

# Tap Ties Dance & Fitness Festival 2018

## Guest Faculty Bios

**Shelley Oliver** has over twenty years' experience as a professional tap dancer in which time she has appeared internationally with some of the legends of the tap world. She is a founding member of noted dance ensemble, **Manhattan Tap** and was a co-artistic director/choreographer with the company for two years. She has toured extensively throughout Europe, China, the Caribbean, Canada and the U.S., performing with such tap notables as Savion Glover, Jimmy Slide, Buster Brown, and Chuck Green.

Her television appearances include **Tap Dance in America** with Gregory Hines and Star Search, in which she was a finalist. Ms. Oliver has performed with many jazz greats including Slide Hampton, David "Fathead" Newman, and Kenny Washington. A noted dance educator Ms. Oliver **teaches jazztap at Muhlenberg College**, choreographs for the theater, and is **Director of the Muhlenberg Jazz Tap Ensemble**. She has conducted workshops and residencies for Lincoln Center, New York City Public Schools and universities throughout the United States. She is the featured tap soloist with the **David Leonhardt Jazz Group** touring jazz festivals and concerts worldwide and is the author of the CD "Tap Music for Tap Dance"

**Germaine Salsberg** has been an influential tap dance teacher in New York City for over 25 years, serving on the faculty of **Broadway Dance Center and Steps Studio**, where she has taught a complete program of basic to intermediate levels. Her students include cast members from Broadway & Off-Broadway shows, National tours, the Rockettes, tap companies, as well as people who "just love to tap".

In addition, she has taught tap for Musical Theatre Majors at **New York University's School of Education, New York University's Musical Theatre** students at **Cap 21, Broadway Theater Dance Workshop** in Santa Fe NM, and **Dance Theatre of Harlem**. She has taught for almost every major Dance Organization in the USA, as well as workshops for private organizations and schools in Europe and Canada. She is very proud to have received the **Tap Legacy Award from Third Rhythm Project in San Antonio Texas** in July 2010.

Germaine's extensive background in modern dance has infused her approach to tap dance. She is extremely physically oriented, and she stresses the connection between rhythm and physicality in her classes.

She has privately coached stars from the New York City Ballet and many actors & actresses including Liza Minnelli for the movie "**Steppin Out**" and the young boys for

the Broadway and National Tour of Tap Dance Kid. As assistant to Tony Award Winner Danny Daniels, she helped train the boys for the Broadway and National tours of **"Tap Dance Kid"**.

Germaine has choreographed and received rave reviews for productions of **"George M!"** (1993, 2005, and 2007), a 1996 production of **"42<sup>nd</sup> ST"**, a 1998 production of **"Anything Goes"**, and **"Crazy For You"** (2001) and **Dames At Sea** (2002) at the Muhlenberg Summer Theater in Pennsylvania. Germaine has performed in **Edmonton's Fringe Festival** (2000) with an hour-long tap show called **Toe Jamm**, at the **New York City Tap Festival/Tap City**, in the **New York International Dance Festival at the Duke Theater**, with **Jazz Tap Center** on tour, and recently with her group Les Femmes Plus.

Germaine and her husband, Artis Barry Smith (a modern dancer formerly of the Martha Graham company) have produced concerts at the Riverside Dance festival, DTW's Bessie Schoenberg Theater, New York University, Brooklyn College and for various school programs including Lincoln Center's Meet-the-Artist and Hospital Audiences. They have performed together in Canada and Europe, created and performed in a very successful show entitled **"Not Fade Away: dancing Over 40"** which was premiered in New York in 1996, and performed since in Pennsylvania and New York, **Tempus Fugit** (2010) at Brooklyn College, and **DanceSpeak** (2011) also at Brooklyn College.

Germaine has also worked with fibre for years, knitting and selling one of a kind garments, handspinning and dying yarn, weaving, and generally taking delight in colour and texture. See her projects page for recent projects.

