

#### Sept. 22 - 26 • Buell Theatre

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# TAP DOGS THEY ROCKS

hat *Stomp* did for trash cans and what *Blast* did for drums is what *Tap Dogs* has done for tap dancing. Don't look for Fred Astaire or Donald O'Connor. Elegant is not quite the right word for this. Try wild, potent and reckless. *Tap Dogs* is a rocking no-holds-barred industrial-strength version of tap, spawned in an Australian steel town north of Sydney in the garage of a dance teacher with ver-r-r-r-y different ideas.

What began in Newcastle, Australia, did not stay in Newcastle. After spending a few years as a machinist, *Tap Dogs* creator/choreographer Dein Perry decided that show business might be a better bet. He rounded up his Newcastle dancing mates and launched a very macho, very contemporary show themed to their very industrial experience.

Performed within a construction site set by designer/director Nigel Triffitt to the driving score of composer Andrew Wilkie, Perry's *Tap Dogs* emerged as part theatre, part dance, part concert in an entirely rough, tough, thrumming reinvention of tap. It took the 1995 Sydney Theatre Festival by storm, and has since played 330 cities worldwide, won awards, sold 12 million seats and shows no sign of letting up.

An entirely rough, tough, thrumming reinvention of tap

## Grease

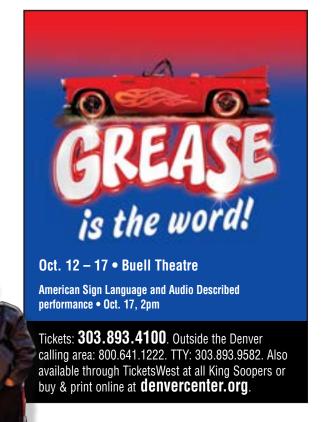
Pelcome back to Rydell High where, you'll be pleased to know, summer love still simmers. Danny Zuko and Sandy Dumbowski are still here and, even after all these years, they're lookin' good. In fact, they haven't changed a bit, which goes to show just how nifty the 50s really were.

*Grease* is, of course, the word. It is also the fifth longest-running musical in Broadway history. That, along with the immense popularity of the 1978 movie starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John, made *Grease* not only a household name but also the high school reunion you wish you'd had.

Old kids will still find their thrill on Blueberry Hill. New kids will love the same thing we've all loved

about *Grease*: the music, the dancing, the fun and, of course, the hand-jive. So slick back your pompadour, smooth your poodle skirt and return to the thrilling days of yesteryear.

*Grease*. It's got a great beat. We give it a "10." ■



### **Moonglow Productions**

By special arrangement with

**Dein Perry Productions** 

## DEIN PERRY'S



Original Design and Direction by

Music Composed by

#### ANDREW WILKIE

Featuring

SHELDON PERRY, DEAN MAGRI, NATHAN SHEENS, RYAN GIFFORD, DONOVAN HELMA, MACKENZIE GREENWELL, TRAVIS KNIGHTS, DOMINIC MORTEZADEH

Percussion STEPHEN FERRADINO Lighting Design **GAVIN NORRIS**  Original Sound Design DARREL LEWIS

Tour Sound Design SHANNON SLATON

Additional Orchestrations LAURENCE MADDY

General Manager THEATRE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES PAUL M. RAMBACHER

