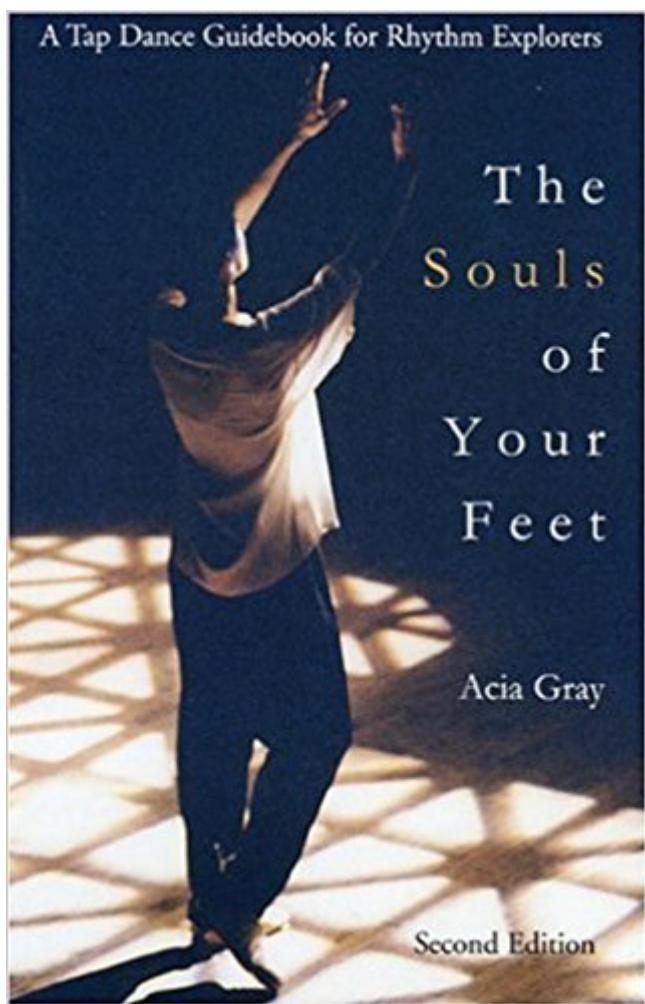


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The Souls Of Your Feet: A Tap Dance Guidebook For Rhythm Explorers



Synopsis

The Souls of Your Feet is a comprehensive guide to the art and language of tap dance. Complete with basic technique and creative variations, this guidebook shows the beginning dancer how to build a strong foundation in this wonderful American artform as well as expand the experienced dancer's choreographic and improvisational creativity. Traditional tap dance figures and choruses to include The B.S. Chorus and The Shim Sham Shimmy are some of many basic structures covered in this guidebook. Numerous references are made to the legends of tap dance including Charles "Honi" Coles, Brenda Bufalino, Jimmy Slyde, Sarah Petonio, Savion Glover and many others securing the artform to its historical roots.

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Grand Weaver's Publishing; 1 edition (December 31, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0966744500

ISBN-13: 978-0966744507

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 0.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #184,846 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Tap #4 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Popular #221 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Comedy

Customer Reviews

"Acia Gray has compiled and documented so much of the tap dance nomenclature in The Souls of Your Feet that is should now be clear to everyone that this artform is so deep it takes a lifetime to master and yet we're still not finished inventing it. The teacher, the scholar and the dancer in search of identification and clarification of tap terms and basic rhythm structures will find Ms. Gray's vast and inclusive guide a very helpful resource." (Brenda Bufalino, The American Tap Dance Orchestra: New York City)

Acia Gray has toured extensively as soloist, choreographer and teacher in over 250 cities across the U.S. and abroad and, along with Deirdre Strand, is the co-founder and Artistic Director of

