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**Jerome Robbins Dance Division**

Guide to the

## **American Tap Dance Orchestra records**

1988-1995

(S) \*MGZMD 271

Compiled by Laura Slezak Karas, August 2011

### **Summary**

**Creator:** American Tap Dance Orchestra

**Title:** American Tap Dance Orchestra records, 1988-1995

**Size:** .21 linear foot (1 box)

**Source:** Donated by Carl Schlesinger, 1997.

**Abstract:** Founded by Brenda Bufalino, Tony Waag, and Charles "Honi" Coles in New York City in 1986, the American Tap Dance Orchestra (ATDO) was a non-profit tap dance company known for its focus on the musicality of tap dance. Documenting the organization's activities from 1988-1995, the records contain agendas and meeting minutes; correspondence; auditors' reports, budgets, and financial statements; and notes on advertisement and grant possibilities. The ATDO now operates as the American Tap Dance Foundation.

**Access:** To request materials, contact the Jerome Robbins Dance Division ([dance@nypl.org](mailto:dance@nypl.org)) in advance.

**Copyright information:** Copyright retained by any document's creator.

**Preferred citation:** American Tap Dance Orchestra records, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library

### **Processing note**

The collection appears to have been organized by document type after donation. Since the original order is unknown, this arrangement will be retained.

### **Related collections**

Eye on Dance records. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Richard Bull papers. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

### **Creator history**

Founded by Brenda Bufalino, Tony Waag, and Charles "Honi" Coles in New York City in 1986, the

American Tap Dance Orchestra (ATDO) was a non-profit tap dance company. According to its Statement of Purpose (1992), the organization sought to provide an international home for tap dance, perpetuate tap as a contemporary art form, preserve it through performance and an archival library, provide educational programming, and establish a formal school for tap dance.

Unlike other tap dance companies, the ATDO focused on the musicality of tap; the dancers' feet were used as instruments to simulate an orchestra through their performances. The ATDO performed in hundreds of international concert, stage, and film projects from 1986-1999, and, from 1989-1995, ran the Woodpeckers Tap Dance Center in New York City.

In 2002, the American Tap Dance Orchestra changed its name to the American Tap Dance Foundation. According to its website, the ATDF remains a non-profit organization "committed to establishing and legitimizing Tap Dance as a vital component of American Dance through creation, presentation, education and preservation." In 2010, the organization opened its new home in New York City, the American Tap Dance Center, which offers educational programming.

Sources:

American Tap Dance Foundation. Accessed August 10, 2011. [www.atdf.org](http://www.atdf.org).

### **Scope and content note**

The American Tap Dance Orchestra records document the organization's activities from 1988-1995, with an emphasis on its financial records. The records contain agendas and meeting minutes; correspondence; auditors' reports, budgets, and financial statements; and notes on advertisement and grant possibilities.

### **Arrangement**

Alphabetical by document type.

### **Key terms**

#### **Subjects**

Tap dancing

#### **Names**

American Tap Dance Orchestra

Schlesinger, Carl

Waag, Tony

## **Container list**

- b.1 f.1 Advertisement and Grant Information, 1990-1993
- b.1 f.2 Board of Directors Materials, 1989-1994
- b.1 f.3 Correspondence, 1990-1995, undated
- b.1 f.4 Correspondence--Fundraising, 1990-1995
- b.1 f.5 Financial Records, 1988-1994
- b.1 f.6 Statement of Purpose, 1992