

## wexner center for the arts

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### TAP SUPERSTAR SAVION GLOVER RETURNS TO WEXNER CENTER WITH NEW SHOW

“Extraordinary . . . his energy [is] unquenchable and his virtuosity unbeatable.”—*New York Times*

Tap superstar Savion Glover returns to the Wexner Center’s **Mershon Auditorium** on **Tuesday, April 19 at 8 pm** with *Improvography II*, a dynamic new show featuring a live jazz funk band and a new group of young tappers. **Tickets** are \$32, \$28, and \$19 for the general public, \$28, \$24, and \$16 for members, and \$10 for students.

Composed of two electrifying parts, *Improvography II* is in many ways a tribute to Glover’s mentor Gregory Hines, the late tap great who coined the term “improvography” to refer to a fusion of improvisation and choreographed sections of dance. The first half of *Improvography II*, which demonstrates Glover’s maturing style as a dancer and choreographer, sees Glover soloing and improvising with the jazz quintet. In the second half of the show, Glover is joined by his new dancers for dynamic new pieces.



Savion Glover  
Photo by Len Irish, *Dance Magazine*

This show continues the Wexner Center’s decade-long relationship with Glover, who has been in both performance and a monthlong creative residency at the Center. With this new group and new show, he will reveal yet another side of his work.

#### PREPERFORMANCE TALK

A preperformance talk led by Anthony Hill will be held at **7 pm** in **Sullivant Hall Auditorium** (1813 North High St., across the plaza from Mershon). Hill, professor in Ohio State’s Department of Theatre, will discuss Savion Glover’s career, including his work on Broadway opposite Gregory Hines in *Jelly’s Last Jam*.

### **SAVION GLOVER AND THE WEXNER CENTER**

Savion Glover's relationship with the Wexner Center dates back more than a decade, and includes not only performances but also a monthlong residency. His first performance at the Wexner Center was in 1994 as a special guest with Lynn Dally's Jazz Tap Ensemble. In 1997, following the extraordinary success of the Tony Award-winning *Bring In 'da Noise, Bring In 'da Funk* on Broadway, Glover was awarded a monthlong creative residency at the Wexner Center. During the residency, Glover and his new company NYOTs (Not Your Ordinary Tappers) developed choreography for their new project, which culminated in a six-performance world premiere in Columbus of the show. While in residence, Glover also interacted with the Columbus and Ohio State communities, including work in OSU's dance department as well as performances at the Wexner Center's Family Day, the New Salem Baptist Church, and other locations.

### **SAVION GLOVER—A BRIEF BIO**

Savion Glover is considered the dancer who revolutionized tap for a new generation. He began dancing at the age of 7, and by age 12 had made his Broadway debut in *Tap Dance Kid*. Soon after he was featured regularly on public television's *Sesame Street*. Glover made his film debut at 13 in the film *Tap*, with Gregory Hines and Sammy Davis, Jr. At the age of 18, he received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, making him the youngest recipient in NEA history. Glover's biggest splash came in 1996 with the Broadway smash *Bring In 'da Noise, Bring In 'da Funk*, for which he won a Tony Award, a Drama Desk Award, two Obie Awards, and two Fred Astaire Awards. Since then, Glover has appeared in music videos for Kenny G. and Puff Daddy, choreographed the HBO movie *The Rat Pack*, and starred in the Showtime movie *The Wall* and Spike Lee's feature film *Bamboozled*. In 1997, he created the dance company NYOTs developing his new show at the Wexner Center and then touring it around the world. In 2000, he toured the nation with *Footnotes: The Concert*, featuring tap legends Jimmy Slyde, Buster Brown, and Diane Walker.

**CALENDAR INFORMATION for Savion Glover: *Improvography II***

**Description:** Tap superstar Savion Glover presents *Improvography II*, his new show with a new group and live band.

**Date and time:** Tuesday, April 19 / 8 pm; pre-show talk at 7 pm in Sullivant Hall

**Show location:** Mershon Auditorium, 1871 North High St.

**Tickets:** \$32, \$28, \$19 general public; \$28, \$24, \$16 members; \$10 students. \$5 High 5 tickets available for middle- and high-school students, available at least a day before the show at the Wexner Center Ticket Office.

**Ticket outlets:** Wexner Center Ticket Office, 614 292-3535 and Ticketmaster outlets, 614 431-3600 or Ticketmaster.com.

**Public information:** 614 292-3535 and [www.wexarts.org](http://www.wexarts.org)

**Digital images for the media available upon request. Contact Erik Pepple at [epepple@wexarts.org](mailto:epepple@wexarts.org).**

**EVENT SUPPORT**

Wexner Center dance season presented by **Huntington**.

Major support for the performing arts season provided by the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**.

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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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