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# SHOW BUSINESS

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Vol. XLVI No. 33

NEW YORK \$1.00  
OUTSIDE NYC \$1.25

On Newsstands WEDNESDAYS Wednesday, August 19, 1987

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## DANCE REVIEW

### ALFRED DESIO: "ZAPPED TAPS"

at DTW's Bessie Schonberg Theater  
219 West 19th Street

Review by Marlene Harding

Opened August 10th Seen August 10th Closed August 18th

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Alfred Desio is one terrific tap dancer. So are David Sharp and Damon Winmon, two tap dancers who shared Mr. Desio's program, "Zapped Taps," in its New York premiere. The three men danced, sometimes solo, sometimes with one another and always with zest, precision and subtlety. Roger Boyce drummed expertly in three pieces, "Percussion Cushion," and "Rock Out," both solos, and "Implants," a duet with Mr. Desio.

What made "Zapped Taps" special, apart from the sheer excellence of the dancing, was Mr. Desio's innovation, Tap-Tronics. In this concept, each dancer uses electronically amplified tap shoes. Transducer microphones in a tapper's shoes are wired to a transmitter either hand-held or placed in a pants pocket. The tap sounds are relayed to a receiver and can go through special effects modules, a number of synthesizers and other electronic equipment. There is a special effect due to performance: the music is developed and changed by the dancer at the moment that the dance takes place. Basic elements include the tap sounds, any electronic devices and the material that the composer has pre-programmed into the sequence. This invention worked very well, although it was unsettling to see duets for man and machine.

The eleven-dance pieces ran a gamut of moods and styles. The performers were engaging, dazzling and witty. Most impressive were "Street Feet," a powerful trio for Messrs. Desio, Sharp and Winmon, in which the use of floor space in intersecting lines and circles added to the richness of the piece, and "Implants," designed and performed by Mr. Desio and Mr. Royce, in which Mr. Desio accomplished tap wonders in a tiny space.