Production Manager **BRIDGET WELTY** 

Stage Manager SADIE WANNAMAKER Assistant Stage Manager ALEC HARMER

**Executive Producer** ALDO SCROFANI

Created and Choreographed by

DEIN PERRY



Sheldon Perry PERFORMER



Dean Magri PERFORMER



Nathan Sheens PERFORMER



Ryan Gifford PERFORMER



MacKenzie Greenwell PERFORMER



Travis Knights PERFORMER



Dominic Mortezadeh PERFORMER



Donovan Helma PERFORMER



Sadie Wannamaker STAGE MANAGER



Alec Harmer ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER



Bridget Welty PRODUCTION MANAGER



Dein Perry CREATOR/CHOREOGRAPHER

#### WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**SHELDON PERRY** (Performer) Sheldon began his tap career at the age of four and was the Sydney Tap Champion by the age of ten. Stage career highlights include member of the original Australian cast of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street; participation in Dein Perry's All Tap Company project funded by the Australian Council; member of the original cast of *Hot* Shoe Shuffle, touring to London's West End as Assistant Director and Choreographer, throughout Australia and Japan in the principal role, and as Dance Captain and Choreographer for the UK regional tour. Sheldon also appeared alongside Dire Straights' Mark Knopfler for the UK's Leukemia Foundation at Grosvenor House, and performed with Stevie Wonder in the tribute Quincy Jones' The First Fifty Years. Sheldon has toured extensively throughout the United States and Europe as lead performer and dance director with the award-winning production Tap Dogs and has performed with the company at the 2000 Olympics Opening Ceremony in Sydney. Film and video highlights include a performance in the original award-winning video of Tap Dogs and a performance in the 2001 Mumbia film fare awards for Bootmen. Television credits include appearances on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno", "MTV", "The Midday Show", "Hey Hey It's Saturday", "The Logie Awards", "The Olivier Awards Ceremony" (West End) and "The Big Breakfast"(London).

**DEAN MAGRI** (Performer) is from London, England and has worked professionally from a young age. At age 17 he joined the cast of *Hot Shoe Shuffle* and at age 19, he joined the original British company of *Tap Dogs* and has toured all over the world with the show. Dean has also been featured in well over 100 cor-

porate events and TV commercials worldwide and worked on many TV sitcoms and films. He created the corporate tap dance company, Extreme Tap and co-founded tapattack.co.uk.

NATHAN SHEENS (Performer) Nathan is an original cast member of Tap Dogs and has toured around the world with the show including London's West End and New York City. He became Dance Director and took over the lead role for the 1997 North American tour. In 1998 he played the lead role in *Dein* Perry's Steel City, which took him back to NYC for a season at Radio City Music Hall. He appeared with the Dogs at Quincy Jones 25 Years in Music performing with the phenomenal Stevie Wonder. In 2000 Nathan assisted Dein Perry in choreographing the Sydney Olympic Games Opening Ceremony. Other theatre appearances include original cast of the Australian musical Shout and the role of Eddie for hit musical Mamma Mia! at Sydney's Lyric Theatre. Most recently Nathan has been appearing as part of the original Australian cast of Billy Elliot in both Sydney and Melbourne.

RYAN GIFFORD (Performer) Drayton Entertainment credits include: Country Legends, Oklahoma! (Drayton Festival Theatre). Other theatre credits include: Dirty Dancing (Royal Alexandra Theatre); Oliver!, South Pacific (The Stratford Festival); CATS (Neptune Theatre, Halifax); West Side Story (Citadel Theatre, Edmonton & Theatre Calgary); Hello Dolly (Stage West Mississauga); numerous shows for Disney Cruise Lines. Film & television: Once Upon A Mattress, starring Carol Burnett (ABC/Disney movie); numerous U.S. & Canadian commercials since the age of three. Ryan would like to

thank his family for all their support, his friends from "The 'shwa" for always having his back, and everyone at The Talent House.

#### **MACKENZIE GREENWELL**

(Performer) MacKenzie Greenwell has been dancing since the age of two. He has had the privilege to work extensively with Danny Nielsen and Heather Cornell. He is a regular face in and around Calgary performing and instructing. Recent credits: the Grand Opening Show for CrossIron Mills Mall – (lead role working alongside So You Think You Can Dance star Miles Faber) Opening Ceremonies of the 2010 Olympics where he shared the stage with 25 of Canada's most talented performers and was a featured solo artist in West Coast Tap Dance Collective's 2010 Tap Day show.

#### TRAVIS KNIGHTS (Performer)

Theatre credits: Wonderland: A Tap Tribute to Stevie Wonder (2008-2009). Conceived and choreographed by Ayodele Casel and Sarah Savelli, Wonderland features a cast of twelve tap dancers in a theatrical celebration of Stevie Wonder's music. Tap dancer in the Vancouver Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony. Along with 26 of Canada's most raucous tap dancers, Travis delivered an explosive performance aired around the world that marked the beginning of the Olympic Games. Midway Games Happy Feet (2006). Travis was tapped to be the principal motion capture subject for the video game adaptation of the Warner Brothers movie Happy Feet. Film and television credits include: Showtime movie Bojangles (2001): Principal tap dancer working alongside Gregory Hines and Savion Glover, Travis was a featured dancer in the biopic of Bill "Bojangles" Robinson.

