

## **TAP DOGS**

**Michael Chugg Entertainment, Definitive Events & Back Row Productions**

Adelaide Festival Theatre

Until May 29

Review by Andy Ahrens

Step, Kick, Touch, Slam, Stomp, Whack, Splash, Tap, Boom! “Tap Dogs” are back. They’re hot, they’re loud and they’re bloody awesome.

Since its debut in 1995, “Tap Dogs” has been on constant tour around the globe, highlighted by their appearance at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. With the aid of Nigel Triffitt’s unique industrial design, Dean Perry’s creation of Tap Dogs has won international awards and become one of Australia’s greatest Art’s exports.

This 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary production welcomes Perry back at the helm and he is supported by a stellar cast of lead-booted tappers.

Six dynamic men, dressed in work gear and steel coated boots, tap, kick and slam their way all over an ever evolving set. The set somewhat resembles a construction site and their exuberant talent is displayed on beams, in water, over gaps and on any surface that goes ‘bang’!

Tap Dogs is more than just fine footwork. The engine to this production is the rhythmic hum of tapping boots. Musical rhythms are created with their dancing feet, supported by two percussionists and backing tracks. This creates a pulse that drives the show. The precision of the tapping cannot be ignored and there are glimpses of extraordinary tapping ability.

But it’s a spectacle as well. Dance, sound and spectacle combine to make this show increasingly addictive. There are some lovely comic moments. The only negative is the music tends to crank its volume rather high. A few ears would have been ringing on the way back to the car park.

“Tap Dogs” is alive, loud, raw and explosive. It received a double standing ovation – theatre at its best.