

New Orleans

The Times-Picayune

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Tap odyssey: When Jane Goldberg paid her first visit to New Orleans, for the recent Jazz & Heritage Festival, she brought her tap shoes with her. And tap she did, all around town.

Goldberg, who directs New York's Changing Times Tap Dance Company, is considered an authority on jazz-tap dancing. Her trip to town for the festival (she stayed through both weekends) had something to do with her notion that this "very spontaneous form" of dancing may have had its "roots" in New Orleans ("but I don't know how I'd really find that out," she admits).

She got in touch with the

Tulane University Jazz Archive and discovered "that a lot of the music here is music you can tap to," but decided that her interest in discovering more about the history of tap-dancing in this city would require another trip here in the future.

During her stay here she did renew an association with tap-dancing star Charles "Honi" Coles, also in town for the festival; Goldberg participated in a lecture-demonstration Coles did at a local school.

"Tap is an American art form," Goldberg explains, "an original American art form . . . that has become something of an endangered species. I just feel that there is a lot more to be learned here about it, but I really am not sure of how to go about it. I suspect it'll take a lot of oral-history-type research. I'll be back."