FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 1, 2004

WHAT: Tap Dogs Rebooted
WHEN: Thursday, September 23rd and Friday, September 24th, 2004
WHERE: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or
go online to www.fineartscenter.com/tickets
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INTERNATIONAL CAST OF TAP DOGS REBOOTED COMING TO FAC

Take a group of performers from Australia, the United States and Canada, add two-time Olivier Award-winning choreographer DEIN PERRY, eclectic designer/director NIGEL TRIFFITT and composer ANDREW WILKIE, and you get TAP DOGS REBOOTED, a rocking theatrical entertainment merging all the energy, adrenaline and favorite numbers of its predecessor, the international sensation, Tap Dogs, with just a touch of sassiness and sensuality. Direct from a howlingly successful run at London’s Sadler’s Wells, TAP DOGS REBOOTED makes its North American debut with a 2004 National tour.

Australian DEIN PERRY, creator and choreographer of Tap Dogs, has come a long way from the make-shift dance school in Newcastle, a steel town north of Sydney, where, as young boys, he and the future dogs learned how to tap. At the age of 17, with no opportunities in sight for a dancing career, he earned his union papers and worked as an industrial machinist for six years. He then moved to Sydney where he tried to break into show business. Small chorus parts in Broadway-style musicals led to Dein’s big break when he was cast in the long-running Sydney production of 42nd Street. When it closed, Dein decided to create a contemporary show around the themes of his industrial experience with his Newcastle tap dancing mates.

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With a small government grant, Dein contacted his old friends, who had also taken up various “real” jobs by this time, and formed *Tap Brothers*, an early incarnation of *Tap Dogs*. From this, Dein was offered the chance to choreograph the West End musical, *Hot Shoe Shuffle*, which brought the group to London and earned Dein his Olivier Award in 1995. A subsequent offer from the Sydney Theatre Company led to the collaboration with designer and director NIGEL TRIFFITT; which resulted in the creation of *Tap Dogs*.

*Tap Dogs* was the instant hit of the Sydney Theatre Festival, where it had its world premiere in January 1995, and caused an equal sensation at the Edinburgh Festival later that year. *Tap Dogs* then played to standing room only at London’s Sadler’s Wells, return tours of Australia, and a second West End engagement.

*Tap Dogs* made their North American debut at Montreal’s “Just For Laughs” festival in August 1996. The show then played to critical acclaim on a limited North American tour prior to an engagement in New York City, where Dein Perry earned a 1997 Drama Desk nomination for “Best Choreography” and the show received a 1997 Obie Award. Since it’s debut, *Tap Dogs* has toured extensively throughout North America, Europe, Australia, and the Far East.

With a major change to its lineup, *Tap Dogs* returned to Sadler’s Wells in the summer of 2003 as *TAP DOGS REBOOTED*. For the first time ever, this internationally acclaimed crowd pleaser featured girls alongside the sexy guys in Blundstone boots to make this worldwide tap sensation hotter than ever.

Now making its North American premiere, *TAP DOGS REBOOTED* will be at UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, Thursday and Friday, September 23 and 24 at 7:30pm. Tickets are $45, $35, and $15; 17 and under and Five College student tickets are $15. For tickets and information, call the Fine Arts Center Box office at 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or go online to [www.fineartscenter.com/centerseries](http://www.fineartscenter.com/centerseries). This event is sponsored by the Valley Advocate, WRNX 100.9FM, and Hampshire Hospitality Group.

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