

The Martha's Vineyard Times

Tap dance pioneer Jane Goldberg to perform, hold workshop here

By Emily Nitchie

Tap dance pioneer Jane Goldberg and Island dancer Carol Magee will bring new inspiration to the traditional art of tap dancing, for those who love to watch and for those who would love to tap. A joint performance tonight, August 16, at Katharine Cornell Hall at 8:30 p.m., will include new innovations in jazz and political tap, and will be followed by a free demonstration.

Following this introduction, Goldberg and Magee will keep up the pace during two weeks of classes in jazz tap, to be held in a large hall at the end of Elias Lane in West Tisbury. Children, beginning tap dancers, and "closet hoofers" are all welcome.

Goldberg is visiting from New York City where she is founder and artistic director of Changing Times Tap Dancing Company. For the last decade, Goldberg has worked to recreate an interest in both traditional and jazz tap dancing, through her own choreography and performances, and by lessons and interviews with some of the great remaining tap stars of the 30's and 40's.

Although she took tap as a young child, Goldberg became enthralled with tap in 1972 when she saw Fred Astair and Ginger Rogers in "Carefree." Armed with the question,

"Why did tap die out?," she sought out tap dancing pros to learn their styles and methods. Goldberg mentors include many names famous in tap dancing circles: Bunny Briggs, John Bubbles, Brenda Bufalino, Honi

ed tap — a combination of American art and racism, she said.

"It's really important to do the old dances, I think, because the only way to learn about what happened is to do what happened," she said.

Currently, Goldberg enjoys newer, more individual styles of tap, in comparison to Broadway tap, which she describes as "a line of 30 people all doing the same thing."

Goldberg sees tap dancing as an uplifting form of escape, and hopes that through the workshop, dancers will "have a chance to live out their tap fantasies, and also have a way of talking with their feet in individual ways."

"People are so enthused about tap again," said Magee, who has tap danced since she was small. Magee has tapped in several Island theater productions, as well as working as a choreographer for Vineyard Dance, a modern dance troupe.

Jazz tap classes for adults will be held Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings, with Goldberg and Magee alternating as teacher. Morning classes for teenagers, adults, and children, will be taught by Goldberg, starting at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call 693-4541 or 693-5826.

Although some taps will be available, to be put on hard-soled shoes, they are not necessary — hard-soled shoes will do just fine.



Jane Goldberg

Coles, Charles "Cookie" Cook, Gregory Hines and many more.

Perhaps because of the renewed growth and interest in tap, Goldberg's interest in her initial question has faded, but she continues to respect the tradition which nourish-

THURSDAY, August 16, 1984