#### **DOMINIC MORTEZADEH**

(Performer) Having started dancing when he was six years old, including eleven years of tap dancing, Dominic could not be more thrilled to make his theatre debut with this amazing cast in *Tap Dogs*. He also just made his film debut in the soon to be released Disney film, *Harriet The Spy: Blog Wars*. Dominic is also a budding choreographer. He would like to send a huge thank you to all his teachers, family, and friends for contributing to the success that he has been awarded so far.

**DONOVAN HELMA** (Performer) Donovan began dancing at three under the direction of his mother's dance studio, Miller's Dance Studio, in Denver, CO. Credits include corporate performances for General Motors, Charles Schwab and a Monday Night Football halftime performance with Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. Donovan performed for Montreal's Danse Encore International Festival in a production with the group Tap'd Out. In 2009 and 2010, he toured with the new Gregory Hines tribute show, Thank You Gregory, starring Jason Samuels Smith and Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards. Since 2004, he has performed on numerous tours and industrials with the international cast of Tap Dogs, including North America, Europe and South Africa.

#### STEPHEN FERRADINO

(Percussion) A Student of the University of Nevada Las Vegas, Stephen performs regularly in Las Vegas for various conventions and private functions. In 2005 Stephen was a featured performer in Wally Eastwood's Iron Beats at Busch Gardens in Tampa, Florida.

#### **DEIN PERRY** (Creator/

Choreographer) Dein Perry won the Olivier Award two years in succession for Best Choreography, in 1995 for *Hot Shoe Shuffle* and in 1996 for *Tap Dogs*, and is the youngest ever recipient of the award. *Hot Shoe* 

Shuffle was the first all Australian musical to play London's West End. Dein starred in the production. In 1991 he was awarded an Australian Council Development Grant. The result of this work became the inspiration for the "Tap Brothers", the stars of Hot Shoe Shuffle. In 1994 Dein conceived and choreographed Tap Dogs, which was the hit of the 1995 Sydney Festival and has since toured five continents and 300 cities worldwide. Tap Dogs was awarded a 1997 Obie Award, the Pegasus Award from the Spoleto festival, the Australian Variety Award for Entertainer of the Year, and the Mo Award for Showbusiness Ambassador of 1998. Dein's awards include the 1996, 1997 and 1998 Mo Award for Dance Performer of the Year and the Australian Green Room Award for Best Supporting Role in Hot Shoe Shuffle. Dein received two Australian Green Room Awards for Best Original Choreography, for Hot Shoe Shuffle (1995) and Tap Dogs (1996). He was also nominated for a Drama Desk Award for Best Choreography for *Tap Dogs* (1997) and received the Choreography Award in the 1998 Australian Dance Awards. In 1998 Steel City had its world premiere at Star City, Sydney Casino. The show toured Australia before playing a special season at Radio City Music Hall in New York. Dein directed and choreographed the film, Bootmen, which was released in 2000 and received five AFI awards. Dein choreographed the final segment of the celebrated Sydney 2000 Olympics Opening Ceremony. Dein also directed David Campbell - Wild With Style at the Sydney Opera House, Human Natures for the National Motown Arena Spectacular Tour. In 2008 he produced, directed and choreographed the opening match of the National Rugby League Centenary and in 2009 was the creative director for the Australia Day Fireworks Spectacular. To ensure the unique Tap Dogs style continues, Dein established Tap Pups, a

new breed of young male dancers. Dein manages children's tap classes with over 180 Tap Pups currently enrolled, many of whom perform alongside the *Tap Dogs* at special events

