

# Tap Technician

Romina Cavnola

I'm pacing in front of the tiny One Origin café in Newtown, going over my notes, when he rocks up on his motorcycle. Clad in leather jacket and jeans, looking wind-beaten from his flight from Windsor, you'd never guess that Nathan Sheens is a professional tap dancer.

How did you get into dancing?

It started when I was about three years of age ...

Why did you like tap?

I was sort of more inclined to just do everything ...

What influenced you to become a dancer?

John Travolta ...

What were some of your other influences?

Sammy Davis Jr. and the Nicholas Brothers ...

What was it like performing with *Tap Dogs*?

*Tap Dogs* was definitely a very big opportunity ...

What did you do after *Tap Dogs*?

After doing the show for five years ...

What was it like to do *Shout!?*

I got to use my other styles of dancing ...

# Q & A



What was it like performing in *Mamma Mia!*?

I was in that for just over a year ...

What was it like helping Dein Perry choreograph for the Sydney 2000 Olympics? How did that come about?

When I was in America I was the dance director on *Tap Dogs* ...

For BPM, you and Glyn Gray [co-creator] created microphone holders for your tap boots ...

Yeah, that was something that needed to be created so we ...

'I'm a tap technician rather than a tap dancer or a choreographer'.

What inspired you to create your hit show, BPM *beatsperminute*?

I suppose with the street tap with *beatsperminute* ...

It seems you like the individuality of street tapping ...

Yeah ... get rid of the arms and making everybody look the same ...

BPM was a really successfully show ... What was it about for you?

It was pretty much about every single artist up there ...



What is it about tap that resonates with audiences and dancers?

I think tap has always been popular ...

You refer to yourself as a 'Tap Technician'. Why?

Oh, I suppose it's like anyone who has a trade ...