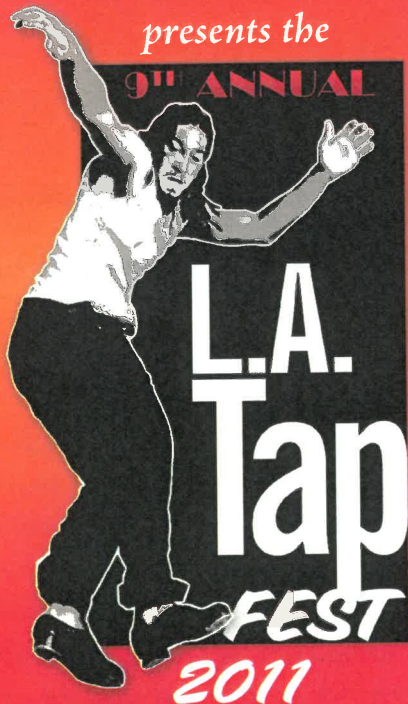


 **Debbie Allen**  
**DANCE ACADEMY**

*presents the*

**9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**



**ALL-STAR**  
**CONCERT**

**August 13<sup>th</sup> • 7pm**

★★ **Freud Playhouse at UCLA** ★★

**[WWW.LATAPFEST.COM](http://WWW.LATAPFEST.COM)**



August 13, 2011

*Dear Family Friends and LA Tap Fest Participants:*

*There is nothing more glorious than the sound of the rhythms that have captured the heartbeat of Tap pulsing through DADA for the last week. I am truly grateful to Wallis Annenberg, Berry Gordy, Quintin Primo, Al and Claude Mann and all our very dedicated supporters and sponsors for making it possible for us to continue expanding the reach of dance. I cannot thank our Director Jason Samuels Smith and Co-Director Chloe Arnold enough for their energy and enthusiasm and just the pure joy they bring everyday to the dance floor. I commend our incredible faculty and staff for making this Festival so vibrant, relevant and unforgettable.*

*I hope that you will all have a great year, stay in touch and come see us in the fall.*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Debbie Allen" in a cursive style, followed by a long horizontal flourish.

*Debbie Allen*

**TITLE SPONSOR**

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Four Paws & A Tail

## Welcome to the **Debbie Allen Dance Academy**

Whether you are 14 years old and already passionate about dance, 5 years old and excited about pink leotards, 10 years old and just want to give dance a try, or 35 years old and looking for something fun and creative to do, the Debbie Allen Dance Academy has something for you!...

The **Early Bird Program** is designed for little ones ages 4 to 7 years old that are new to dance. With a 4-class minimum weekly requirement, the program introduces these young dancers to Ballet, Tap, African, Hip Hop, Jazz, and Flamenco. Emphasis is placed on learning in a structured dance environment, developing friendships and having fun. Early Birds perform in the recitals and participate in their own summer program which culminates in a special presentation for family and friends.

The **RedBird Program**, under the direction of Ms. Debbie Allen and Dean Bronwyn Thomas, is the next step for the most advanced group from the Early Bird program before the Academy level. With a 6 class weekly requirement, the RedBird program focuses on Modern and Ballet Techniques as well as an hour dedicated to Tap. Students are recommended for this level based on their skills by Ms. Bronwyn Thomas, Ms. Allen and Mr. Williams. Monday and Wednesday classes are required with electives on Saturday.

The **Pre-Academy Program** levels 1 & 2, is tailored for students ages 8-18 years old who are either just being introduced to dance, or who have had previous instruction and are ready to build their skill level towards more serious training. A minimum of 4 classes weekly is required. The disciplines offered are Ballet, Tap, Modern, African, Jazz, Hip Hop, and Flamenco. Pre-Academy students perform in recitals and are encouraged to audition for the Summer Intensive program and all DADA productions.

The **Academy Program** with *Advanced, Intermediate, and Beginning* levels, is the intense professional training program that offers a comprehensive course of study for the serious dedicated student beginning at 8 years old. It is required that students take a minimum of 12 classes weekly in the disciplines of Ballet, African, Modern, Flamenco, Character, Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, Dunham technique & Aerial Training. Voice and Acting classes are also offered for interested students. Academy Students perform in the recitals and are encouraged to audition for the Summer Intensive program and all DADA productions.

The **Open Class Program** gives those new to dance or those returning to dance a positive and exciting experience. Our Open Class Program is taught by our professional team of instructors in Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Modern, African, & Hip Hop.

**PERFORMANCE ORDER**

**ACT I**

<b>Intro</b>		<i>CHLOE AND JASON</i>
<b>Beginner Rep</b>	<b>I Want You Back</b>	<i>CATHIE NICHOLAS</i>
<b>Solo</b>		<i>B'JON CARTER- BURNELL</i>
<b>Intermediate/ Advanced Rep</b>	<b>This Place</b>	<i>CHLOE ARNOLD</i>
<b>Solo</b>		<i>CHARLES RENATO</i>
<b>Intermediate Rep</b>	<b>The Farmer &amp; The Cowman</b>	<i>MELINDA SULLIVAN</i>
<b>Solo</b>		<i>STAR DIXON</i>
<b>Hip Hop</b>	<b>Look At Me Now</b>	<i>KEVIN HARRIS</i>
<b>Solo</b>		<i>AARON TOLSON</i>
<b>Everybody Dance</b>	<b>Summertime</b>	<i>STEVE ZEE</i>
<b>Solo</b>		<i>GREG POLAND</i>
<b>Advanced Rep</b>	<b>Wanna Be Startin Something</b>	<i>DORMESHIA SUMBRY-EDWARDS</i>