**NIGEL TRIFFITT** (Original Design and Direction) is acknowledged as a leader in the field of visual theatre in Australia, with shows that have successfully toured to over twenty countries, displaying a unique and iconoclastic talent. As a designer, devisor and director of his own shows, Nigel has an impressive track record - Momma's Little Horror Show, The Illustrated History of Rock and Roll, The Fall of Singapore and Moby Dick. Wildstars bought him international acclaim in 1979 when it played the Edinburgh Festival before touring extensively. In 1984 his show Secrets played the Spoleto Festival, Italy and then a long European tour prior to festivals in North America. Nigel's talent has led him onto other art territories from grand opera Samson and Delilah to designing rock tours for Men At Work (1984), from film, as production designer on Howling V(1990) to huge spectacle including the opening of the 1988 Adelaide Festival with a cast of over 750 that drew an audience of 100,000. His most recent productions have been the phenomenally successful revival of Hair and The New Rocky Horror Show, which toured Australia for eight years, and Gumboots. Nigel directed and designed the finale of the Opening Ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympics, which screened to an international television audience of an estimated 3.5 billion viewers.

ANDREW WILKIE (Composer) obtained a Bachelor of Music degree from Queensland Conservatorium of Music, later studying jazz at the New South Wales Conservatorium of Music. His involvement with musical theatre began in 1982 when he was Principal Percussionist in the Queensland Theatre Company

production of Anna. Since then he has been Principal Percussionist for the Sydney productions of Hot Shoe Shuffle, Porgy and Bess, Me and My Girl, Nine, HMS Pinafore and I Do! I Do!. Theatre credits also include West Side Story, The Phantom of the Opera, A Chorus Line, Les Miserables, 42nd Street, Into the Woods. Andrew has also worked as Principal Percussionist with the Queensland Youth Orchestra, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the Australia Ensemble, Sydney, the Australian Opera & Ballet Orchestra and the Sydney International Orchestra. He has regularly played with the Midday Show's Big Band, The Catholics, The Umbrellas and for the last two years been Musical Director for Australian flautist Jane Rutter. He has also worked with James Morrison, Monica and the Mocchers, Mike Bukovsky, the Kays Jazz Orchestra, Martin Lass and was a band member in The Posh & Judy Ballet Sextet.

**GAVIN NORRIS** (Light Design) Credits include: Hot Shoe Shuffle (UK tour), Tap Dogs (worldwide), Kat and the Kings (UK tour, Frankfurt, Vienna, European tour, London season), Circus Days, Circus Nights (Channel 4), Jack and the Beanstalk (Richmond Theatre), Gumboots (worldwide), The Darkness arena tours (associate lighting designer), Mum's the Word (West End), Diana Ross (Sydney), Human Nature arena tour (lighting, video and set design), Australia Day Celebrations, (Sydney, Darling Harbour), Le Grand Cirque (Sydney Opera House, set and design consultant) and Junglehammer (Sydney Opera House).

SHANNON SLATON (Sound Designer) toured as a mixer on Cinderella, Grease, and Jekyll and Hyde. He designed the tours Aeros, Kiss Me Kate, Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk, The Full Monty, Contact and Cabaret the Asia tour.

On Broadway he has mixed Man of La Mancha, Bombay Dreams, A Christmas Carol, Sweet Charity, and Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, and he assisted on Steel Magnolias and Barefoot in the Park. Off Broadway he assisted on Hurly Burly and designed Henry Noodle, and The Blue Flower. Regional designs include The Last Five Years, Hallelujah, Baby, and Tick, Tick, Boom. He also recently assisted his wife Mollie in the design of their newborn boy Parker.

**BRIDGET WELTY** (Production Manager) She recently finished touring Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and Oliver. Her previous tours were Wonderful Town, Love Janis, and Tap Dogs Rebooted. She also has freelanced for various shows at the New Jersey Performance Arts Center such as Steve Harvey, Jerry Seinfeld, Anthony Hamilton, and Gypsy Kings. Bridget's prior tours include companies such as Paul Taylor's "Taylor 2", New Jersey State Opera, and Carlota Santana Flamingo Flamenco Vivo. Bridget is a native Bostonian who received her Bachelor's degree in Technical Design from Emerson College and went on to receive her M.F.A. in Design from the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University.

