Debbi Dee Is a Living Treasure

Congratulations to **Debbi Dee!** "Tapping Time Steps," is the Editors' Choice winner for *Dance Teacher's* February Video of the Month Contest! And this is only one of Dee's recent awards; in March, the noted tap dancer was honored by Oklahoma City University with the 2011 Living Treasure in American Dance Award. Past recipients of this prestigious award include Gus Giordano, Buster Brown, Jimmy Slyde, Dianne Walker, Arthur Duncan and Dee's mentor, Henry LeTang.

"When I found out I had won, it took me a few days to become verbal again," Dee says. "I was quite speechless." To receive the honor, she spent a weekend at the university, attending the school's spring performances and giving master classes for OCU's American Spirit Dance Company. "College students are like vacuum cleaners," she says. "They absorb as much information as they can, and they just love being there, so, in some ways, they make my job pretty easy."

About 140 dancers were present for her class, but that didn't faze Dee, who's used to large, packed convention centers. Going into her 44th year of teaching, she is on faculty at Dance Olympus, Dance Masters of America, Dance Educators of America, Dance Makers and the *Dance Teacher* Summit. She also hosts the annual Debbi Dee Tap Intensive, this year October 22–23, in Boca Raton, FL.

Dee's favorite classes are those in which she teaches other teachers, and she stresses the importance of continuing to take class no matter what stage of your career you are in. "I've always said, 'The day that I stop learning is the day that I hang up my tap shoes,'" she says. "I learn something every single day whether I am in class teaching or taking." —*Rachel Zar*

To watch the winning video, go to **www.dancemedia.com/v/4821**

Want to build buzz about your studio, workshop or class? Posting videos to the *Dance Teacher* Video of the Month Contest is quick, easy and free—*and* it's a great way to get noticed. If your video is selected as Editors' Choice, you'll be featured on this page, and you'll win a free subscription to *DT* for one year! Don't miss out on a great opportunity—visit **www.dancemedia.com,** share your videos and vote for your favorites. Any and all kinds of dance are welcome.