Rhythm Tap Description: Classes emphasize the development and strengthening of basic tap technique, highlighting the importance of rhythm and sound. Tap focuses on rhythms and intricate footwork, creating a percussion instrument out of the dancer’s feet. Rhythm tap tends to be a heavier or harder-hitting form of tap than Broadway tap, and sounds are made not only with the bottom of the shoe, but also with its back, sides, and tip.

Tap I-III

Class Mission: Building a strong knowledge and understanding of all foundational tap sounds and steps (see below), and using those to create different rhythms and sequences

Technique Goals:

* Basic use of tap shoe sounds (toe taps, heel drops, digs, and spanks)
* Understanding the difference in similar sounds (i.e. stamp vs. stomp)
* Shuffles in even and syncopated timing (learning how to shuffle coming from the hip)
* Beginning variations of the time step
* Various foundational steps including but not limited to; flaps, rolls, draw backs, riffs, shlurps, cramp rolls, buffalo, ball changes, tac annie, paddle-n-roll
* Beginner sequences including but not limited to; shim sham 1, walk-around, basic soft shoe

Other Goals:

* Being able to comprehend and remember rhythms
* Differentiating between even and syncopated rhythms

Tap IV-VI

Class Mission: Building on and expanding our knowledge of all foundational tap sounds and steps and using those to create different sequences, overlapping rhythms, and improvisation.

Technique Goals:

* Building on knowledge from Tap I-III and using those steps in different sequences and tempos
* Advanced variations of the time step
* Various intermediate-advanced tap steps including but not limited to; scuffles, shuffle toe-stands, turning toe-dig hops
* Various jumping steps including but not limited to; pull-backs, wings, maxi-fours
* Being able to hear different rhythms/beats and keeping the tempo to it
* Intermediate-Advanced sequences including but not limited to; shim sham 2 &3, walk-around with overlays, advanced soft shoe, Portland jump

Other Goals:

* Growing repertoire of sequences
* Becoming comfortable with tap improvisation
* Being able to keep two different rhythms with each foot at once