

# Tap Ties Dance & Fitness Festival 2019

## Guest Faculty Bios

**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**

**Ray Hesselink** is a Director and Choreographer living and working in New York City. Ray has had the privilege to help train the children performing in Broadway's **Billy Elliot: The Musical**.

As a dancer, Ray created the role of Mr. Happy in Derick Grant's **Imagine Tap!** As a performer, Ray's favorite performances include originating the role of "Bud" in **Batboy: The Musical**. He has also been featured as a principal dancer in Nayikas, a classical Indian Dance Company.

Ray has choreographed for many venues including New York Musical Theater Festival, The Duke Theater, Symphony Space, Yale Drama School and recently as a Contributing Choreographer to **Heatwave: The Jack Cole Story**, and co-writer/choreographer to **I Heart Bob** at Joyce SoHo, which won a rave review from the NY Times. Ray is also on Faculty at Juilliard.

Check out [www.RayHesselink.com](http://www.RayHesselink.com) for more information.

**Maureen 'Moe' Jerant** is a drummer and percussionist from the Lehigh Valley, PA. Along with years of live and studio experience, Moe holds a BA in Fine Arts Music and is an endorsed Remo HealthRHYTHMS facilitator. Visit: [www.lvdrumcircle.com](http://www.lvdrumcircle.com)

### **She's Also a Music Teacher:**

- private lessons in snare, drum set, djembe, and djun-djun
- weekly djembe classes with emphasis on performance
- programs for youth at risk, special needs groups, seniors, and arts in the classroom

### **On a Mission to Reduce Stress**

Moe is a presenter of workshops and drum circles that emphasize stress reduction. "Stress related illnesses are among the leading causes of death and

disability in our society. **We don't have to live with excess stress**, and I think everyone should know that and make it their mantra."

**AND She Plays in a 60's Tribute Band - [The Large Flowerheads](#)** - Groovy '60s Music. Moe returns to drum set, sings, and plays guitar. "Hand drumming focused my playing in a very different area for about 8 years. Now I'm back in a band and rediscovering the fun of the drum set!"

**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"

**Vanessa Sonon** is a Broadway Actress, Singer, Dancer, with a world-wide career spanning over 15 years with a teaching history of over 20 years!

Her Broadway credits include **Anything Goes Revival** (Erma u/s Swing), **Spamalot** (Lady of the lake u/s, Ensemble), and **42<sup>nd</sup> St** (Peggy Sawyer u/s, Ensemble), as well as Multiple First National Tours and Roles spanning across the country and the globe.

**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 Real* 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.

**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 Folktap.

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.

**Camille Armstrong** is a first generation American-Jamaican, born and raised in New York City, where she attended the "FAME" school of the Arts for Vocal Music and Dance, sang and danced for Grammy award-winning *Morgan Heritage*, performed with *Natalie Cole*, and began her 10 years performing and touring in the Off-Broadway show *STOMP*.

Named "A Performing Arts Renaissance Woman", CAMILLE WHO? is known for her work worldwide as a (deep breath...) singer, front woman, composer, arranger, lyricist, dancer, choreographer, rhythm & percussionist, actress, director and teaching artist.

Some of her many works include but are in no way limited to composing and choreographing with and for Harry Connick Jr.'s show *Elf*; Hip-Hop and Body Percussion (making music with our bodies) dance instruction and choreography at DeSales University, Tap Ties, and an ongoing relationship with Liberty High School Theater and Pennsylvania Youth Theater as a Movement Instructor in Drama and Choreographer for main stage productions. Her more recent choreographed works include *The Little Mermaid Jr.*, *Shrek the Musical*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Oliver!*, *Aida*, *Pippin*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Cinderella Kids*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Annie*, and *West Side Story*. Aside from her constant show-building, CAMILLE WHO? currently hops around performing as a lead vocalist/front woman and percussionist for bands like the late, great Bernie Worrell--with whom she wrote a hit song in London in 2014, *Steve Kimock and Friends*, *The Motet*, *Willy Jack and the Northern Light*, *Everyone Orchestra*, and her own Reggae/Soul band *SoulRagga* who just received "Best Reggae Album" in the June 2016 *Akademia Music Awards*. Other shenanigans include acting, singing, hand drumming, and Body Percussion instruction for all ages. An asset in any creative environment, you never know which Camille you'll get to interact with. Hence, the name "CAMILLE WHO?"

Visit [www.camillewho.com](http://www.camillewho.com) for more information

**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.