

# Tasha Lawson

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## Artistic Direction/ Production (Canada):

**Rhythm, Body and Soul Tap Festival (RBS)** 2011-Present  
Festival vision and implementation including: all programming, concert development, curation, production management, developing partnerships, fundraising.

**Tri-Tone Rhythm Society (TTRS)** 2014-present  
Vision and implementation of NFP mandate and values.

**Rhythm, Body and Soul Tap Festival Participant showcase** 2011-present  
A curated evening of work showcasing youth and emerging talent from across North America. Decidedly Jazz Danceworks (DJD) Theatre

**Rhythm, Body and Soul Faculty Concert** 2011-present  
An evening of solo and group work performed by RBS faculty and tap masters with a strong improvisational component alongside live jazz musicians. DJD Theatre

**A Kiss In Time** 2020  
Concert work featuring the Tri-Tone Youth Rhythm Ensemble. Premiering at the DJD Theatre, to a sold out audience, with an Encore performance that was moved on-line during Covid 19.

**Umbrella Girl** 2019  
Co-created with Brock Jellison, Umbrella girl is a multi-disciplinary dance theatre work, exploring a family dynamic in the 1950's. Starring Shianne Elliot, Brock Jellison, and Tasha Lawson. The full length concert premiered at Calgary's Grand Theatre, to a sold out house.

**The Oscar Peterson Experience** 2018  
Co-directed with Travis Knights, and comprised of 7 international tap masters, 4 live jazz musicians and video. A tribute to Canadian Jazz Legend, Oscar Peterson premiered at DJD theatre, to a sold out house.

**National Tap Day Concert** 2018-present  
In partnership with Tammy-Lynn Powers & Jamie Hill Memorial Foundation, and the National Music Centre of Canada, the annual event provides a stage for of 70 Tap Dance and percussive artists across Alberta.

**Caravan** 2016  
Co-directed with Derick Grant, featuring 7 Tap Dancers, 3 classical musicians, a B-boy and B-girl. Caravan premiered at MRU Theatre, and was then presented at Alberta Dance Alliance's, Feet's Festival in Edmonton.

**Listen Beyond Your Ears** 2009-2010  
In collaboration with musical director, Aaron Guidry, The 45 minute work was commissioned by Festival Dance Encore, Trois-Rivières, QC. Comprised of 7 multi-form dance artists and 4 musicians, excerpts of the work have since been presented at Third Coast Rhythm Project in San Antonio, and the International Body Music Festival in San Francisco and Paris, France.

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## Artistic Direction/ Production (International):

### **Cirque Du Soleil's touring production KOOZA, Assistant Artistic Director** 2010-2011

- Maintaining show concept and integrity, integrating new artists
- Managing over 70 artists from 17 countries
- Co-ordination of training with head coaches, physiotherapy team, stage management.
- Calling 17 various show tracks from headset
- Liaison between touring show and Montreal head quarters
- Evaluating artists

### **Tri-Tone Productions, USA, Interdisciplinary Dance Company, Austin TX** 2008 – 2010

- Creative vision and casting
- Choreography and rehearsal direction,
- Production Management, scheduling, communications, publicity

### **Visions in Rhythm, Tapestry's Pre-Apprentice Company, Austin, TX** 2002 – 2008

- Management and direction of Company
- Vision, choreography, creation
- Directed 6 full length concert works

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## Performance:

### **Principal Dancer with Tapestry Dance Company, Austin, TX** 2002 – 2008

- Performed and toured in 10 full-length, multi-form concert work creations
- Nominated for Best Female Dancer of the Year by the 2007 Austin Critics Table
- Original cast member of "The Souls of Our Feet," tribute to the Masters of Tap, funded by the National Endowment of the Arts, American Masterpieces Grant

### **Tap soloist performances at international Festivals** 2007 – 2021

- Tanzhaus Festival, Düsseldorf, Germany
- Bienal De Danse, Fortaleza, Brazil
- Festival D'estui, Reus, Spain
- Chicago Human Rhythm Project, Chicago, IL
- Soul to Sole, Austin, TX
- Vancouver International Tap Festival, Vancouver, BC
- Festival Danse Encore, Trois-Rivières, QC
- Third Coast Rhythm Project, San Antonio, TX
- National Tap Dance Day, Dallas, TX
- Everything on Tap, Dallas, TX
- MADD Rhythms Canada, Calgary, AB

### **Tap and Body Percussion Ensemble Performances**

- RBS Festival 2011 – Present
- Umbrella Girl, Grand Theatre, Calgary 2019
- Toronto Rhythm Initiative 2017
- International Body Music Festival, Paris France 2016
- International Body Music Festival, San Francisco 2013
- Third Coast Rhythm Project, San Antonio, TX 2009 & 2010
- Olympic Rhythms 2010, Canadian collaboration, Artistic Director: Heather Cornell 2010
- New York City Tap Festival 2008