*"Germaine is a wonderful teacher. She is filled with imagination and great fun to work with. I enjoy every minute I spend with her in a dance studio."* **Liza Minnelli**

**Karen Callaway Williams** is known for being both the first African-American female tap dancer and dance captain in RIVERDANCE - THE SHOW and the only African-American female tap dancer and dance captain in RIVERDANCE - ON BROADWAY. Other Broadway credits include the Tony Award Nominated Duke Ellington musical PLAY ON. She is currently featured on the cover of Flow Magazine and in the wonderful current documentary BEEN RICH ALL MY LIFE *the story of the Silver Belle, a group of Chorus Girls from the 1930's and 1940's*. She is currently a Second-Generation Silver Belle and the Artistic Director of this group. Karen has toured extensively, performing in 32 States and 13 countries having recently returned from a two and a half month run of HINTON BATTLE'S AMERICAN VARIETY BANG in Osaka, Japan. She has also traveled to Zurich Switzerland for the fourth time as instructor for the Zurich Tap Festival, The United Arab Emirates (Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Al Ain) with the Duke Ellington Big Band, Armenia and Romania with TAP CITY ON TOUR through the United States Embassy, the ALL THAT TAP TAIPEI festival in Taiwan, on Canadian soil with TAP GIANTS and Tap TEL AVIV and in Beijing, China, Canada and North America with the RIVERDANCE Flying Squad and

RIVERDANCE, Boyne Company.

Karen is mentioned several times in the Tap History book TAP DANCING AMERICA by Constance Valis Hill, was featured in a Black History edition of ESSENCE Magazine, which highlighted four female African-American tap artists and on the recording of Music from The Sacred Concerts Edward Kennedy Ellington as performed by the Princeton University Concert Jazz Ensemble as the Tap Dancer in David

Danced Before the Lord a role not commonly performed by a female dancer. She reprised this role in April 2015. She was also interviewed on BOJANGLES THE LEGACY for SHOWTIME as well as in a special guest spot on "SESAME STREET". A graduate of Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia, she is also an alumna of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center (AAADC) in New York.

In 2013, Karen was a Flo-Bert Honoree and received the Florence Mills Award and was awarded in July 2015 with the Hoofers Award from the American Tap Dance Foundation. DANCE MAGAZINE heralded her as "*a graceful dream with taps as happy as a song*" and the New York Times called her "a gifted traditionalist with laughing eyes". Karen is a Featured Artist and was the first Dance Captain and charter member of the NEW JERSEY TAP ENSEMBLE, having recently celebrated 20 years with the company, performing in their high energy shows A STOP ON THE A-TRAIN, THE NEXT STEP, RHYTHM IS OUR BUSINESS, BY GEORGE IT'S GERSHWIN and PASS IT ON. She is also the NJTAP2 Coordinator.

Karen has been featured as a tap solo artist with the Baltimore and New Jersey Symphony Orchestras on several occasions performing several movements from the iconic "MORTON GOULD'S TAP DANCE CONCERTO". She was also a featured soloist for the Detroit and Indianapolis Symphony Orchestras for their YULETIDE CELEBRATIONS, as well as the BSO HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR and in ALL THAT JAZZ with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. *In addition, she was a soloist and special guest choreographer for the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra as well as a special guest solo artist in AN INVITATION TO THE DANCE with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.*

Three memorable performances were held at THE HOLE IN THE WALL GANG CAMP for Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, the COTTON CLUB in Harlem with Debbi Sledge of Sister Sledge and her sisters and at the APOLLO THEATRE with the original Silver Belles for President Bill Clinton.

Karen often assists Mercedes Ellington having been a member of DancEllington Dance Company under the direction of Mercedes Ellington. Karen danced with the Duke Ellington Orchestra under the direction of Mercer Ellington and later as a soloist for Paul Ellington nationally and internationally. She was also in Lincoln Center's *Reel to Reel* Series, including YANKEE DOODLE BOYS, THE BROTHERHOOD OF TAP and STORY T'ELLINGTON.

