



Photo by Joy Nagy

L-R: Jane Goldberg, Roxane Butterfly, Michela Marino Lerman, Cheryl Johnson

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- **Alley of the Dolls [this is not a Sequel]**
- **Aretha Aoki and Benjamin Kimitch**
- **BAADass Women Festival**
- **Banana Peel Dance: Dinner Party**
- **The Barnard Project 2010**
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- **Bennyroyce Royon: Chronos Project**
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- **Brian Brooks Moving Company 2012**
- **Burr Johnson**
- **Chunky Move: Faker**
- **Chunky Move: Mortal Engine**

The Music of Dance

Performance Mix 27, Tap-flavored, at the Flea

By [QUINN BATSON](#)
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Tap is often the forgotten cousin of dance, viewed as a little out of date or slightly vaudevillian, but it is definitely part of the family. Karen Bernard/New Dance Alliance's diverse "Performance Festival" gave an afternoon to tap, and tap gave back. Michela Marino Lerman, Cheryl Johnson and Roxane Butterfly each made it clear that tap is meant to be performed to live jazz music.

With Theo Hill on piano and Ryan Berg on bass, Michela Marino Lerman proposes *Three Wishes*: something inspired by a Rothschild in WWII; that we support jazz artists; and that music brings peace. Each wish gets its own dance, each more active than the last, until Lerman

PERFORMANCE MIX 2013

Choreography by: **Roxane Butterfly, Cheryl Johnson, Michela Marino Lerman.**
Produced by: **Karen Bernard.**
Dancers: **Roxane Butterfly, Cheryl Johnson, Michela Marino Lerman.**
Music by: **Ryan Berg, Theo Hill, Danny Lopa, Gérard Faroux.**
Lighting design by: **Brian Aldous.**
Production stage manager: **Megan Byrne.**

SCHEDULE

The Flea Theater
April 8-14, 2013

is shedding clothes and working big. The musicality and expressiveness of a serious tap dancer like Lerman is a bit eye-opening, as if the music is flowing through her body out to us. Her bio goes back to Sesame Street at age 5, with writeups and honors coming in her mid-teens. She is "currently running the only weekly tap jam in NYC at Smalls Jazz Club."

- Cool NY 2011
- Cool NY 2012
- The Current Sessions: Volume 1
- Dance Gallery Festival
- Dance Gallery Festival 2012
- Dance Sampler 2
- DanceNow 2011
- DanceNow 2011 Two
- Dancenow 2012
- David Appel and Daniela Hoff: Take Root
- Dorothy AnnieMaria
- Dumbo Dance 2010
- Dumbo Dance 2011
- Dumbo Dance Festival 2012
- Faye Driscoll: There is so much mad in me
- Faye Driscoll: You r Me
- Festival Twenty Ten
- Festival Twenty Ten Too
- FLICfest 2012
- FLICfest 2013
- Fresh Tracks 2010
- Fresh Tracks 2011
- Gallim: Sit, Kneel, Stand
- Gerald Casel: Fluster and Plot
- Gotham Dance Sampler 1
- Green Space: Take Root
- HATCHed WAX: two to view
- Heather Olson: Shy Showoff
- Hilary Easton: The Constructors
- Hurricane Party
- Jenni Hong: Mach.com
- Jody Oberfelder: The Soldier's Tale
- John Jasperse: Canyon
- Jonathan Pratt
- Julian Barnett: Sound Memory
- Julie Bour: Why Now?
- Katie Workum: Fruitlands
- Katie Workum:
- Herkimer Diamonds
- Keigwin+Company 2012
- kerPlunk and Friends
- Kidd Pivot: Dark Matters
- Kota Yamazaki: Rays of Space
- Kyle Abraham: Heartbreaks and Homies
- Larry Keigwin: Exit
- Lincoln Center Kenan Fellows
- Lucy Guerin: Structure and Sadness
- Lucy Guerin: Untrained
- Mari Meade and Comnanies

Cheryl Johnson begins *Continuum* with a tray of red sand and socks pulled over her tap shoes. This is surprising and delicately beautiful — softsoft shuffling, to tasty notes and harmonics by bassist Danny Lopa. And after the sand and socks are left behind, the performance continues to be *so* musical, incorporating claps and taps and voice. The music is attributed to Jaco Pastorius, but U2 seems to find its way in as well, perhaps part of the continuum. This is a striking piece, not least for the wonderful interplay between tap dancer and bassist. A nice ending touch by lighting designer Brian Aldous has green light fading quickly to black, which leaves magenta afterimages in our eyes.



Photo by Joy Nagy

Roxane Butterfly, Michela Marino Lerman

on drums to give us an extemporaneous back-and-forth dialogue between taps and drums. Butterfly goes big on almost all her movements, never sacrificing rhythm in the process, an impressive feat.

All three tap dancers and MC Jane Goldberg join to dance as a group and take solos to the classic tap jazz song whose name eludes me, a charming sendoff to a charming evening.

APRIL 24, 2013

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