### Modern Dance Ensemble Performances:

- Tapestry Dance Company, Choreography: Sharon Marroquin 2002-2008
- Dancing on the Edge Festival, Choreography: Santa Aloi 2001
- Women in View Festival, Choreography: Rhonda Cooper 1997
- Late Night Kiss Projects, Choreography: Tasha Lawson 1998
- Alberta Dance Explosions / Dancers Studio West, Choreography: Tasha Lawson 1993

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### Choreography:

- Tapestry Dance Company, 30th Anniversary Celebration 2020
- Peggy Peat School of Dance, Maple Ridge, BC 1994-present
- Spectrum City Dance, Prince Rupert, BC 1998-present
- Absolute Dance, Calgary, AB 2006-2018
- St. Francis High School, Calgary, AB 2015
- Festival Danse Encore 2010
- Legacy Tap Dancers Boston, performed at the New York City Tap Festival 2009
- Harbour Dance Centre - ITP Program, Vancouver, Canada 2009
- City of San Antonio's, Inner City Arts Outreach Program 2009
- RPM Youth Tap Ensemble, San Antonio, performed in Chicago and Austin 2007
- Elza Calvacante School, Annapolis, Brazil 2008
- Dance Spectrum, Calgary, AB 2008-2018
- Legacy Tap Dancers, Boston, MA 2009
- Dallas Youth Ensemble, Dallas, TX 2009
- Continuum Dance Company, Burnaby, BC 1999
- Deborah Judt School of Dance, Grand Prairie 1994-2002
- Continuum Dance Company, Burnaby, BC 1999

Choreography awards include; Surrey Dance Festival, Coquitlam Dance Festival, Footloose Dance Festival, Dance Power, Festival for the Arts and Canadian Nationals.

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### Teaching:

- Tri-Tone Youth Rhythm Ensemble 2012-present
- Freehouse Dance Plus 2015-2020
- Decidedly Jazz Danceworks, PTP Program 2011- 2017
- University of Calgary 2015 & 2017
- University of Texas 2013 & 2017
- Central Memorial High School 2013, 2014
- Cirque du Soleil's Las Vegas shows, Mystère, "O", Beatles LOVE 2009
- Michael Jackson ONE, Zarkana, Zumanity. 2009
- Peggy Peat School of Dance, Maple Ridge, BC 1994-present
- Spectrum City Dance, Prince Rupert, BC 1998-present
- Harbour Dance Center, Vancouver, BC 1996-2014
- Capilano University 2009
- Shadbolt Center for the Arts, Burnaby, BC 1995-2000
- Master class instructor at numerous international festivals (see performance festivals)
- Guest instructor for professional and youth training programs (see choreography credits)

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## Teacher Training:

### **Tri-Tone Tap Teacher Training Program**

2015-present

Program director: pedagogy, early childhood development, injury prevention, music, tap history, production and stage management, recital planning, approaches to composition and choreography, mental skills training for athletes, specialized guest speakers, and practicum.

### **Teacher Training Seminars**

- Festival Danse Encore, Trois-Rivières, Quebec, Canada 2006-2013
- Ongoing in San Antonio, Vancouver, Victoria, Grande Prairie 2010-present

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## Volunteer Outreach and Education through Body Music:

- Whitney elementary, Las Vegas, NV 2012
- Project Schoolhouse - Rio Grande, Nicaragua 2011
- Valeria Pinheiro, Fortaleza Brazil 2008

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## Television/Film:

- Happy Feet - Tap Dancer, commercial (CBC Television) 1998
- Creative Dance Specialist, T.V. children's program (Spilled Milk) 1997
- Flowers and Things as Actor, music video for Lynn Elder (Jump Communications) 1996
- Jerry Lewis Telethon - Dancer 1999

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## Adjudication:

- Chilliwack Dance Festival (Tap and Stage) 2021
- CDMF Performing Arts Festival Provincials, Powell River, BC 2015
- Festival Dance Encore, Mediator for Judges, Trois Rivières, QC 2006-2008
- Festival Dance Encore, Adjudicator, Trois Rivières, QC 2001-2014
- Dancing From the Heart (all disciplines), Sherwood Park, AB 2002
- North Island Festival for the Arts (all disciplines), Courtney, BC 2001

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## Education:

- Dance Performance Diploma (advanced standing) Grant MacEwan, Edmonton, AB 1994
- Dance Teacher Training Diploma (advanced standing) Grant MacEwan, Edmonton, AB 1993
- Extensive studies and mentorships abroad in Tap and Body Percussion