**ACT II**

<b>Tap Con Sabor</b>	<b>Mambo Gozon</b>	<i>SARAH REICH</i>
<b>Solo</b>		<i>IVERY WHEELER</i>
<b>Dance Works (Taipei)</b>	<b>Yeuh-Ji</b>	<i>DANCE WORKS</i>
<b>The Sole Sisters</b>		<i>MELINDA SULLIVAN &amp; SARAH REICH</i>
<b>DADA Tap Ensemble</b>	<b>Dancing To The Rhythm</b>	<i>CHANTEL HEATH</i>
<b>Solo</b>		<i>CHLOE ARNOLD</i>
<b>ACGI</b>	<b>Move The Crowd (Sole Sessions Part I)</b>	<i>JASON SAMUELS-SMITH</i>
<b>Solo</b>		<i>DORMESHIA SUMBRY-EDWARDS</i>
<b>Syncopated Ladies</b>	<b>We Are The Music</b>	<i>CHLOE ARNOLD</i>
<b>Solo</b>		<i>JASON SAMUELS-SMITH</i>
<b>Solo</b>		<i>ARTHUR DUNCAN</i>

MUSICAL DIRECTOR & DRUMS: **Channing Holmes**  
 BASS: **Jayne Silverstein**  
 PIANO: **Darrell Alston**

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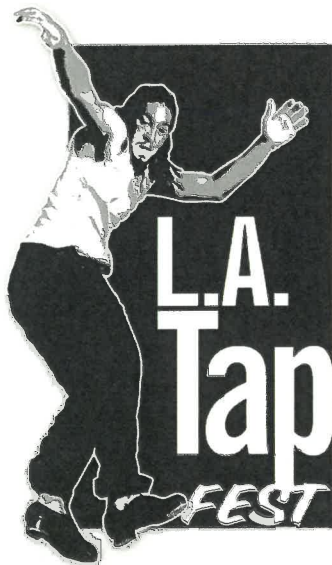
## TAP FEST FACULTY

Debbie Allen • Jason Samuels Smith • Chloe Arnold  
B'jon Carter-Burnell • Star Dixon • Tre Dumas  
Arthur Duncan • Kevin Harris • Chantel Heath  
Kara Mack • Cathie Nicholas • Greg Poland  
Sarah Reich • Charles Renato • Sue Samuels  
Melinda Sullivan • Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards • Aaron Tolson  
Dianne Walker • Ivery Wheeler • Aaron Williams • Steve Zee

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Norman Nixon • EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ CO-FOUNDER  
Evan Williams • DIRECTOR  
Karen McDonald • ACADEMY DEAN  
Bronwyn Thomas Hodgson • EARLY BIRD DEAN  
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Jewell Green • GRAPHIC DESIGNER

# HISTORY OF THE L.A. TAP FESTIVAL



The Debbie Allen Dance Academy's 1st Annual Los Angeles Tap Festival, held in August 2003, was embraced by the Tap Dance community and especially by Gregory Hines, who had generously offered to teach and perform in the festival. Just before the start of the festival, the tragic news of Gregory Hines' death was felt heavily in our hearts, but the festival went on in his memory. Our festival faculty and International students carried his spirit, and the week was filled with more inspiration, purpose, and commitment to the preservation of his great legacy and the art of Tap Dancing. A few years ago, we lost the legendary Dr. Fayard Nicholas, supporter of the LA Tap Festival and the Debbie Allen Dance Academy since their inception, but we continue to expand the language of Tap Dance by gathering these wonderful artists and students. Thank you for joining us. The journey continues...

# LA TAP FEST FACULTY



**DEBBIE ALLEN**  
**FOUNDER**

Debbie Allen continues to be one of the most respected, relevant, and versatile talents in the entertainment industry today and is an internationally recognized director, choreographer and author. As Culture Connect Ambassador, Ms. Allen represented the U.S. in visits to Brazil, China, Italy, and India expanding the opportunities in arts education for young people all over the world. She is a board member of the American Film Institute, an Executive Committee member of UCLA's School of Theatre, Film, and Television, and served as a member of the prestigious President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities under President George W. Bush.

Debbie Allen has received three Emmy awards honoring her choreography, and two Emmys and one Golden Globe for her role as "Lydia Grant" in the hit series, *Fame*. She then forayed from acting to directing - first with the series "*Fame*," followed by "*Family Ties*" and "*Bronx Zoo*," before taking the reins at NBC's "*A Different World*" as director and producer

in 1988. Since then, she has accumulated a long list of directing and producing credits for television, including *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, *The Parkers*, *That's So Raven*, *All of us*, *Girlfriends*, *Everybody Hates Chris*, *Hellcats* and *Grey's Anatomy*. She produced the Steven Spielberg epic film *Amistad* in 1997. Allen has choreographed for artists such as Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey, and Janet Jackson, and also holds the distinction of having choreographed the Academy Awards a total of ten times, six in consecutive years. Allen also has staged musicals that played to standing room only crowds for the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. where she has been Artist in Residence for over ten years.

In March 2008, Debbie Allen made her critically acclaimed Broadway directorial debut with the premiere of an all African American production of Tennessee William's classic, *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*, which starred James Earl Jones, Phylicia Rashad, Terrence Howard, Anika Noni Rose, and Giancarlo Esposito.

Ms. Allen recently mounted a new musical adaptation of *Oliver Twist* called *Twist* at the Pasadena Playhouse. The show played to sold-out audiences and cheering crowds, and was voted as the Favorite Show of season by the Friends of the Pasadena Playhouse.

Daughter of Vivian Ayers and Dr. Andrew A. Allen, wife of NBA All Star Norman Nixon, mother of Vivian Nichole and Thump, sister of Tex, Phylicia and Hugh, Ms. Allen devotes most of her life's work to the development and inspiration of young people in the Arts.





**JASON SAMUELS SMITH**  
DIRECTOR

Jason Samuels Smith (performer, choreographer, director) has emerged as a multi-talented leader in the Art form of Tap. He received a Dance Magazine Award as well as an Emmy and American Choreography Award for "Outstanding Choreography" for the Opening number of the Jerry Lewis/MDA Telethon. Mr. Samuels-Smith has also received the Gregory Hines Humanitarian Award; Certificate of Appreciation by the City of Los Angeles for creating the First Annual Los Angeles Tap Festival in 2003; a Proclamation declaring April

23rd "Jason Samuels Day" from the City of Shreveport, Louisiana; the "Ivy of Education" from Brainerd Institute; the "President Kenny Award" from Stony Brook; an Alpert/McDowell Residency Award; an Arts International Grant; National Performance Network and Map funding among others in support of his work.

