



SUGGESTED READING LIST

Tap dance is fundamentally an oral tradition. Its history is most clearly understood as an accumulation of all the stories associated with that history. No single book can claim to encompass the entirety of tap dance. Nor should a single book be anyone's only resource. Instead, a combination of reading, online research, learning from tap dance practitioners and knowledge keepers, and one's own experience actually dancing, should be the foundation of one's understanding of the history and craftwork. Below are a series of recommended books that constitute starting points for your reading.

Additional recommended sources include any written histories on Jazz (the music and the contributors), venues (in particular theatres and jazz clubs), and social histories (in particular that of the United States).

The Astaires: Fred & Adele

by Kathleen Riley

Oxford University Press, 2012

Brotherhood in Rhythm

by Constance Valis Hill

Oxford University Press, 2000

Class Act, the Jazz Life of Choreographer Cholly Atkins

by Cholly Atkins and Jacqui Malone

Columbia University Press, 2001

Frankie Manning, Ambassador of Lindy Hop

by Frankie Manning and Cynthia R. Millman

Temple University Press, 2007

Ginger: My Story

by Ginger Rogers

It Books, 2008

Gonna Do Great Things, the Life of Sammy Davis, Jr.

by Gary Fishgall

A Lisa Drew Book/Scribner, 2003

Hermes Pan: The Man Who Danced with Fred Astaire

by John Franceschina

Oxford University Press, 2012

Jazz Dance, The Story of American Vernacular Dance

by Marshall and Jean Stearns.

DeCapo Press, 1994

Mr. Bojangles: The Biography of Bill Robinson

by Jim Haskins and N. R. Mitgang

Linus Multimedia, 2013

One More Step!

by Johnny Brandon

Sammy, An Autobiography

by Sammy Davis, Jr. and Jan and Burt Boyar

Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2000

Shoot Me While I'm Happy, Memories from the Tap Goddess of the Lower East Side

by Jane Goldberg

Changing Times Tap Dancing Co, Inc., 2008

Steppin' on the Blues: The Visible Rhythms of African American Dance

by Jacqui Malone

University of Illinois Press, 1996

Steps in Time: An Autobiography

by Fred Astaire

Dey Street Books, 2008

TAP! The Greatest Tap Dance Stars and Their Stories 1900-1955

by Rusty E. Frank

Da Capo Press, 1990

Tap Dancing America

by Constance Valis Hill

Oxford University Press, 2010

Tappin' at the Apollo: The African American Female Tap Dance Duo Salt and Pepper

by Cheryl M. Willis

McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 2016

What the Eye Hears: A History of Tap Dancing

by Brian Siebert

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015

We Did Believe in Spring (The Tap Dancer and Sweet Lorraine)

by Lorraine McClung Condos

Dorrance Publishing, 2015

Add your own here...