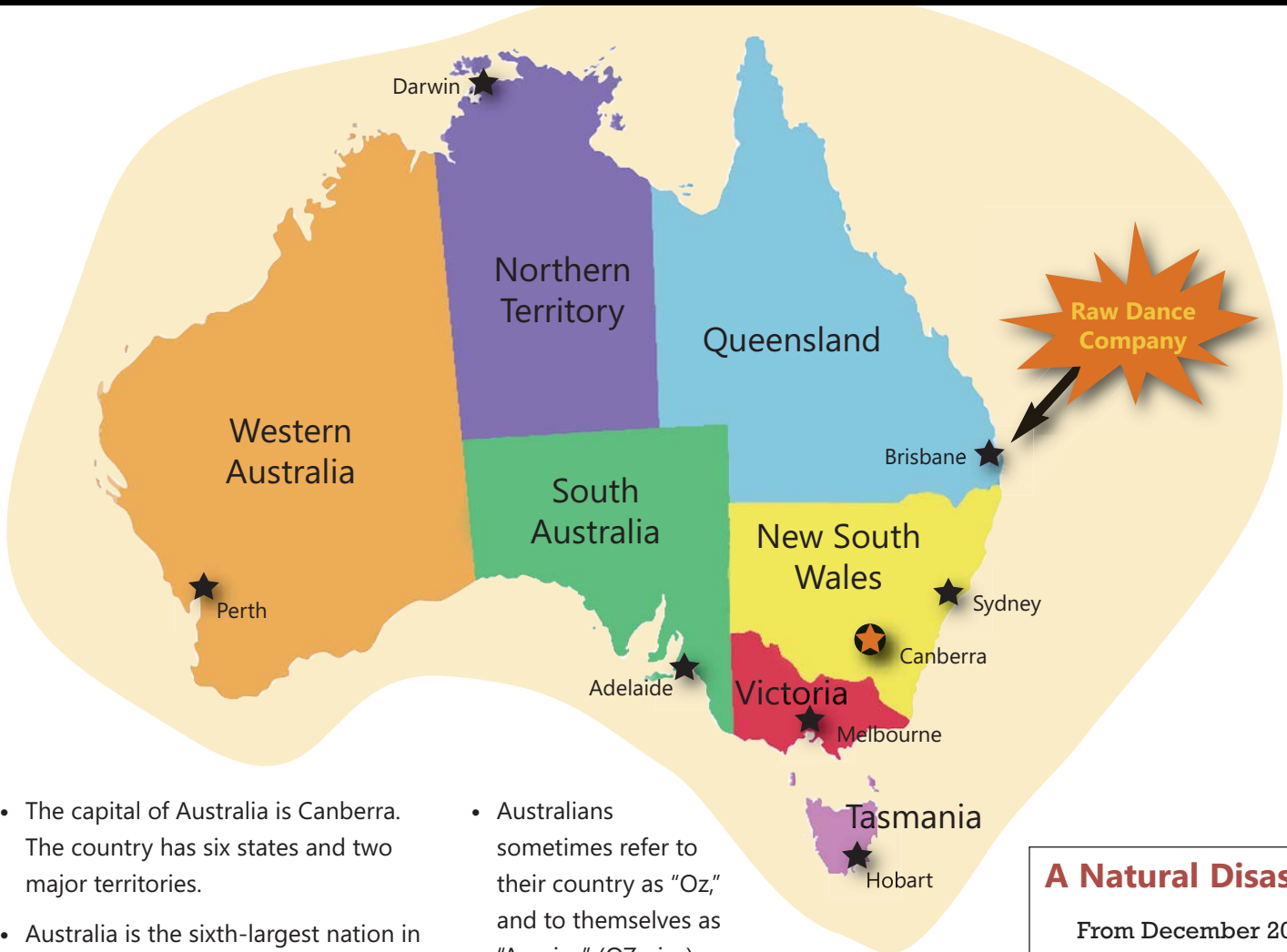
[Gregory Hines, Bunny Briggs, Jimmy Slyde, Buster Brown and Sandman Sims](#). A classic challenge routine with some of the greatest names in tap.

[Sandman Sims](#), doing his famous Sand Dance, where the tap dancer scrapes and shuffles his feet along a sand-covered floor.

In 1989, Congress proclaimed May 25 National Tap Dance Day.



The Land "Down Under"



- The capital of Australia is Canberra. The country has six states and two major territories.
- Australia is the sixth-largest nation in area and is the only country that covers an entire continent.
- The indigenous peoples of Australia are called "Aborigines" (ab-uh-RIDG-in-eez). They have lived there for over 50,000 years.
- Aborigines invented the boomerang, a curved piece of wood that, when thrown, will come back to you.
- Europeans discovered Australia around 1606. The British began colonizing the continent in 1770. Today, about 92% of the population is white, 7% Asian, and 1% Aborigine and other groups.
- While Australia is an independent country, Queen Elizabeth II of England is the head of the executive branch of the government.
- Australians sometimes refer to their country as "Oz," and to themselves as "Aussies" (OZ-zies).
- Since Australia is in the southern hemisphere (the land "Down Under"), the country's seasons are the exact opposite of ours; when it's summer here, it's winter there—and vice versa.
- About 40% of Australia is desert. There are also grassland, tropical, subtropical, and temperate regions. Australia has more beaches than any other country in the world.
- Australia is the world's largest exporter of coal, wool, opals, lead, and diamonds.
- Australians have invented some useful and important things that we use every day. Among their inventions are notepads, aspirin, and the pacemaker.

A Natural Disaster

From December 2010 into January 2011, the State of Queensland (where Raw Dance is from) was hit by severe floods. Three-quarters of the state was declared a disaster area, and thousands were left homeless. Raw Dance was heavily affected by the flooding, but community volunteers came out to help. "We had three days of cleanup," said Artistic Director Andrew Fee. "It's pretty amazing to have people turn up that you're meeting for the first time and they're sweating their guts out helping us."

What's Your Part?

Live theater is a collaboration between the performers and the audience. The artists have spent weeks, months—even years—creating a show to inspire and entertain you. Your role in this artistic collaboration is very important to the success of the performance. Make sure you understand your part and follow these simple rules.

1 Turn off all electronic devices. Keep them off for the entire show.

2 Focus your full attention on the stage.

3 No recording or photography of any kind.

4 No texting or checking messages.

