



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Katie Pedretty 727.712.2774
Kpedretty@rutheckerdhall.net

STUDENTS FROM THE MARCIA P. HOFFMAN PERFORMING ARTS INSTITUTE AT RUTH ECKERD HALL ACCEPTED TO TAP AT ONE OF THE FINEST DANCE PROGRAMS IN THE COUNTRY

Four students chosen from sixty across United States to participate

June 19, 2009, Clearwater, FL – Four tap dance students from the Marcia P. Hoffman Institute at Ruth Eckerd Hall, Ashley Caprio, Aubrey Cheek, Kristin McCranie and Jessica Sullivan, have been accepted into one of the finest tap dance programs in the country, the New York Stage Original's Tap Kids Summer Intensive and Showcase. Only sixty tap dancers are selected from across the United States and Canada to participate in this program during the month of July.

All four dancers are members of the Rhythm and Sole Tap Ensemble from the Hoffman Institute under the direction of Beth Caprio. The New York Tap Kid program selects only twenty kids from each age group and all four tap dancers from the Hoffman Institute are in the same age group.

During this Summer Intensive, the four students will study under the direction of many tap dancing legends. Some of the faculty will include Lisa Hopkins, the artistic director of *Tap Kids*, Ayodele Casel, a member of Savion Glover's *Not Your Ordinary Tappers*, Barbara Duffy, featured dancer from *The Gregory Hines Show*, Jimmy Tate, Broadway veteran of *Bring In Da Noise* and *The Tap Dance Kid*, Mark Goodman, the artistic director of *The Mark Goodman Tap Company* and former member of *The American Tap Dance Orchestra*.

Photo (L-R): Kristin McCranie, Ashley Caprio, Aubrey Cheek and Jessica Sullivan.
Photo credit Ian Beck.

Ruth Eckerd Hall and the Ruth Eckerd Hall Foundation are 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations.

####

