PROGRAM COPY

Tap Dance Legendary Pioneer and Performer….

BRENDA BUFALINO

Presents a lecture demonstration

of

TAP DANCE…MADE IN AMERICA

The Rhythm and history of America’s own indigenous art form

How did the world’s rhythms join forces to create America’s own indigenous art form-- Tap Dance?

Brenda Bufalino wasn’t there in the late 1900’s when it began in the Five Point district in New York City, but she was there for the beginning of the revival. A pioneer in the resurgence of Jazz Tap Dance in the l970’s, Ms. Bufalino directed and produced “GREAT FEATS OF FEET,” the first documentary on tap dance and the masters who helped create the form. She will discuss styles, periods, the movies, the stage and the eventual creation of the concert stage where this indigenous form finally became perceived as “The Fine Art of Tap Dance.”

Ms. Bufalino will reflect on the material from her acclaimed memoir “TAPPING THE SOURCE…Tap Dance Stories, Theory and Practice”

She will discuss of the creation of her documentary on the jazz tap dancer featuring Charles “Honi” Coles and the Copasetics, which was filmed in New York, and New Paltz from l973-l975 with the first SONY black and white Porta Pack Video Camera. And so began the revival of a beloved form that Marshall Stearns in his incredible book “Jazz Dance,” stated was dead forever.

Some Film Excerpts might include:

“TAP THROUGH TIME”…a film montage by Tony Waag

George Neiranberg: documentary “ABOUT TAP” which featured Chuck Green, Bunny Briggs, and Sandman Simms. Filmed in New York City. 1977

“Cantata & The Blues:” Ms. Bufalino at the BALLROOM. One of the first one person shows of a full evening of Tap Dance revealing it as a contemporary experimental art form.

“TAP DANCE IN AMERICA…PBS special with Gregory Hines,” excerpt of The American Tap Dance Orchestra performing “HAITIAN FIGHT SONG.”

“Off THE BEATEN PATH” excerpts from a full evening of original work with the MAD Theatrical company, celebrating the environmentalist Rachel Carson. Ms.

ABOUT BRENDA BUFALINO:

Brenda Bufalino, a mixed genre performer is best known for her mastery of Tap Dance. As a soloist, and choreographer/director of The American Tap Dance Orchestra, she has performed and taught Internationally for over 25 years. Her collaborations with her partner and mentor the great Charles ‘Honi’ Coles, and her many performances with Gregory Hines, The Nicholas Brothers, and the many giants of tap dance has infused her with the essence of the form that she now shares, with her stories, teaching, and dances. Her own experimental work has influenced the next two generations of tap artists and she is still creating new experimental and traditional tap works and performances. She has performed solo and with her company “The American Tap Dance Orchestra” at all the major venues; Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, The Joyce Theater, The Kennedy center and major theaters across America and Europe. For the State Department the ATDO toured Eastern Europe introducing the newly democratic theaters to the world of Tap Dance. As an international Master Tap Teacher, Mentor and Lecturer she was instrumental in the creation of Tap Festivals, which are still thriving throughout the world.

An author and playwright, vocalist and recording artist Ms. Bufalino is also a ceramicist creating hand built art and functional pieces.

Ms. Bufalino has been awarded several National Endowment for The Arts Awards. In 2009 the NEA deemed two of her choreographies for the ATDOO “American Masterpieces” These two works “Buff Loves Basie,” and “The Haitian Fight Song,” were performed by Ms. Bufalino and “The New Tap Dance Orchestra” at Bruno Walter Auditorium at Lincoln Center, and Symphony Space, NYC. She has been awarded: The Flobert Award, The Tapestry Award, The Tap City Hall of Fame Award, all for outstanding achievement and contributions to the field of tap dance.

She has created many DVD’s, and CD’s, which along with her memoir and her poetry book “CIRCULAR MIGRATIONS,’ published by Codhill Press, are all available on her website: theuncommonimage.net Brenda Bufalin0

RECENT REVIEW EXCERPTS:

Middletown Press Nov 5, 2012 excerpted Review by Justin Pottle

“DANCING QUEEN: TAP LEGEND VISITS MIDDLETOWN LIBRARY”

“Bufalino’s fluid phrasing and technique lent an uncanny musicality to her performance, showcasing the chops that have made her a super star in the world of tap dancing” “Bufalino’s career has left her with no shortage of stories to tell. She recounted her early trials and tribulations, making a name for herself with wry humor and honesty.”

ENV MAGAZINE Sept. 18, 2012 excerpted Review by Linda Diamond

“BUFALINO-AN UNSUNG NATIONAL TREASURE”

“Brenda, tap dancer par excellence spreads the word about American indigenous dance at Mohonk Mountain House.” ”While speaking of important tap dance legends and history, Brenda shared with the audience many exciting facts with eloquence, joie de vivre, and a warm presence. She also spoke through song as well as with her delightful tap dances flavored with diversity and true American culture.”

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