

The Boston Globe

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1989

'Women On Tap'

By Debra Cash
Special to the Globe

During one of her idiosyncratic comic monologues Jane Goldberg complained that tap dancing is "always being revived, we're always coming back, we're never here." The Women in Theater Festival sought to remedy that oversight by inviting three very different dancers to a late night show Friday.

DANCE REVIEW

Goldberg is Bette Midler from the waist up and Ann Miller from the waist down. She sang that she wants to be happy, but warned that tappers are more than just happy toes. In her unguarded moments, she still yearns to be a "traditional" woman, and illustrated her split allegiances by stirring an empty saucepan with a wire whisk as her feet sped along in steadily crisp beats. Her performance was another good reason to make sure you're not barefoot when you're in the kitchen.

Harriet Browne, glamorous in pink spangles, learned sand-dancing when it was all the rage on the '40s nightclub circuit. Shuffling in a shallow box, the sand makes a scratchy rattle. Browne's footwork on the plain stage floor made a similar blurry music, and she and Goldberg teamed up in a good-humored chorus girl version of "The Man I Love" complete with wing steps and a few high kicks.



JANE GOLDBERG ... part Bette Midler, part Ann Miller.

WOMEN ON TAP - Jane Goldberg, Brenda Bufalino and Harriet Browne with special guest Pam Raff, presented by the Women in Theatre Festival at Suffolk University C. Walsh Theater, Friday night.