Choreography and performances include Mya on CBS's Secret Talents of the Stars, twice as a special guest (soloist & company appearance) on Fox's hit series "So You Think You Can Dance", and Dancing with The Stars to name a few. Other television and film credits include co-starring in Dean Hargrove's award-winning short film "Tap Heat"; Outkast's feature film "Idlewild"; and Debbie Allen's AMC series "Cool Women". Performances include Sammy (tribute to Sammy Davis jr.); Soul Possessed (leading role); Tony Award winning Broadway show Bring in Da'Noise, Bring in Da'Funk (principal and lead roles); and Imagine Tap! (leading role). Mr. Samuels Smith continues

to tour the world with his own tap company A.C.G.I (Anybody Can Get It), India Jazz Suites co-starring with Kathak Master Pandit Chitresh Das, YouthSpeaks, JaJa Productions Band, and Charlie's Angels: A Tribute to Charlie Parker.

As a humanitarian, his work has supported organizations such as Dancers Responding to Aids, Tied to Greatness, Career Transitions for Dancers and Tap Into A Cure, and has helped to develop Tap Dreams, a worldwide documentary/global exchange which auditions young tap dancers in other countries and offers scholarships to attend the most popular tap festivals within the US. He is also one of the only tap dancers to fully design, develop, and promote the Jason Samuels Smith professional tap dance shoe produced and sold exclusively by BLOCH. Mr. Samuels Smith aims to promote respect for the art form and create opportunities for tap dancers, as he continues to provide leadership as a spokesman for tap around the world.



**CHLOE ARNOLD**  
CO-DIRECTOR

Inspired and mentored by Debbie Allen, Chloe Arnold hopes to also inspire and unite people globally through the Arts. An internationally recognized Performer and

Choreographer, Ms. Arnold graduated with a degree in Film from Columbia University. Throughout her career, she has had extensive experience in multiple aspects of the industry, as Co-director of

the Los Angeles Tap Festival, the producer of over 20 shows, and as an independent filmmaker. Chloe recently starred in Debbie Allen's new hit play Alex in Wonderland at the Kennedy Center and UCLA Freud Playhouse – filmed for TV release. You can also catch her in Outkast's Idlewild and as Beyonce's dance double in Upgrade You. Chloe is guest faculty at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy and has taught and choreographed at the premiere dance studios worldwide including Broadway Dance Center and Steps on Broadway. Performance Credits: Debbie Allen's Alex in Wonderland, Brothers of the Knight, Soul Possessed, and Sammy The Musical (dance captain) during which time she helped teach Tommy Davidson Tap; Savion Glover's All Star Tap Revue; India Jazz Progressions; Imagine Tap; and Emmy Award Winning Choreographer Jason Samuels Smith's A.C.G.I. and

Charlie's Angels: A Tribute to Charlie Parker. Film/TV Credits: Outkast's Idlewild (Universal Pictures/HBO); Brothers Garcia (Nickelodeon), Alex in Wonderland, The Parkers and One on One (JPN), The Opening of the Jerry Lewis/MDA Telethon's Emmy Award Winning Number, Dean Hargrove's Award Winning Short Tap Heat [www.tapheat.com](http://www.tapheat.com), AMC's Cool Women, Beyonce's Dance Double in Upgrade You, and tap dancer in Sean Paul's Give It Up To Me for the movie Step Up. Choreographer/AC Credits: ABC's American Celebration, Debbie Allen's Alex in Wonderland and Pearl; and for her own company Syncopated Ladies. Directing Credits: CUERPASO, a TV pilot and DVD, Music Videos, and commercials; Assistant Director to Melina on Music Videos for Beyonce, Eve, Jennifer Lopez, Neyo, Snoop Dogg, Kylie Minogue and more. Chloe recently launched her "I love Tap" clothing line on sale now - [www.chloearnold.com](http://www.chloearnold.com)

## 2011 LA TAP FEST FACULTY



**B'JON  
CARTER-BURNELL**

B'Jon began tap dancing with Jason Samuels-Smith and Chloe Arnold at age 11. B'Jon has also had the blessing to study with Ardie Bryant and Ms. Arlene Kennedy. He was a member of the Kennedy Tap Company founded by Ms. Kennedy, with her brother Paul Kennedy. With KTC, B'Jon has performed throughout the United States and Canada. His credits include the Jaguar Tribute to Style, NAACP Vision Awards, Thaliens 51st Anniversary, Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon, Urbana, and Herbie Hancock Tribute Show. B'Jon is currently an undergraduate at the University of California, Los Angeles.



**STAR DIXON**

Starinah Dixon, a.k.a. Star, was born and raised in Chicago. She started dancing at a very young age. Brought up into a dancing family including her mom who studied African dance, which she later also studied, it was no doubt that she would have a love for dance. She is the younger sister of Bril Barrett who started M.A.D.D. Rhythms where she is one of the original members of the 9-year running tap company. With M.A.D.D. Rhythms, she has performed all over the U.S. including The L.A. Tap Festival, The St. Louis Tap Festival, The Detroit Tap Festival, and Northern Illinois University. As well as performing, she also teaches and has been since the age of 16. Her teaching experience includes Aloy Children's dance theater, Najwa, Chicago Park District, The Imani Dance Center, and the M.A.D.D. Rhythms Tap Academy. She, also dances with Chicago's newest hip-hop company, Purified.



**TRE DUMAS**

Martin "Tre" Dumas III is a tap dancer and choreographer from Chicago, IL. Mr. Dumas received his early dance training and his first teaching experience at Tommy Sutton's Mayfair Academy of Fine Arts. He graduated from Clark Atlanta University and in 1995 had his first tap festival teaching experience at the Chicago Human Rhythm Project, representing Mayfair and Mr. Sutton's legacy. Later, as Steppin' Out, Mr. Dumas and Bril Barrett performed and taught at the St. Louis Tap Festival, Detroit Tap Festival, and performed at The Democratic National Convention. In January 2001, Dumas and Barrett created the internationally renowned company, M.A.D.D. Rhythms and co-founded the M.A.D.D. Rhythms Tap Academy later that year. Together they have trained a crew of young dancers who are all beginning to make their own marks. In 2005, Mr. Dumas (along with Bril Barrett and Lisa LaTouche) co-founded The Chicago Tap Summit. Recently, he became the newest "extended member" of Jason Samuels Smith's ACGI. Mr. Dumas taught and performed throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, and South America. Credits include: Daddy Bates in a national touring revival of Broadway's The Tap Dance Kid, North American, and European tours of Riverdance, and Derick Grant's Imagine Tap (2006).



