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URBAN TAP MAKES COLUMBUS DEBUT AT WEXNER CENTER **HIGH-ENERGY SHOW FEATURES FREESTYLE DANCE AND LIVE MUSIC**

“Astonishing elegance and virtuosity....One is tempted to call him the best dancer of any kind around.”—*The New York Times* on Urban Tap’s Tamango

Award-winning tap dancer Herbin “Tamango” Van Cayseele and his **Urban Tap** company make their Columbus debut in the Wexner Center’s Mershon Auditorium **Saturday, October 27 at 8 pm**. Tamango and his crew perform a wide range of dance styles—including freestyle tap, Brazilian capoeira, African, and hip-hop—to live Haitian drumming, didgeridoo, cello, trumpet, and vocals, while a video montage is created live. *Newsday* called the show, titled *Caravane*, “as much a jazz concert, folk festival, and party as it is a dance show.”

Like tap superstar Savion Glover—who also made his Columbus debut at the Wexner Center—Tamango and his company are revolutionizing tap. “The audience was transfixed,” wrote *Time Out New York* after the show’s off-Broadway debut in February, a sold-out three-week run. “Van Cayseele was resplendent.” And the *Village Voice* wrote: “The drums get crazy, they get busy, and it’s like, what else can you do in these latter days but live your life and tap?”

TAMANGO

Bessie Award-winner and former *Riverdance* standout Tamango, 36, was born in French Guiana. He started tap dancing in his early 20s at the American Center in Paris, the renowned Beaux Arts de Paris, and on the streets of Paris. After moving to New York City, Tamango created the cross-cultural Urban Tap, bringing together a diverse group of freestyle dancers who have since performed together internationally. Tamango has also shared the stage with such dance legends as Jimmy Slyde, Gregory Hines, and Buster Brown. The *Village Voice* called Tamango “the most musical of dancers and disarmingly debonair.” *The New York Times* wrote that he is “astonishingly fluid....but still brilliantly sharp in the crystal clear virtuosity of his complex tapping....Don’t miss him.”

PRE-PERFORMANCE TALK

Margaret Kennedy, coordinator of the Dancers-in-the-School Program in Ohio State's Department of Dance, will lead a pre-show discussion about the origins and history of contemporary tap—from Afro-Caribbean and European influences through American jazz and hip-hop to the dynamic styles of Tamango and Urban Tap. Kennedy will be joined by Jessica Wilt, a choreographer/tap dancer and a graduate student in the dance department. The pre-performance talk takes place at 7 pm in the Wexner Center Film/Video Theater, and is free with tickets for the Urban Tap show.

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

While at the Wexner Center, Tamango and members of Urban Tap will conduct a masterclass and discussion with students in Ohio State's Department of Dance. Tamango will talk about the resurgence of tap and percussive dance today and the importance of improvisation within these forms.

EVENT SUPPORT

Urban Tap is presented at the Wexner Center with support from the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

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Additional season support is provided by the **Ohio Arts Council**.

CALENDAR INFORMATION: Urban Tap

Description: Award-winning tap dancer Tamango and his Urban Tap company perform freestyle dance and live music at the Wexner Center.

Dates and times: Saturday, October 27 at 8 pm.

Location: Wexner Center's Mershon Auditorium, 1871 North High St. at 15th Avenue.

Tickets: \$17, \$20, \$25 general public; \$14, \$17, \$22 Wexner Center members and OSU students. \$5 High 5 tickets available for middle and high school students (available at Ticketmaster outlets).

Ticket outlets: Wexner Center Ticket Office/Information Desk (614 292-3535) and Ticketmaster outlets (614 431-3600).

Public information: 614 292-3535 and www.wexarts.org.

For more on Urban Tap, visit www.multiartsprojects.com/artists.html

Images of Urban Tap available upon request.

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

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