In addition to performing, Ms. Williams has established herself as a prominent tap instructor teaching statewide on a weekly basis for more than 30 years. Her teaching history includes Spelman College, The Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, Poly-Ethnic Preparatory Country Day School, the Professional Performing Arts School in Manhattan, The New Jersey Performing Arts Center Dance Academy, Art Stone's Dance Olympus, the New York City Dance Alliance, national and international tap festivals, dance camps, master classes and enrichment programs. She also gives lecturer/demonstrations and educational assembly programs in elementary, middle and high schools for the Paper Mill Playhouse on "Legends of Tap Dance".

Karen, the Producer of Rhythms for Ruby (the show) and the author of Gabriella's Tap Shoes (book 1) Gabriella and the Tap Dance Floor (book 2) and Rhythms for Ruby (book 4) (in print and audio book) is working on her forth book for children "Gabriella the Girl who lost her Shuffle (book 3 in order). All books are available on Amazon.com.

**Danny Gardner** is a New York City based actor and choreographer. Danny is currently starring in **Singin' in the Rain** at the John W. Engeman Theatre on Long Island. Most recently he starred in **Crazy For You** at the Signature Theatre. (Helen Hayes Nomination). Danny made his Broadway debut as "Lucky" in the premiere of **Dames At Sea**. Last season he was "'George M. Cohan / Dad" in the **NY Spectacular starring the Rockettes** at Radio City Music Hall. He was also recently seen performing along-side Tommy Tune in Encores! production of **Lady, Be Good!** at City Center. (with subsequent album) He has performed with symphonies nation-wide in **Here to Stay – The Gershwin Experience!** and toured with the Broadway productions of **Irving Berlin's White Christmas** and **42nd Street**. Danny has performed at such famous New York Institutions as Town Hall, Birdland, and 54 Below. His off Broadway career includes performances at The New Victory Theatre, 59E59Street Theatres, Lincoln Center Institute, Symphony Space and The Tank Theatre. He is a company member of physical theatre company Parallel Exit (3 time Drama Desk Noms).

His performing career has taken him as far as Jerusalem, Israel and Amman, Jordan (New York Song & Dance Co.) and Rein, Spain and Innsbruck, Austria (**Exit Stage Left** – Parallel Exit). As a teacher he has taught at Steps on Broadway and Broadway Dance Center as well as private tutoring all over the New York City and the Philadelphia areas. His choreography has been seen on video installations in Chicago, Washington DC, Dallas and Los Angeles (Niles Creative Group). His choreography has also been seen in **GIG – with Jenna Nichols, BC BEAT, Kicking and Screaming** at Symphony Space, ([Click here for his Trump Tap Dance Piece](#)) and the Lincoln Center Dance on Camera Festival - 2016 (**A Tap Dance in a Circle**).

Visit: [www.dannyjgardner.com](http://www.dannyjgardner.com) for more info

**Jill Kenney** is a New York-based dancer, teacher, and choreographer. She is currently on the Tap Faculty at Broadway Dance Center and the 92<sup>nd</sup> St Y. She has also been on faculty at NYU Steinhardt and has guest taught at Steps on Broadway. On Long Island she teaches children of all ages and directs the early childhood program at the Dream Center Dance Academy.

Jill has worked with Germaine Salsberg for many years, as her tap assistant at Broadway Dance Center and as a member of her company, Les Femmes. With the company, Jill has performed at Symphony Space, Lincoln Center, The Friars Club, Brooklyn College, and Boston's Regent Theatre. She has appeared in numerous festivals including the Dumbo Dance Festival, Tap City, Stam-Pede, and the Tap Extravaganza. For numerous years, Jill has been a team leader for ATDF's Tap it Out—an outdoor concert directed by Tony Waag and Lynn Schwab. Other performance highlights include the Highline Ballroom, LG Electronics, Disney Cruise Lines, and the tour of Dancin' on Common Ground (choreography by Jared Grimes). She has also performed with the Andrea Torres Dance Company and Carlos Donan's Folk tap.

Originally from Rhode Island, Jill grew up training in various forms of dance under the direction of Lisa Mailloux and also at the Newport Academy of Ballet. She has studied at the 92Y Dance Education Laboratory and holds a B.A. in Dance Performance and Education from SUNY Empire State College, as well as an A.A. in Dance from Dean College in Franklin, MA.

