

DAILY NEWS

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'Sole Sisters' salute on tap

BY DAVID HINCKLEY

IF REMINISCENCES ABOUT great tap dancers often are romanticized, that's merely the hand of ultimate justice—few practitioners of this underappreciated American art got full recognition in their artistic prime.

Even belated recognition leaves a few things out. Like women, who comprised most of the great chorus lines, and whose ranks included a few soloists, too. Remember Eleanor Powell and her 10-foot legs?

A salute to that tradition—and its continuation—is behind "Sole Sisters," an all-female tap show which runs tomorrow through Friday at 8 p.m. at the Greenwich House Theater, 27 Barrow St.

Put together by Jane Goldberg and her Changing Times Tap Company, the show is actually part of a tap package. Tomorrow night's performance is a benefit, after which the audience can "shake feet" with Gregory Hines and members of two old-time tap groups, the Copasetics and Hoofers. A "tap teach-in" will be held Saturday and Sunday ("By Word of Foot") at the Broadway Dance Center, 1733 Broadway. Sessions are at 3:30, 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 3, 4, and 5 p.m. Sunday, under the feet of Harriet Brown, Jo McNamara, Baby Edwards, Brenda Bufalino, Marian Coles,

Mabel Lee, Buster Brown and Charles "Cookie" Cook.

"Sole Sisters" itself includes both veteran and younger dancers: Goldberg, Brenda Bufalino, Sarah Safford, Beverly Wasser, Daria Hines, Marian Coles, Mabel Lee, Josephine McNamara and Harriet Brown. Accordingly, they will do both new material and routines created by the old Apollo Theater chorus line, in which Marian Coles danced (and where she met husband Honi).

"The point of doing the chorus line dances," says Goldberg, "is to show they weren't simply something that happened to fill time between acts, but were real choreography themselves."

As with other Goldberg shows, "Sole Sisters" will undoubtedly have a casual air about it. "I come out of the comedy tap tradition," says Goldberg. In some routines, the dancers will talk as they tap—about themselves, men, and relationships, including a number done to a tune titled "Postpartum Blues." The second half of the show is a female version of the old (male) Hoofers Club.

This loose structure has led to some memorable moments at past Goldberg shows. Last year, Gregory Hines recalls a tap jam at which Honi Coles "suddenly started doing steps like he hadn't done them in 20 years. When he was finished, we all got down to polish his shoes."

This year, that will be her shoes, thank you. For information on "Sole Sisters," call (212) 254-0003. For reservations, call (212) 924-0077.



Jane Goldberg (center)

and her Sole Sisters: Recognizing an unappreciated art