**KARA MACK**

Kara Mack choreographer of Balandugu Kan Dance Troupe, has studied many styles of African dance from Master Dancers all over the Diaspora. She has had the honor of performing for the NAACP, BET, and Billboard Awards because of African dance. In honor of the spirit of Africa, she passes on the wisdom, purity, and strength of African dance.



**KEVIN HARRIS**

Kevin Harris At 7 years old, Kevin Harris began touring the nation with a Hip Hop company called Rhythm Nation. Years later, in 2001, Kevin was part of the inaugural class that opened the Debbie Allen Dance Academy (DADA), participating in establishing a standard of excellence for those students who followed. Ms. Debbie Allen fast-embraced Kevin and has utilized his dancing and choreographic skills in all of her professional productions since 2001. By his third year of study, Ms. Allen hired him to teach Hip Hop at the Academy and his choreography has been performed in every Academy Concert since. In 2005 and 2006 he accompanied Ms. Allen to South Carolina to teach Master Hip Hop Classes as part of her "Open Fields" master class program and was Assistant Choreographer for her 2006 production "Bayou Legend and in 2007's "Alex in Wonderland." Also in 2007 Kevin was hired as the dance talent coordinator for Stan Lathan's HBO hit, "Def Comedy Jam," choreographed for the hit show "Everybody Hates Chris," and the "Tribute to Herbie Hancock" receiving a outstanding review in the L.A. Times. In 2009 Ms. Allen

recruited Kevin as Assistant Choreographer for the "Brothers of the Knight" tour in South Carolina, Louisiana and finally in Los Angeles. Later, she hired him as Assistant Director for her 2009 production of "Dreams." For the last 5 years Kevin Harris has taught in DADA Summer Intensives and for three years in the Summer Intensives offered at Stage Presence in Houston, Texas. Besides teaching at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy, Kevin has taught Hip Hop classes in the Los Angeles Unified School District, for the after-school program, L.A.'s Best and P.S. Arts. Since September, 2006, Kevin toured all over the U.S., Europe, Asia and South America with Fergie, as well as appearing on Jay Leno, Tyra Banks, MTV, Nickelodeon, Pepsi's Super Bowl Smash, and the VH1 and Billboard awards shows, as well as performing with Nelly Furtado. Kevin has also been a featured concert performer for choreographers Dave Scott, Chuck Maldonado, Fatima, and Lizette & Shonique.



**CHANTEL HEATH**

Chantel Heath Is working her way through the world as a dancer and choreographer. She is trained in genres ranging from tap, hip hop, jazz and modern, to swing and martial arts. She has worked with such artists as Tupac, Busta Rhymes, LL Cool J, Savion Glover (Cannes Film Festival, Jerry Lewis Telethon) and Michael Jackson for his 45th Anniversary. As a member of the Kennedy Tap Company she danced in Cuba with Alicia Alonzo's "International Ballet of Cuba," and was one of the first African Americans to dance at the Kremlin in Russia. Her most recent film credits are Idlewild and Tap Heat and her choreography was featured in the 2008 season finale of So You Think You Can Dance.



**ARTHUR DUNCAN**

Born in Pasadena, California, Arthur Duncan entered Pasadena City College to study pharmacy, but left school to pursue a career in show business. He toured with the Jimmy Rodgers Show, and had his own television variety show in Australia. After years of appearances in Europe, Duncan was "discovered" by Lawrence Welk's personal manager, Sam Lutz. After appearing as a guest on the show, Welk offered Duncan a permanent spot on his weekly show where he usually had one tap solo and performed in a trio.

Duncan's unique position as the only African-American performer on the show created somewhat awkward moments. In an era when blacks and whites did not hold hands or even kiss each other on television shows the large, all cast production numbers which often showed various white male and female performers holding hands and dancing, Arthur Duncan is often seen standing in the background, trying very hard to not look like he is "with" any of the women. Later, when racial taboos had eased, Duncan did perform choral dance numbers with Mary Lou

Metzger and Anacani. Since the end of the Welk Show, Duncan has appeared in several television shows, and in the tap dancing movie "Tap".

## 2011 LA TAP FEST FACULTY



**CATHIE NICHOLAS**

Cathie is the younger granddaughter of Fayard Nicholas, of the legendary Nicholas Brothers Tap duo that thrilled audiences and performed in over 30 major movies. She currently teaches for Debbie Allen Dance Academy, Universal Dance Designs and Los Angeles Unified School District's Youth Development Program. Her performances with the Nicholas Brothers included Carnegie Hall, Hollywood Palladium, San Francisco Jazz Festival, Duke University and numerous Tap Festivals. With her grandfather, Fayard Nicholas and her sister Nicole, as the Nicholas Sisters, she performed at Jazz at Drew, Stanford University, Professional Dancers Society, Santa Monica College and many other venues. While a student at Debbie Allen Dance Academy her performances included musicals Brothers of the Knight and Pepito's Story, Steve Harvey's Summer Jam, and in Las Vegas at the Debbie Reynolds Revue. She has assisted in a Master Class at the LA Tap Festival since its inception. With Universal Dance Designs (Paul & Arlene Kennedy, founders), she studied for over 15 years and has been featured with the Kennedy

Tap Company and performed throughout Cuba as guests of the International Dance Festival and extensively in Los Angeles for over a decade. Her dance talents have been displayed in Madrid, Paris, Canada, and most US states. She has choreographed numerous routines including Tribute to Debbie Reynolds and Ivory Wheeler, Chocolate Nutcracker produced by Wayne Bascomb, Chester Whitmore's Swing Band and Orchestra, and Capital recording artist, AKsent. This year The Nicholas Sisters are featured performers at the Philly Tap Festival in Pennsylvania. Cathie is a Sparkid for the WNBA Sparks Women's Basketball team performing extensive hip-hop routines at the Staples Center for Sparks basketball games and special appearances from 2003-2005. Her other screen credits include That's So Raven, Dance With Me, Jack The Bear, Lassie, the Vickie Lawrence Show, Toys R Us commercial, Se Habla Everything at the Los Angeles Theater, and a video with the late Tupac Shakur.



