

Title: Tap into Your Inner Tap

Specific Purpose: To inform my audience about the art of tap dancing, including the history, how tap is relevant today and the basics of tap dancing.

Thesis Statement: Tap dancing is an interesting style of dance complete with deep rooted origins, is very captivating and is still relevant to the entertainment business today.

Introduction

Attention material: (tap a time step) How many of you are familiar with the talents of Michael Jackson, today's Captain America, Chris Evans, Justin Timberlake, Patrick Swayze, Julie Andrews, Christina Ricci and Christian Bale? Did you know that in addition to acting and singing, all of these people were and are also tap dancers?

Thesis: Tap dancing is an interesting style of dance complete with deep rooted origins, is very captivating and is still relevant to the entertainment business today.

Preview: From the stages of Broadway to the small town dance studios, tap dancing has become an art form, inspired by and inspiring to generations.

(Transition: Tap dancing itself had to be inspired by something and someone seeking out creativity through dance)

Body (1)

- I. The HISTORY of tap dancing has its early roots in Irish Jigs and African native dances.
 - a) African Americans danced while in bondage coming on the ships to the United States. They originally danced for exercise (to be strong enough for labor) but later it turned into a catharsis ritual for African Americans.
 - i. They danced in chains to the beat of drums; the noise produced by the chains inspired the early movements of tap dancing.
 - ii. QUOTE-Katherine Dunham (African American dance choreographer and dance sociologist) said, "...the dance by and large has been used as an instrument of black survival"
 - b) Irish Clogging and the Five Points of New York- Many Irish immigrants came to America during the famine in Ireland. In Five Points, New York the African American juba met with the Irish Jigs and tap dancing was born.
 - c) Tap dancing soon enthralled audiences across the country and became popular at the turn of the century.

(Transition: These audiences were thrilled by the world of tap dancing, including the skills, jargon used in tap dancing, and the equipment.)