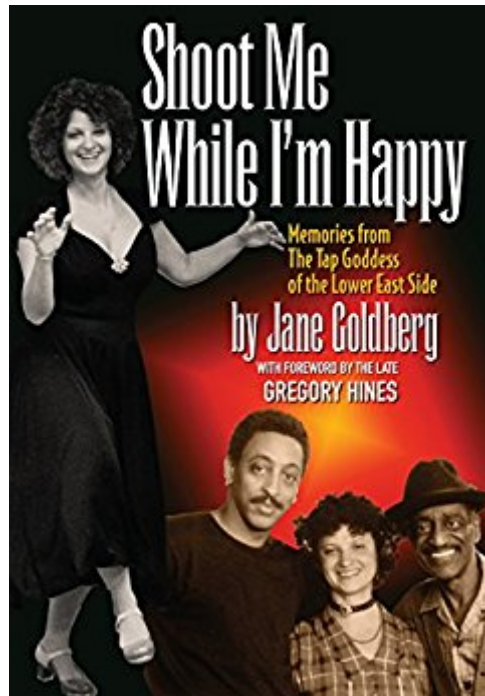


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Shoot Me While I'm Happy: Memories From The Tap Goddess Of The Lower East Side



Synopsis

“One of the people who had a tremendous impact (on tap) was Jane Goldberg. Sometimes I think Jane Goldberg single-footedly brought tap back to the city. In terms of viable promotion and something that could actually draw people. Jane Goldberg presents... people actually showed up! And there would be reviews. And all of a sudden, we in the community felt that someone was actually looking.”

—THE LATE GREGORY HINES

“Jane Goldberg’s memoir is like one of her famous tap-dance performances. It is easy, breezy, fast-moving, exciting, funny. And like her dancing, it is accompanied by juicy stories. You will learn things about the world of tap and Jane that you cannot get simply by watching her on-stage. In other words, a delightful read, and thought-provoking as well.”

—HOWARD ZINN, PROFESSOR EMERITUS, BOSTON UNIVERSITY

“An unapologetic story from a ’60s person who made a difference.”

—JACKIE RAVEN

ABOUT JANE GOLDBERG: Jane Goldberg is a rare dancer who is also a writer. She has been one of the most prolific voices in the tap dancing field for the past three decades. In 1970, while a government major at Boston University, the dancing of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers infected her imagination, and the virus spread throughout her body. She began to study tap and write about dance for Boston After Dark, The Boston Phoenix, and when she moved to New York, The Village Voice. As one of the tap renaissance’s pioneers, she set out to revive interest in the art by combining her muckraking and artistic talents. Ferreting out many of the remaining entertainment greats of the 20th century, Goldberg apprenticed herself to them, while at the same time interviewing the old time great hoofers and documenting their work. Today, her archive — Jane Goldberg’s Wandering Shoes, Tap(h)istory, Tip Top Tapes, Tapalogues, Tapology and Tapperabilia — lives at the New York Public Library’s Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, part of The Gregory Hines Tap Collection. Goldberg has performed her comedy/tap act, Rhythm & Schmooze which examines politics, sexuality, tap roots, career vs. family, cultural escapism, and other issue-oriented themes in countless venues in this country and abroad. She is the recipient of two Fulbright Scholarships to India where she performed her highly idiosyncratic “Tap-alogues” between voice and feet throughout the entire subcontinent, including Mumbai, Calcutta, Bangalore, New Delhi, Darjeeling, Ahmedabad and Chennai (Madras). She is the artistic director of Changing Times Tap, Inc. and has received numerous National Endowment for the Arts and New York State Council for the Arts grants. Her Flo-Bert Life Achievement Award, Mama Lu Parks Award, and St. Denis Award for Creative Choreography proudly hang on her home archive walls. She is the inventor of tap-a-gram, a tapping telegram service. She lives in New York City with the painter Owen Gray. More at: www.janegoldberg.org

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Customer Reviews

"Shoot Me While I'm Happy" is Jane Goldberg's personal journey to embrace and resurrect the public art and love of tap. Smart, irreverent, and joyful, this memoir is not just a history, not just one woman's endeavor to meet and schmooze with the legends of tap, though that is certainly a part of her story. It is an ode to an era and personalities larger than life, with an eye toward entertaining the reader, with liberal doses of wit and humor. It is also a memoir of her very personal development into a tap legend in her own right. Funky and sometimes downright hilarious, Jane Goldberg is a one woman army to bring tap back to the forefront of modern art forms, where it deserves to be.

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