**GREG POLAND**

Greg Poland holds a BFA cum-laude in musical theater from Point Park College. Greg appeared in the National tour and Los Angeles co. of THE PRODUCERS w/ Jason Alexander and Martin Short. Greg was assistant choreographer/cast for LIKE JAZZ at the Mark Taper Forum. He was featured on Broadway & the European tour of the Tony award winning show BLACK & BLUE w/ Savion Glover and starred in Lincoln Centers' DREAMS ON A SHOESTRING. Some of his regional and touring credits include: THE HOT MIKADO, MS. EVERS BOYS, GOD'S FAVORITE, THE HOSTAGE, DREAMGIRLS, SOPHISTICATED LADIES, 5 GUYS NAMED MOE and Otis Sallid's SPIRITUAL featuring Bebe Winans. Film: TEQUILA BODY SHOTS, LATE LAST NIGHT, STAR TREK 9, THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT, MALCOLM X and BASEKTBALL. TV: THE DISTRICT, STAR TREK VOYAGER, XFILES, SABRINA... PARTY OF 5, THE JAMIE FOXX SHOW, MARTIN, THE TONIGHT SHOW, ALL MY CHILDREN, BABYLON 5, and HANGIN' WITH MR. COOPER. Greg directed, created and choreographed the show La Feet for DISNEY'S CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE, did the tap Choreography for the NBC

UPFRONT at Radio City Musical Hall, co-directed and choreographed numerous production numbers of TAP GIRLS at HARVEY'S CASINO and choreographed a section of OUT OF THE BOX on the Disney Channel. Greg is a well known and sought after master tap teacher and choreographer who has taught at dance conventions all over the country and Canada. He has worked for TREMAINE DANCE CONVENTIONS, COMPANY DANCE, DANCE MASTERS OF AMERICA, SHOWSTOPPERS, TRIPLE THREAT, 5678 SHOWTIME & THE SURREY FESTIVAL OF DANCE. Greg just finished producing his first full length feature film RUNT which has been winning many awards on the film festival circuit and currently has a distribution deal.



**CHARLES RENATO**

Teacher, Choreographer, and Producer, Charles Renato is one of the most talented tap dancers in Brazil. He won the prize for best dancer of the Joinville International Dance Festival, the largest dance festival in the world by Guinness Book of World Records. In 2007, he was elected the best young dancer from Brazil and has made numerous performances on TV and theaters throughout Brazil. In 2008, he spent three months performing in a musical in Lisbon and won the Tap Slam from CHRP as a choreographer. Charles is a member of the KS Tap Dance Company directed by Kika Sampaio and founded the project Come on Tap, which helps talented young Brazilians to participate in the festivals in the USA. Charles currently travels throughout Brazil performing and teaching workshops.

**SARAH REICH**

Sarah Reich is exploding onto the scene as a young professional, having spent the past six years assisting tap legend Harold Cromer at numerous festivals, including Tap City, St. Louis Tap Festival, Chicago Human Rhythm Project, Los Angeles Tap Festival, and Tap Into A Cure. Sarah is now becoming a tap festival teacher on her own; her first teaching job was in Limoges, France. She has studied with, among others, Alfred Desio, Cyd Glover and Paul & Arlene Kennedy, has been a member of the Jazz Tap Ensemble's Caravan Project, is a current member of Jason Samuel Smith's "Anybody Can Get It" company, Chloe Arnold's Syncopated Ladies, and serves as the Dance Captain for the LA Ironworks Youth Company as well as contributing choreography for the group. Sarah has performed at many venues around Los Angeles including the Getty Museum, the Ford Amphitheatre, the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the Kodak Theatre, the Madrid Theatre, the King King Club, the Hollywood Bowl, and was asked to dance for promotional events for the movie Happy Feet. She is featured on two instructional tap DVD's with Mike

Witmers. Sarah was featured in an article titled "20 Hot Tappers Under 20" in Dance Spirit Magazine, and selected as one of the top 25 dancers to look out for in 2009 in Dance Magazine. Sarah received an award for Performing Artist of The Year at the 2005 OMNI Awards. She has also been featured in numerous television shows including So You Think You Can Dance, the Jerry Lewis Telethon, Secret Talents of the Stars, and Sabado Gigante. Sarah is currently teaching around Los Angeles at Everybody Dance, the Colburn School, the Tap Academy and the EDGE Performing Arts Center. She is also the director of her tap company Tap Con Sabor!

**SUE SAMUELS**

Sue Samuels (Teacher, Choreographer, Performer) has established herself as one of the staples of the performing arts community of today. With over 35 years of experience, her expertise is often sought after for mentoring and coaching purposes by professionals and aspiring artists from around the world. Her students have included numerous stage, film and tv stars including Melba Moore, Brooke Shields, and Irene Cara. Performance and choreographic credits include lead dancer and assistant choreographer in such shows as Got Tu Go Disco at the Minskoff Theater on Broadway, The Johnny Hallyday Show in Paris, The Brazil Export Show in Rio de Janeiro to name a few. Televised credits include "All My Children", "Jerry Lewis Telethon", "Contemporary Women", "the Arthritis Telethon with Melba Moore", "Zoom", and numerous commercials and industrials for Dr. Pepper, 7 Up, Wheat Thins, Head & Shoulders, Adidas, Glaxo, Members Only among others. Sue Samuels was the co-founder/owner of Jo Jo's Dance Factory in New York City for ten years, which later became Broadway Dance Center. Ms. Samuels was also the director

of the Jazz Department and founded the Jazz program for Children at the Ft. Lauderdale Ballet in Florida, and ran her own Children's program in Boca Raton for five years. Ms. Samuels was commissioned to teach at New York University in the Cap 21 program with theater majors, as well as Olympic Gymnastic Instructors in Tokyo, Japan. Other teaching credits include The Broward Civic Ballet., Frank Hatchett's Professional Childrens Program, Dance Masters Association, and The Dance Company of Haiti. She continues to travel around the world for master classes often held for Teachers & Instructors. In turn, groups come to study her unique Jazz Style. She is currently on the teaching faculty at Broadway Dance Center in NYC (since 1986).

