

# Tap Dance



This has evolved as an American dance form, popularised throughout the world, with debate about its origins coming from African dance, Irish dance and/or clog dancing. The dancer uses their feet to strike the floor, beating out different rhythms, with dancers wearing tap shoes which have small metal plates on the toe and heel to give the distinctive sound. Tap dance

The Faculty offers a series of examinations from Children's grades through to professional teaching qualifications. The grade and the major syllabi were revised in the 1980s to reflect the influence of American Tap on British Musical Theatre.

Apart from being an essential skill for the professional dancer, tap dance is one of the most enjoyable and rhythmic forms of recreational dance.

The work of the Faculty reflects this by providing extensive syllabi for the amateur market in addition to the children's and professional syllabi. . The glossary and tap technique were originally compiled by the founder Zelia Raye for what was then known, in 1932, as the Stage Branch.

The work was developed and adapted further by Janet Cram and Tom Parry, Marjorie Davies, Gwen Carter and Moyra Gay, whose publications *Modern Tap Technique* and *The Basic Technique of Tap* are the standard text books.

