

# OMAR EDWARDS

Tap Musician



# Omar Edwards: Tap-Dancer/Musician/Griot/Instructor

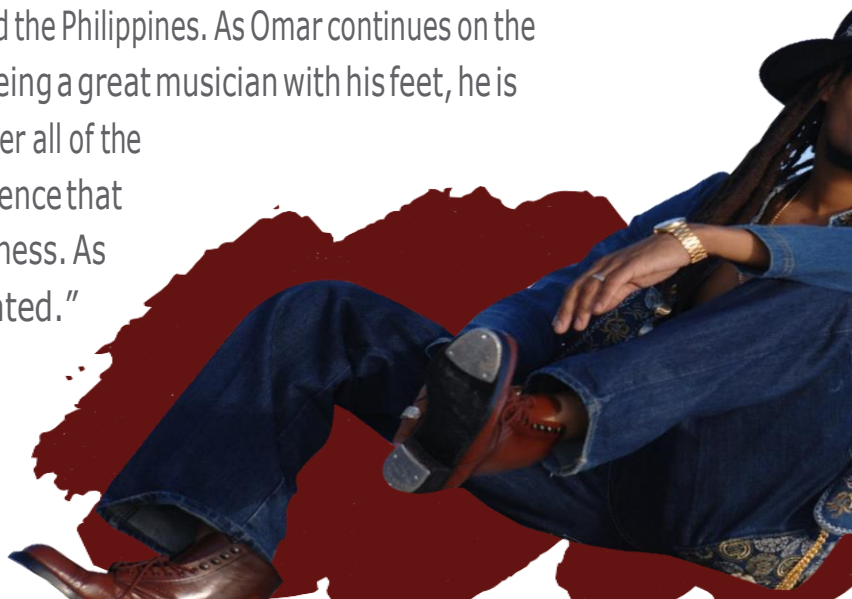
2016 BEESSIE Award Nominee for FLY/ New Victory Theatre, NYC

Omar Edwards, award-winning tap dancer/entertainer/musician, has been in love with tap since he was twelve years old. Born in Brooklyn, Omar's dancing has been shaped by more than twenty three years of experience and formal training with masters including Henry Letang, Jimmy Slyde, Marie Brooks and his legendary cousin, Savion Glover. Omar has also trained under the tutelage of the great musician/songwriter Olu Dara.

Omar first earned national acclaim when he and then tap partner Daniel B. Wooten, Jr. were grand prize-winners on the famed T.V. show "Star Search." From there, Omar embarked on a tap dance career that now spans the worlds of music, dance, television, theatre, and film. In 1998, Omar, along with four musicians, recorded "Tap Dancin' is Music," making Omar the first of his generation to feature the tap dancer as the bandleader and lead instrumentalist. Omar's journey includes performances in a variety of venues including on Broadway, where he was a featured dancer in Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk in 1996. In addition, he has performed President Barack Obama at the White House with Savion Glover, and on the Ellen DeGeneres Show. Most recently, Omar performed the role of the Tap Griot in Fly, Trey Ellis and Ricardo Khan's award-winning play about the famed Tuskegee Airmen of WWII at the Tony Award® winning Crossroads Theatre Company.

Omar has a unique ability to transfer his passion for the arts through the rhythm of his tap shoes.

He has shared his talent with many people around the world including in France, Japan, Germany and the Philippines. As Omar continues on the very personal journey of being a great musician with his feet, he is also striving to bring together all of the elements in a visual experience that transcends their separateness. As he states, "it's complicated."



# CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

## **TAP DANICN' IS MUSIC**

~Hub City Theatre Festival / Crossroads  
Theatre Company, New  
Brunswick, NJ

## **FLY (Original & Encore Tour)**

~Sarasota Stage, Sarasota, FL, Pasadena  
Playhouse, CA, New  
Victory Theatre NYC, (03/2016) Crossroads  
Theatre Company,  
NJ

## **TAP ALL-STARS**

~ Duke Theater NYC (Solo Performer)

## **BLACK AND BLUE**

~Broadway  
~International tour

## **BRING IN THE NOISE, BRING IN THE FUNK,**

~International Tour

## **CAMP / Musical Movie NYC**

~Featured Performer~

## **Alicia Keys Live at the Hollywood Bowl**

~Featured performer~

## **The Question with Common & Mos Def**

## **Sandman/ Legendary TV Show**

~Featured performer~

## **Harlem Nights (Live TV/Japan)**

## **New York City's Tap Extravaganza**

~Featured performer~

## **Savion Glover's NYOT (Not your Ordinary Tapper)**

~Company Member~

" A consummate artist in tap and presentation, always reaching, never relenting..."

Ricardo Khan -- Lead Creative Consultant  
The Smithsonian Museum of African America History

## OMAR EDWARDS...And I quote `

"Serving as a kind of spirit guide is Tap Griot Omar Edwards, a Savion Glover – style tapper who uses the percussion sound of his shoes to intensify the pressure-cooker feeling of the airmen and the raging horror of combat that awaits them..."

NY Times

"A consummate artist in tap and presentation, always reaching, never relenting"

Ricardo Khan

Lead Creative Consultant/The Smithsonian  
Museum of African America History

"Omar Edwards is a movement genius! With Heart and soul or rather heart and sole, he explodes on the dance floor, which levitates him to a place so high and so free, you're afraid to breathe for fear he'll float away. This a guy I want to work with"

Rick Sordelet

Professional Fight Director (Eclipse. Fly)

"What also brings the show alive is incorporating the incredible dancing of the Tap Griot, Omar Edwards. In unforgettable dance sequences, the Griot serves as the soul of the characters, tapping out their inner turmoil and deepest frustrations with the heartbeat of a drum."

DC TheatreScene

"The ferocious, athletic dancing of Omar Edwards punctuates the evening's narrative with rhythm wrangling from haltingly contemplative to wrathfully rapid fire"

The City Paper of Washington DC

"Edwards works off choreography by Hope Clarke, but has said he is trying for a mostly improvised performance. His moves are sharp, thrilling, fun and surprisingly meaningful"

Sarasota Herald  
Tribune

"While all four leads give exemplary performances, it's Omar Edwards who provides the (symbolic and literal) heartbeat for the production...Edwards' feet do the talking here; their percussive tap beats powering the action"

Talkin' Broadway

"Edwards always showed me so much love and gave me so much beauty"

Dule Hill  
Actor/Director

"What the World Needs Now...an exciting dancer and smooth style..."

Melba Hunter

OMAR

Edwards Tap Artist

Equity, Sag/Aftra

6'1"170Ibs

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732-213-4830



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CAGBUfACFrY>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k\\_hA8LPy8so](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_hA8LPy8so)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lotbinIM6Nw>