

Study Guide for Teachers

SOLE Defined *The REMIX!*

Presented by

Young Audiences
Arts for Learning

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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Separate your hands from your feet and join SOLE Defined to create a funky beat. SOLE Defined's interactive performance energizes the audience with its fusion of tap dance and stepping while sharing the history and traditions of two American art forms.

The dancers of SOLE Defined put an exciting twist on percussive dance by turning their bodies into human drums. In one word, SOLE Defined creates a "Percussical," an innovative twist on the traditional musical with its integration of percussive dance and multi-media with acting and singing. Each show is a power-packed performance to create a free-flowing conversation through music and movement.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Tap dance is an American art form created by African Americans use of polyrhythms. Dancers create rhythms and music using the heels and toes of their feet. Originally enslaved Africans would use drum and dance to express and communicate with each other, however, when drumming was outlawed, the enslaved people translated those rhythms to their feet and their bodies creating a percussive sound and movement.

In the 1900s, tap dancers danced in hard sole shoes with bottle caps, cans or wood on the bottom. Today performers use hard sole shoes with metal on the bottom. Although tap dance began in America it is now a global art form with dancers, concerts, classes and tap festivals hosted all over the globe.

LEARNING GOALS

Students will explore making rhythmic patterns with their hands, learning basic tap steps, and improvising their own movement on stage.

Students will learn and explore four elements of tap dance. Beat, rhythm, improvisation, and choreography.

Students will learn ways to express themselves creatively using tap dance.

Students will explore ways to use movement as self-expression.

Students will learn how the performing arts can be used as a positive outlet to build self-confidence.

BEFORE THE PROGRAM

This link includes a video of Master Tap Dancer, Jason Samuels Smith in Tap Heat:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeDNy6Ff7VE&t=1s>

- When listening to tap dance, what do you hear?
- If the dancers were in the room with you, what would you ask them?
- How would you define tap dance?

VOCABULARY WORDS

Stomp	Beat
Heel stomp	Rhythm
Toe-toe stomp	Improvisation
Shuffle stomp	Choreography
Slide stomp	

AFTER THE PROGRAM

Please have the students view the link below and answer the following questions. Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBb9hTyLjM>

- What's the difference between the style of tap you watched SOLE Defined perform and the style that the Nicholas Brothers perform?
- What are 3 main themes you can take away from the SOLE Defined Assembly.

ARTIST INFORMATION

SOLE Defined is a percussive dance company based in Washington, DC area. Having performed on stages both nationally and internationally including: The Kennedy Center, The Lincoln Center, The World Children's Festival in Turino, Italy, The Dance Encore Festival in Quebec, Canada, and Wolf Trap's Theater in the Woods. SOLE Defined is known for performing "the coolest dances with their high-stepping, toe tapping blend of styles" (Washington Post).

RESOURCES

Books:

- Lucky's Tap Dancing Feet, by Quynn Johnson
- Tap Dancing America: A Cultural History, by Constance Valis Hill
- Brotherhood in Rhythm by Constance Valis Hill
- The souls of your feet, by Acia Gray

Video Links:

SOLE Defined NYC- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vNJXQk_IVw

SOLE Defined Frequency- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L89HoOLbs3Y> SOLE Defined Arts in Education- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipgAuvrKtgw&t=18s>