Tapestry Dance Company in Austin, TX, one of the few professional, multi-form companies in the country. With TDC, her works have shared the stage with such companies as the New York City Ballet, the Houston Ballet and Doug Varone & Dancers among many others. After graduating from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, NYC, Ms. Gray began her professional dance career as a principal dancer and Managing Director of Austin on Tap, one of the busiest touring tap companies in the 1980's. As a soloist, she has since shared the stage with such tap greats as Steve Condos, Jimmy Slyde, Lon Chaney, Chuck Green, Sarah Petronio, Brenda Bufalino and Savion Glover among many others. Ms. Gray was chosen as one of 12 dancers worldwide to work with tap legend Charles "Honi" Coles in America's first Creative Residency in the art of tap at the Colorado Dance Festival and again in 1990 with Jimmy Slyde. She has appeared in The Great Tap Reunion, Tap/Dowop, Chicago on Tap, the Las Vegas Tribute to Cholly Atkins, Just Friends with Sarah Petronio and the PBS documentary Honi Coles - A Class Act. Ms. Gray is an original steering committee member of the International Tap Association, Artistic Director/Tap of the Dance Arts Institute of America and is currently on faculty for Austin Community College and The TDC Academy. She has also taught for the International Summer School/Cyprus, Dance Masters of America, the Dance Center of Columbia College, the Colorado Dance Festival, Chicago on Tap, the University of Texas, the Texas Association Teachers of Dance and numerous other college, theatre and community dance organizations. In addition to Tapestry works, her choreography has been commissioned by Ballet Austin, St. Louis' Tapsichore, numerous modern dance choreographers and equity productions of She Loves Me, Cabaret, Man of La Mancha and Nunsense! Ms. Gray continues as choreographer, collaborator, educator and dancer in the effort to bridge the gap between traditional and contemporary views of dance and American rhythm tap.

I had the privilege very recently to meet the tap legend, Acia Gray, upon her returning to teach her first class at the studio she co-founded in 1989 here in Austin, TX. I happened over to Tapestry this summer as a teacher to keep my tap skills "fresh" and found the place not only hospitable but a virtual tap dancer's paradise, with people genuinely enthralled by the art of tap. I am so glad I got to experience Acia's unique and passionate style of teaching at her triumphant return after battling a lengthy illness. She suggested the book. I ordered it the same day. I enjoyed it from cover to cover. She couples technique and terms with stories and history. I loved it! I found in her a present day passion for tap that I have only seen in the man studied with as one of his last private students--Louis da Pron. She knew of him, of course. She knows EVERYONE who has ever tapped, it seems and has danced with most of them. I recommend this book to anyone who loves

tap dancing. It is a great reference book. As someone who "gave up dancing" 30 years ago and has now returned, I found myself nodding "yes" to everything she had to say. She and this book are a treasure to me. Grateful to have found it and her and be tapping in earnest again!

This is a must read for a tap dancer. This book is very easy to follow, but impossible to read without tapping your feet. I have been tap dancing most of my adult life and I wish I read this book earlier. I especially love the wide range of terminology and breakdown of popular combinations.

This book is a must for beginners. Ms. Gray's definitions make sense. The concepts if taught from the beginning, carry the dancer easily into the advanced levels. Those who do not like the book are struggling with their own closed minds not any shortcomings on Ms. Gray's part. If we all had learned tap with these unique concepts so many bad habits would not have to be "re-learned." I have taught tap for 19 years and all my students have adapted the curriculum provided in "The Souls of Your Feet." The historical descriptions and resource information have proven invaluable as well. 2013 - Just required my dancers to buy for summer study. This book continues to inspire. Thanks Acia for sharing your love of tap.

Very good book, received promptly.

Good book with fraction of the new book cost.

Soulful book of basic tap.

This book takes the simplest of tap steps and words it so strangely that it takes you 20 minutes to figure out that she's trying to say "flap heel heel brush heel toe heel". The index of terms are listed by number of sounds rather than alphabetically, so as you're referring back to the index, which you must do often because her terminology is so different, it can be hard to find what you're looking for. I feel certain, if a beginner picked up this book to learn a little more about the art of tap dance, they would most certainly become so frustrated, they'd probably decide to forget about tapping all together. I did, however, require my students to read this book for their college advanced tap class, because I do think that they should be exposed to different teaching styles. After reading it, they were asked to review it. It was definitely the least favorite book of the semester (They were required to read four books). Not one single student gave it a good review.

"The Souls of Your Feet" is a great reference for anyone interested in tap dance. I researched a lot of tap terminology for my book "The Tap Dance Dictionary" and I thought I had covered most of it, but Ms. Gray has surprised me with many new and unusual steps (along with the more common.) I've thoroughly enjoyed studying her book. Besides all of the information on tap steps and rhythms, her tips on floors, shoes, teachers, videos, and books will be especially helpful to both those starting out, as well as those who have tapped a long time. I highly recommend this wonderful resource of tap information.

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