**AARON WILLIAMS**

Aaron Williams is a performer, teacher, composer, percussionist, keyboardist, vocalist, drummer, and tap dancer. He received his B.A. from MWSU and pursued a Master of Music degree at CSU, Long Beach.

Aaron has served as principal percussionist with the Saint Joseph Symphony and the Golden State Pops Orchestra as well as musical director and featured percussionist for LA Ironworks. Aaron was the featured mallet percussionist with Sticks of Thunder. Aaron has composed works for various solo configurations and ensembles, including various high school and college drumlines. Aaron has taught private lessons and classes in piano, percussion, voice, and tap. He has instructed high school and college drumlines. He has also worked with such arts-outreach programs as Artsbridge, Midland Empire Community Arts, and the Allied Arts Council. Aaron is currently Band Director at Vanguard Middle School in LA, percussion/theory professor at the Compton Conservatoire, and continues to teach and perform in the LA area.

# 2011 LA TAP FEST FACULTY



**DORMESHIA  
SUMBRY-EDWARDS**

Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards (Performer/Choreographer/Instructor) started tapping at age 3 as a student of the Kennedys in CA, going on to perform in Rome at the Tap Tap Festival at age 8. At age 12 came her Broadway debut in *Black and Blue*. Dormeshia's Broadway credits include the Tony Award Winning *Bring In Da'Noise, Bring In Da'Funk*. Dormeshia has toured nationally with *Wild Woman Blues* and appeared with *The Jazz Tap Ensemble*. Dormeshia was dance captain, principal dancer, and understudy to the lead role in the International Tour of *Bring In Da'Noise, Bring In Da'Funk*. She's been a special guest artist for the Harlem Jazz Dance Festivals where she performed a tribute to Dr. James "Buster" Brown and served as judge for their Annual Hoofers Challenge Cutting Contest. Film credits include "TAP", "Bamboozled" (for which she was also Assistant Choreographer), and "The Rodgers and Hart Story: Thou Swell, Thou Witty". Her choreography has been featured in the off-Broadway show *TAAP*, for the all-female tap quartet *R.I.F.F.*, and in Michael Jackson's music video "Rock Your World". She was featured in a Debbie Allen's workshop of the musical *SAMMY*. Dormeshia has taught for tap festivals in NYC, LA, and Brazil, Columbus Taps, and K-Broadway in Tokyo. Dormeshia was made Tap Advisor for *Dance Magazine* and the official Tap Spokesperson for *Capezio*.



**AARON TOLSON**

A native of Manchester, New Hampshire, Aaron Tolson continues to make his mark by championing the movement of the art form of Tap in several arenas. Mr. Tolson is a national spokesperson for dance wear company *SoDanca*, a consultant and writer for *Dance Spirit Magazine*, former professor of dance at Plymouth State University and the Boston Conservatory, as well as the assistant choreographer, co-creator and assistant producer of the acclaimed stage production *Imagine Tap!* Aaron started dancing at the age of ten in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Four years into his dance career he was performing in the *Great Tap Reunion* at the *Apollo Theatre*. He attended St. John's University obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications all the while honing his tap technique in Manhattan. His senior year of college landed him in the *New York Shakespeare Festival* tap program, also known as *Funk U!* Soon Aaron became a company member of *Manhattan Tap* and worked with the show *Tap Dogs*. Jumping feet first into choreography, he landed a job with *Absolut* with a tour called *Absolut Tap!* In 2005, Aaron completed a six-year run with *Riverdance*, the internationally acclaimed show with performances on Broadway and Radio City Music Hall where he was a featured soloist and dance captain. Since then, Aaron has performed and taught at numerous tap festivals, in addition to performing with *Brookline Chorus' Duke Ellington Sacred Concert*, *The Late Late Show* with *Liam O'Conner* in Ireland and on *Globo TV* representing the *Brazil International Tap Festival*. Most recently, Aaron was featured on *Dance.com* and has choreographed, produced and directed *Something to Tap About* and *Tapped and Tapped In* - featuring *New England Tap Ensemble*. Aaron formed *New England Tap Ensemble* in May of 2007 to promote the art of tap in the community while fostering a sense of individuality in a professional artist.



**DIANNE WALKER**

Dianne 'Lady Di' Walker, a pioneer in tap dancing's resurgence has a 30 year career spanning Broadway, Television, Film and International Jazz Dance Concerts and Festivals. United States Artists selected Walker as the recipient of the *USA Rose Fellow 2008, Dance*. Ms. Walker holds a Master's degree in Education, and has taught at Harvard, Williams College, University of Michigan, UCLA, Bates, and Wesleyan. She received Oklahoma City University's 1998 *Living Treasure In American Dance Award*, adding to a long line of awards and lifetime tributes. She began her dance training in Boston with *Mildred Kennedy-Bradic* and later, *Leon Collins, Jimmy "Sir Slyde" Mitchell* and *Jimmy Slyde*. *Leon Collins* passed away in 1985, leaving Dianne to continue as one of the Directors of his school. She continues to share this rich legacy with her students.

**MELINDA SULLIVAN**

Melinda Sullivan (Tap Dancer, Actress, Musician) recently appeared as one of the Top 11 Finalists on FOX's So You Think You Can Dance, Season 7. Prior to returning home to California, Melinda held a recurring role as the mysterious Zoe Finn on CBS's As The World Turns. She has toured as an original cast member of the onstage Disney's High School Musical and High School Musical Two, both directed by Jeff Calhoun. Other theatre credits include: The 25th Anniversary Tour of Cats, Frank Wildhorn's Wonderland, Thank You, Gregory, and numerous Town Hall Broadway By the Year performances in New York City as a soloist and choreographer. Melinda is a company member of Emmy-Award Winner, Jason Samuels Smith's tap company, Anybody Can Get It (ACGI), with recent performances including Jacob's Pillow Dance, NY City Center's Fall For Dance and at the Sadler's Wells Theatre in London. Her other dance company work includes the Lynn Dally's Jazz Tap Ensemble, Chloe Arnold's Syncopated Ladies, Gregg Russell's Tapsounds Underground, and Noah Racey's New York Tap Ensemble (NYTE). Melinda is a recipient of

the coveted Los Angeles Music Center "Spotlight Award" in the Non-Classical dance category for her solo tap dance performance at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Her other past television/film credits include: Star Search w/ Arsenio Hall, UPN's One on One, Dean Hargrove's Award Winning Short Film, Tap Heat, choreographed by Danny Daniels, and the Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon in 2008. Commercially, Melinda has worked for Lux Soap under direction of Joel Schumacher, and Crystal Light's national campaign as "Peach Iced Tea". Melinda appeared on the cover of Dance Spirit Magazine's spring 2003 issue, representing the next generation of tap dance. In 2005, Dance Spirit Magazine also named Melinda one of the Top 20 upcoming Young Hoofers.

