



ALLISON TOFFAN

TAP - Allison Toffan

Proudly based in Toronto for over a decade, Allison Toffan is quickly becoming an arts ambassador by stirring up momentum in the Canadian tap dance community.

Recognized by both the Canada Council for the Arts and FACTOR, Allison has been awarded grants as an emerging dance artist and a developing musician. She's studied privately with world-renowned tap dance artists Heather Cornell, Brenda Bufalino and Max Pollak.

Career highlights include dancing on the series finale for *Warehouse 13* (Jeff Dimitriou), her role as principle dancer with Turn On the Tap under direction of Paula Skimin, featured tap dancer in the 2010 Winter Olympic Opening Ceremonies, Festival Dance Encore with Tri-Tone Productions under the direction of Tasha

Lawson, and the Artistic Producing of the Toronto Rhythm Initiative, a platform she created for Toronto's professional tap dance community to voice their artistry through consistent collaboration with live music.

Allison has been of faculty at Sheridan College, at Randolph Academy and has been a guest instructor at various dance schools in Southern Ontario. For the 2012-2013 season Allison was the artist in residence with the Ottawa Rhythm Initiative, and was thrilled to mentor the Ottawa tap dance community with their development. Additionally through teaching and performing, tap dance has taken her to LA, NYC, Austin, Detroit, Romania and all the way across Canada from Vancouver to St. John's!

Allison has worked as a percussionist with the Toffan-Hiltz Collective, Samba-Punk Soundsystem, Woodchoppers Association, and is often a guest artist with bands playing regularly in Toronto. Highlights included the Sly Juhas Quintet, Griffith-Hiltz Trio, The Maises, The Roaring Girl Cabaret, and the Toronto Jazz Orchestra.

Most recently, Allison was presented at the 2013 TD Canada Trust Toronto Jazz Festival with the Toronto Rhythm Initiative, on faculty at the Montreal Tap Festival and shared the stage with living legend Arthur Duncan, and performed with Lisa La Touche in *Tap Internationals* as part of the Tap City Festival in NYC. Coming up next, Allison has been commissioned to create a ten-minute work for the 2014 Body Percussion Festival at the Harbourfront Centre as part of the *NextSteps Dance Series*.