

Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**A SIZZLING SUMMER SENSATION!
TAP DOGS**

The most successful tap show of all time!

Featuring new choreography, brand new cast members, and veteran tappers!

June 30 – July 10, 2010

Tickets \$40 to \$50

Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House

TAP PUPS COMPETITION on June 19 --

Miami youth tap for a chance to perform on the Adrienne Arsht Center stage!

MIAMI, FL May 19, 2010 – The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County proudly announces the special summer engagement of **TAP DOGS**, the high-voltage stage show that has wowed audiences worldwide with thrilling tap dancing and raw energy! **TAP DOGS** will take to the stage of the Adrienne Arsht Center June 30 – July 10, 2010 in the Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House. Tickets range from \$40 to \$50 and may be purchased through the Adrienne Arsht Center box office by calling (305) 949-6722, or online at www.arshtcenter.org.

On Saturday, June 19 the Adrienne Arsht Center will host a special **TAP PUPS COMPETITION**. Young tappers from throughout South Florida are invited to compete for the opportunity to perform onstage with the **TAP DOGS** on opening night! All dancers under the age of 18 are eligible to enter the competition, and should email tapdogs@arshtcenter.org for more information.

“The fierce and ferocious TAP DOGS ensemble combines the artistry of fabulous tap dancing with the thrill of a rock concert and has wowed audiences from down under to London’s West End,” said M. John Richard, president and CEO of the Adrienne Arsht Center. “This newly revamped version will take South Florida’s breath away with a spectacle for all ages!”

A rejuvenated **TAP DOGS** production is currently taking the world by storm in the unprecedented tap show that combines the strength and power of workmen with the precision and talent of tap dancing. The current production features several new dance numbers, new additions to the cast, plus veteran tappers for this special Miami engagement. The cast for the Adrienne Arsht Center engagement includes: **Sheldon Perry**, **TAP DOGS** veteran and brother of creator **Dein Perry**; **Dean Magri** and **Nathan Sheens**, also show veterans; and new additions **Ryan Gifford**, **Mackenzie Greenwell**, **Travis Knights**, and **Dominic Mortezedah**. Created by two-time Olivier Award-winning choreographer **Dein Perry**, with a construction site set by eclectic designer/director **Nigel Triffitt** and a driving score by composer **Andrew Wilkie**, **TAP DOGS** is rocking theatrical entertainment. Part theater, part dance, and part rock concert, **TAP DOGS** has been hailed as a rough, tough and rocking reinvention of tap.

Australian **Dein Perry**, creator and choreographer of **TAP DOGS**, has come a long way from the make-shift dance school in Newcastle, a steel town north of Sydney, where, as young boys, he and the future dogs learned how to tap. At the age of 17, with no opportunities in sight for a dancing career, he earned his union papers and worked as an industrial machinist for six years. He then moved to Sydney where he tried to break into show business. Small chorus parts in Broadway-style musicals led to **Perry**’s big break when he was cast in the long-running Sydney production of *42nd Street*. When it closed, **Perry** decided to create a contemporary show around the themes of his industrial experience with his Newcastle tap dancing mates.

With a small government grant, **Perry** contacted his old friends, who had also taken up various “real” jobs by this time, and formed *Tap Brothers*, an early incarnation of **TAP DOGS**. With this creative start, **Perry** was offered the chance to choreograph the West End musical, *Hot Shoe Shuffle*, which brought the group to London and earned **Perry** his first Olivier Award in 1995. A subsequent offer from the Sydney Theatre Company led to the collaboration with designer and director **Nigel Triffitt**, which resulted in the creation of **TAP DOGS**.

TAP DOGS was the instant hit of the Sydney Theatre Festival, where it had its world premiere in January 1995, and caused an equal sensation at the Edinburgh Festival later that year. Since then, **TAP DOGS** has become an international sensation, playing to more than 12 million people in 330 cities worldwide.

For more information, visit www.tapdogs.com

CALENDAR LISTING

Adrienne Arsht Center presents

TAP DOGS

"Exciting, athletically feisty, fun-loving, and hilarious!" -- *The Chicago Tribune*

It's the hottest show with the hottest legs! The seriously sexy Tap Dogs have taken the world by storm with a fast and fabulous theater-dance spectacle that combines the strength and power of hunky workmen with the precision and speed of the world's most thrilling tap dancers.

A high-voltage, fast paced, non-stop sweat-a-thon, the Tap Dogs have wowed audiences around the world -- from their native Australia to South America, from the Edinburgh and Spoleto festivals to Off Broadway and the West End -- winning a bootload of top theatrical prizes, including London's Olivier Award and New York's Obie Award.

Six fantastic dancers tap fast, slow, on water, on ladders, with basketballs and iron rods, and even hanging upside down. With award-winning choreography by Dein Perry, a construction site set by Nigel Triffitt, and a driving score by Andrew Wilkie, Tap Dogs is a rough, tough, rocking show!

June 30 - July 10, 2010

Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House

Adrienne Arsht Center

1300 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33132

Tickets: \$40 - \$50

For reservations, visit www.arshtcenter.org or call the box office at (305) 949-6722

Visit www.arshtcenter.org for up-to-date information for details and schedules.

Editor's Note:

Related high-resolution photos are available at www.arshtcenter.org/press and www.mediafire.com/arshtcenterphotos.

Prices, artists, dates, times, and program are subject to change without notice.

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is made possible by the public support of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council and the City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency. The Adrienne Arsht Center also receives generous support from private contributions to the Adrienne Arsht Center Foundation through its Visionary Society membership program and Encore Circle major gifts program; American Express Company; Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; Arison Arts Foundation; Association of Performing Arts Presenters; Bank of America Charitable Foundation; Dade Community Foundation; Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; Ford Foundation; Funding Arts Network; John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Community Connections Fund of MetLife Foundation; New England Foundation for the Arts; Southern Arts Federation; The Cowles Charitable Trust; The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation; the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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About the Adrienne Arsht Center for Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County:

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is one of the world's leading performing arts organizations and venues. Made possible by Miami-Dade County's largest ever public/private-sector partnership, the Center plays host to three resident companies (Florida Grand Opera, Miami City Ballet and New World Symphony, America's Orchestral Academy) in addition to numerous South Florida arts organizations that perform in its theaters regularly. Since opening in 2006, the Center has emerged as a leader in offering and presenting world-class programming that mirrors South Florida's diversity, as a catalyst for development in Miami, and as a host of impactful community and educational programs.

Designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli of Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, the venue is comprised of the 2,400-seat Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House, the 2,200-seat John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall, the black box Carnival Studio Theater, a restored Carnival Art Deco Tower, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Studio, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Education Center, and the outdoor Parker and Vann Thomson Plaza for the Arts. Events impresario and restaurateur Barton G. Weiss brought his signature style to the Center in 2009 with PRELUDE BY BARTON G, a full-service upscale restaurant open five days a week.

Visit www.arshtcenter.org for more information.