**IVERY WHEELER**

Ivory Wheeler brings a lifetime of experience with every shuffle and tap step. He began his tap dancing career at the age of 3 dancing on the bar at the Louisiana Club in Las Vegas more than 50 years ago. The history, grace, style and skill this one man possesses can easily fill a stage and any room. At age 14, Ivory met Maceo Anderson of "The Four Step Brothers". In short order young Ivory became a hooper performing in Anderson's groups, "Four Steps and a Miss" and later "The Third Generation Steps". For more than ten years "Anderson's kids" were on everyone's short list. They performed with Jerry Lewis, Merv Griffin, Mike Douglas, Dinah Shore, Pearl Bailey, Dean Martin Sammy Davis Jr., Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Lucille Ball, Donald O'Connor, Engelbert Humperdinck, Gregory Hines, Henry LeTang, Juliet Prowse, Dr. Jimmy Slyde, Debbie Reynolds, and many others. Publicly acknowledged by Savion Glover, and Dormeshia Sumbry Edwards as their mentor, teacher and friend; and by Dianne Walker as partner, and confidante, this humble

legend is just as comfortable teaching in the studio as performing on stage. With such monumental performances as "The Cotton Club", & the Tony award winning "Black and Blue" in Paris, and on Broadway, Ivory can do it all: sing, dance, act. Honored at the L.A. Tap Festival in 2008 this legend is following in Maceo Anderson's foot steps and building the next generation of tappers.

**STEVE ZEE**

Steve was a featured soloist in the Jazz Tap Ensemble, a member of Rhapsody In Taps, an artist in residence at the Chicago Human Rhythm Project, and an original cast member of Hot Shoe Shuffle. He has performed and taught across the US, Canada, Brazil, France and Germany. Steve's choreography was featured at the Beijing International Dance Festival. He trained Kiril Kulish for the Broadway production of Billy Elliot for which Kiril won the Tony Award and has served as tap coach for pop icons. Steve edited the Oral History/Biography of Stan Kahn and the Oral History/Biography of Robert Scheerer and has made five instructional tap videos. Steve trained at UCLA, the Sorbonne/Universite de Paris III and the Piccolo Teatro di Milano. Steve also provided sounds for the tap dancing Hershey's Kisses on TV.

Steve is currently performing at the M Bar in Hollywood and is on faculty at CSU Long Beach and Santa Monica College. He teaches weekly at the Tap Academy in Santa Monica, the Dance Arts Academy in LA and the Gabriella Axeirad Education

Foundation in LA. He is the director of the nonprofit arts organization LA Ironworks and is on the Board of the Dance Resource Center.

**everybody dance!** is a program of The Gabriella Axelrad Education Foundation, a non-profit organization that brings high quality dance training to underserved youth in Los Angeles. The program was started in memory of Gabriella Axelrad, a 13 year old girl whose parents saw the positive effects dance training had on their daughter and wanted to memorialize her by providing those same experiences to children in communities where dance opportunities are scarce. The Foundation opened its doors in 2000, began a dance-themed charter school in 2005 and currently serves more than 1200 students per week through its daytime and afterschool dance programs.[www.gabri.org](http://www.gabri.org)

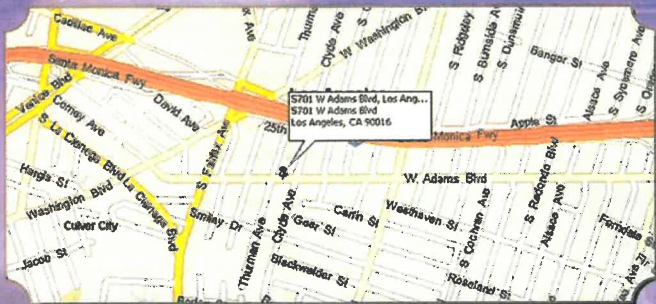
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**No money is necessary. Please bring a lunch as there will be a 30 minute break to eat in between classes.**

**Wear clothing that is easy to move in, such as a t-shirt and sweat pants. Also, you should wear socks and gym shoes.**

**The day ends at 3:30 pm, so please have your ride there on time.  
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AUGUST 2 - 25: **EARLY BIRD SUMMER CAMP**