**Corinne Karon** graduated from the University of the Arts in 1996. Since then she has had the wonderful opportunity to have tap danced on all seven continents, yes including Antarctica! Corinne is the Founder and Artistic Director of Uniting Colleges Through Tap, the Executive Director of Tap Team Two and the Choreographer for Men On Tap. In the Fall of 2010 Corinne received the prestigious "Rocky" award for her choreography with Men On Tap. In the Spring of 2011, Corinne received the "University of the Arts Faculty Enrichment Grant." This grant supported her trip to New York City to take part in "Tap City – the New York City's Tap Festival." More recently Corinne has had the honor of joining Germaine Ingram's newest project, Professional Learning Community for a year-long exploration of movement-based performance related to history, politics, and social justice. Corinne has been working with Germaine Ingram on and off since 2005 and is very excited to be involved with this new project. In 2009 Corinne was invited to join the advisory committee of Dance USA's –Philadelphia branch, which has been an invaluable experience. Corinne teaches on a regular basis at Rowan University, Bryn Mawr College, The University of the Arts (CE), The Wissahickon Dance Academy and the Chester Valley Dance Academy.

**Camille Armstrong** started choreographing Hip-Hop and Creative Dance from age 7 for local talent shows at church and community centers. She attended NYC's H.S. of

Music and Art and Performing Arts where she learned Body Percussion (or Stepping) and graduated in 1992 with a Vocal Music and Arts Endorsement Diploma. Since then, Camille has choreographed and taught Body Percussion classes and workshops in the community, forming Step teams and competitions. Camille was also the music and dance coordinator of various Teen Pageants in the community. From 1998-2008, Camille performed with the Off-Broadway, U.S. and Overseas touring companies of STOMP. Meanwhile, teaching Hip-Hop & Body Percussion workshops all over the world including Vienna, Austria; Vancouver, B.C.; NYU in New York City; Seoul, Korea; Mansfield, Ohio; and Bethlehem, PA with Touchstone Theatre and PYT.

**Rochelle Haynes** is a native of Dallas, Texas, where she began her dance training at the age of three. She attended Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. Miss Haynes continued her dance training in Philadelphia while attending college at the University of the Arts, where she received her BFA in modern dance.

Rochelle joined Tap Team Two and Company as a principal dancer in 1997 where she traveled throughout the United States teaching the history of tap and promoting tap dance as an American art form. Tap Team Two was able to promote their show, "Hoofing In America", through an organization called Young Audiences. In 2000 – 2001 Young Audiences named Tap Team Two as Artist of the Year. She has been teaching tap throughout the Pennsylvania and New Jersey area for over 20 years. Rochelle has also taught master classes in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Maryland, Louisiana, New York and Prague, Czech Republic. She is currently in her seventh year as the Guest Artist in Residence at Moravian College. Miss Haynes has been on faculty at the University of the Arts since 2005. She taught the tap classes at the Summer World of Dance for two years, Pre-College Program and at the High School Dance Festival which was held at the University of the Arts. Rochelle was the Tap choreographer for five years for the Garden State Dance Festival.

Miss Haynes has studied with and taken classes from the Masters of tap for over 14 years. Her studies have taken her within the United States, Brazil and Prague, Czech Republic. She has been fortunate to perform in the Philadelphia area for over 19 years and has taken the stage with tap greats Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards, Nicole Hockenberry, Germaine Ingram and Dorothy Wasserman of the movie TAP. She performed the choreography of Germaine Ingram in "Danceboom 2005", Philadelphia Folklore Project's "Dance Happens Here" 2006 and 2008, the "Tap Extravaganza" in New York City, and at the University of the Arts in 2005 and 2008 which were special tribute performances to the late great LaVaughn Robinson. In 2011 she had the wonderful opportunity to perform original choreography of Bill BoJangles Robinson and Charles "Honi" Coles of the Copasetics in New York at the Symphony Space Theater. One of her favorite performances was "Prague-DC-Philly" in Prague, Czech Republic.