

Jazz Tap Ensemble to perform; sponsored by University Events

October 8, 1987

Contact: Ruth Baily, University Events Office, 534-4090 or Alixandra Williams, Public Information Office, 534-3120

THE JAZZ TAP ENSEMBLE WILL PERFORM AT UCSD ON OCT. 24

Combining tap dance and jazz music, the Jazz Tap Ensemble has taken two traditional American art forms to new heights by transforming them into a freer, more dynamic form. The group will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, in the University of California, San Diego Mandeville Auditorium.

With its formation in 1979, the Jazz Tap Ensemble became part of the resurgent interest in tap dancing that has since taken hold across the country. The six-person ensemble has transformed the original "rhythm step" of the great black tappers into a jazz-oriented dance style.

In the past eight seasons, the company has presented its unique repertory to audiences across North America and Western Europe, and has also given master classes, workshops and lecture demonstrations. In 1984, the ensemble was chosen by the U.S. State Department as a representative of American culture to the countries of Southeast Asia. The company also has toured in Alaska, Hawaii and the Virgin Islands.

Highlights of the company's tours have included performances at the Smithsonian Institution, the Kennedy Center, Theatre de la Ville in Paris, the Riverside Studios in London, and Maison de la Danse in Lyon, France. Last autumn, they made their debut with guest artist Gregory Hines at the Joyce Theater, in New York City, where they will return in the spring of 1988.

The leadership of the Jazz Tap Ensemble is held by artistic director Lynn Dally. She has led the group from a collective of six jazz musicians and tap dancers to a unique organization which also fosters an internship program for the development of new artists in the jazz tap idiom.

Since 1984, the ensemble has been on the roster of the California Arts Council Touring Program. They are also the recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the city and county of Los Angeles, and the L.J. and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation.

The Jazz Tap Ensemble is brought to San Diego by the UCSD University Events Office. Tickets for the performance are available from the UCSD Box Office (534-4559) and from Ticket Master outlets. Prices are: general admission, \$13; seniors, \$11; and students, \$9.

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