AUGUST 25: **EARLY BIRD RECITAL**

AUGUST 27: **DANCE FREE DAY**

SEPTEMBER 6: **ACADEMY ORIENTATION**

SEPTEMBER 8: **EARLY BIRDS, RED BIRDS & PRE-ACADEMY ORIENTATION**

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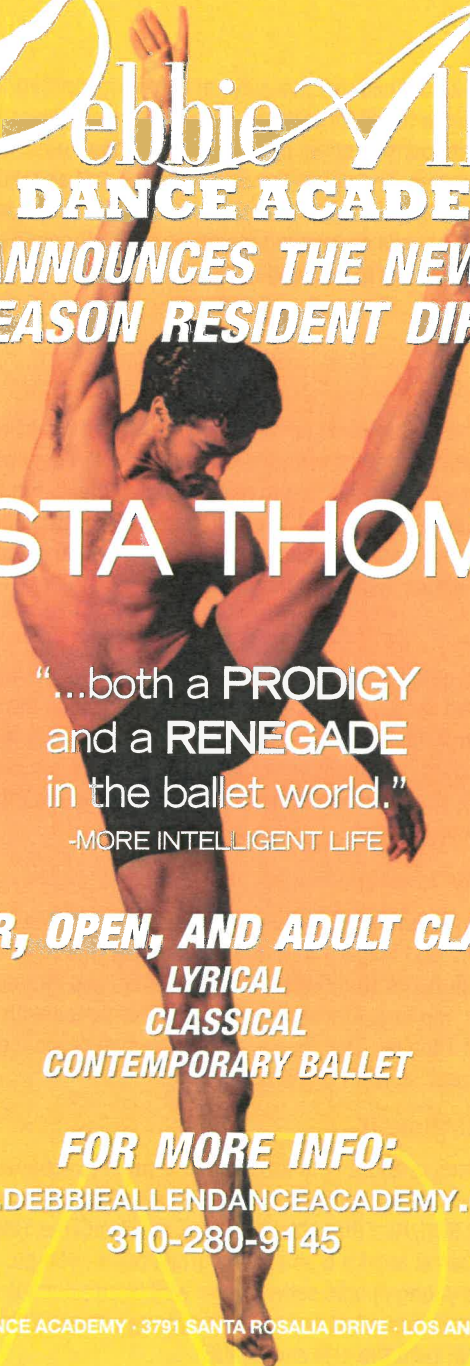
## OPEN CLASS SCHEDULE

SUMMER 2011

<b>MON</b>	6:00 - 7:00 PM KHANIASHVILI	<i>Adult Ballet</i>	<b>CLASS FEES</b>  PER CLASS: <b>\$15</b>  10 CLASS CARD: <b>\$140</b>  20 CLASS CARD: <b>\$260</b>  UNION MEMBERS: <b>\$12</b>  *ALL HIP HOP & AFRICAN: <b>\$12</b>  *CLASSES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
	7:00 - 8:00 PM STURGIS	<b>SALSA</b>	
<b>TUES</b>	8:15 - 9:00 AM ALLEN	<b>Salsacise</b>	
<b>WED</b>	8:15 - 9:00 AM JONES	<b>Salsacise</b>	
	6:00 - 7:00 PM KANEC	<b>HiP HOP</b>	
	7:00 - 8:00 PM MACK-CUMMINGS	<b>AFRICAN</b>	
<b>THUR</b>	8:15 - 9:00 AM ALLEN	<b>Salsacise</b>	
<b>FRI</b>	8:15 - 9:00 AM JONES	<b>Salsacise</b>	
	6:00 - 7:00 PM DEJAN	<b>HiP HOP</b>	
	7:00 - 8:00 PM CAMARA	<b>AFRICAN</b>	
<b>SAT</b>	9:30 - 10:30 AM PRADO	<b>ADULT FLAMENCO</b>	

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## MISSION

The Debbie Allen Dance Academy is a cultural center committed to making dance a meaningful experience for all individuals. The Academy provides professional and rigorous training for young dancers in over twelve dance forms, artistic development for professional dancers, and youth-focused outreach and education initiatives. The Academy prepares young dancers for a serious career in dance, musical theatre, film, and television, all the while developing the discipline, self-confidence, and creativity that every individual needs to succeed in life.

## VISION

### Debbie's Dedication...

...is reflected in the professional administrative staff and world-renowned artistic staff, Board of Directors, parent volunteers, and long list of supporters that have joined DADA in pursuit of its mission to make dance a meaningful experience for all individuals. DADA enrolls close to 400 children ages 5-18 annually and offers over half of its students full and partial scholarships based on financial need and ability. DADA is the preeminent dance institution for young people.

### Allen Artistry...

...uses the arts as catalysts to change young people's lives for the better. Debbie Allen started the Academy because she saw a void in the quality of arts and arts education available to children. Refusing to give in to the crisis in public education and funding communities in California, Debbie Allen continues to persevere, and through DADA, she proves that the Arts are important and integral to the well-being of children everywhere.

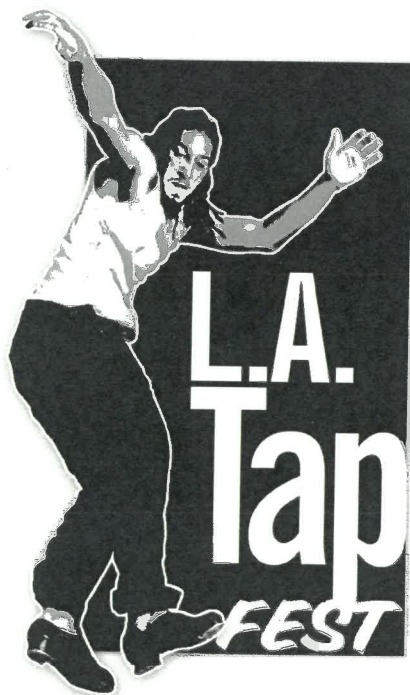
### Dance Diversity...

...in the DADA curriculum challenges young artists to embrace all forms and aesthetics of dance and to learn from the rich cultural traditions of the dance styles. At DADA, students study with master teachers and choreographers of Ballet, Tap, Modern, Jazz, Hip Hop, African, Dunham, and Flamenco with special seminars in Voice and Musical Theatre. The development of the whole-dancer or Debbie Allen's famous, "triple threat" is what DADA is all about.

### Academy Achievement...

...for DADA students is about both artistic and academic achievement. In addition to the challenging dance curricula comprising three levels, based on age and ability - Early Bird, Red Bird, Pre-Academy, and Academy, DADA students are required to maintain at least a B scholastic grade point average. The discipline that is expected of the young people serves them well in and outside of the academy, resulting in the development of well-rounded young citizens who understand what it takes to succeed in both the arts and in life!

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The logo for L.A. Tap Fest 2011 is contained within a large, vertically-oriented oval. The background of the oval is a dark grey with a distressed, wood-grain-like texture. The text 'L.A.' is at the top in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below it, 'Tap' is written in a very large, black, stylized font with thick strokes. At the bottom, 'FEST' is in a bold, black, sans-serif font, and '2011' is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font to its right. There are four small circular icons, each containing a vertical line, positioned at the top and bottom center and left and right edges of the oval.

**L.A.  
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