SADIE WANNAMAKER (Stage Manager) Drayton Entertainment credits: Dirty Rotten Scoundrels North American Tour and Camelot North American Tour, as well as Buddy!, Beauty and the Beast, Fiddler on the Roof, Pirates of Penzance, and A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline. Other theatre: British Invasion (Stage West), Sword and the Stone (Theatre Orangeville) and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat (seven productions!) Sadie is glad to be on her third international tour. Sadie would like to thank her family and friends for supporting (and lugging around) her and her Rubbermaid Parade!

**ALEC HARMER** (Assistant Stage Manager) Dirty Rotten Scoundrels North American Tour, Camelot North American Tour. Other Theatre: Technical Director for Theatre Athena and the Waterloo Entertainment Centre. Alec has also set designed for several shows at the Upper Canada Playhouse, where he was the Technical Director and the resident Lighting Designer for three years. A graduate of the Technical Theatre Program at Ryerson University, Alec now is based out of Waterloo, but spends very little time there, as he travels the world most of the time. Much love to Sadie and The Institute.

### THEATRE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES (General

Management) Under the leadership of President & CEO, Aldo Scrofani, Theatre Management Associates (TMA) provides management services for live theatrical productions on a worldwide basis. For Tap Dogs, TMA is represented by General Manager Paul M. Rambacher, whose credits include Dirty Rotten Scoundrels; Oliver; Love, Janis; Wonderful Town; Nobody Don't Like Yogi: Stand by Your Man; the US debut tours of the **International Shakespeare Globes** Measure for Measure and Twelfth Night; Elaine Stritch At Liberty; Savion Glover's productions of Classical Savion; Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk; Footnotes; The *Presidents; The Belle of Amherst;* Tap Dogs; Copenhagen; AEROS and the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games.

#### MOONGLOW PRODUCTIONS

LLC (Producer) A Theatrical production company formed by industry veteran and CEO Aldo Scrofani. Moonglow produces, serves as executive producer and provides creative & production consulting services. With 32 years of experience in the live entertainment industry, Aldo Scrofani has served for 13 years as Executive VP of Jujamcyn theatres, a major New York theatre

owner/operator and producer, and, 19 years as the COO of Columbia Artists Theatricals. In these capacities, he has produced, co-produced and/or been associated with well over 100 productions on Broadway, London, national touring companies and in numerous foreign territories. Productions include Gone With The Wind directed by Trevor Nunn; Dirty Rotten Scoundrels directed by Jack O'Brien; Chita Rivera The Dancer's Life; Lovemusik directed by Hal Prince; STOMP; Stomp Out Loud; Tap Dogs; Grand Hotel directed by Tommy Tune; City of Angels directed by Michael Blakemore; You're a Good Man Charlie Brown directed by Michael Mayer; M. Butterfly directed by John Dexter; Into the Woods; Gypsy with Tyne Daly; Cat On A Hot Tin Roof with Kathleen Turner; Big River; Bring In 'Da Noise, Bring In 'Da Funk; Jelly's Last Jam; Elaine Stritch At Liberty directed by George Wolfe; Sunset Boulevard; The Royal National Theatre production of Carousel directed by Nicholas Hytner; The World Goes Round directed and choreographed by Scott Ellis and Susan Strohman; Master Class with Elizabeth Ashley; The Belle of Amherst with Julie Harris; Copenhagen; The Piano Lesson; My One and Only with Tommy Tune; and Dracula with Frank Langella.

TAP DOGS wear **Blundstone** Boots, Australia's authentic work boots.

#### STAFF FOR TAP DOGS

#### GENERAL MANAGEMENT

Theatre Management Associates Aldo Scrofani Paul Rambacher www.tmanyc.com

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Company & Production	
Manager	Bridget Welty
Stage Manager	Sadie Wannamaker
Head Sound	Brian Canonico
Head Carpenter	David Pinner
Assistant Stage Manag	Alec Harmer

#### **CREDITS**

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Fog and cigarettes are used in this production.

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Its sponsorship of the Denver Center Theatre Company's current production of *The House of the Spirits* demonstrates its important work within the Denver area. "We are excited to align our company with The Denver Center for the Performing Arts," said Colorado Vice President of Agency Eloy Martinez. "Our common goal of contributing in a meaningful way to bettering our communities brings us together and establishes a common tie — one that strengthens our neighborhoods and enriches the lives of those with whom we work and play."

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