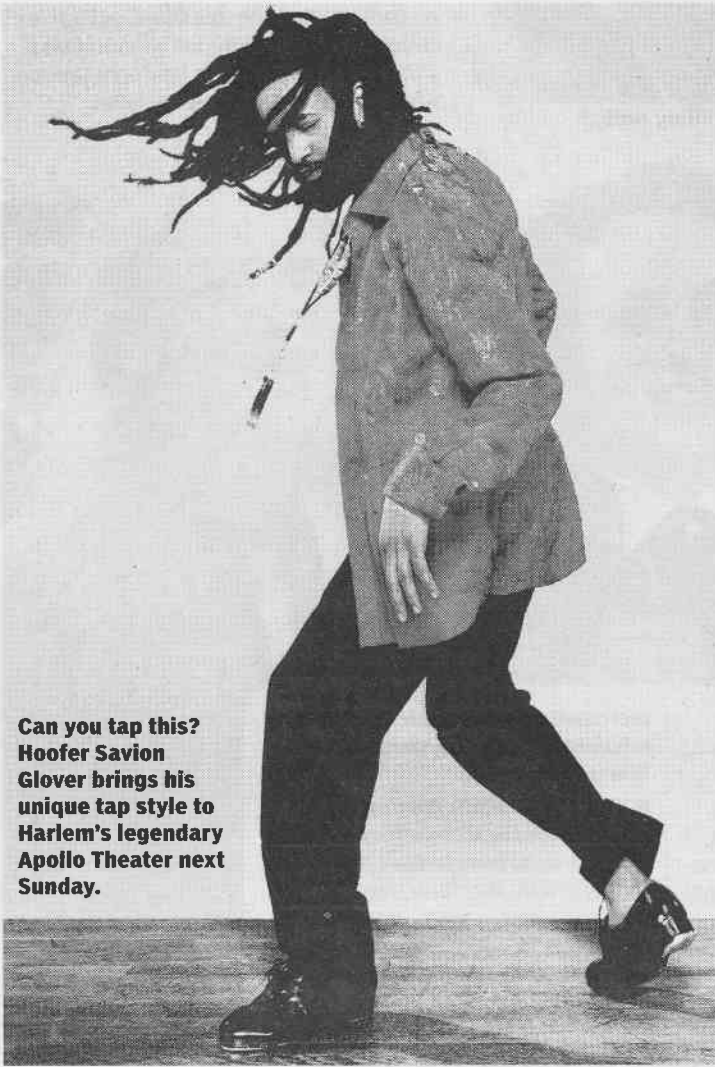


**Can you tap this?
Hooper Savion
Glover brings his
unique tap style to
Harlem's legendary
Apollo Theater next
Sunday.**



A chance for kids to sit at Savion's feet

BY MICHAEL GILTZ

He is arguably the dancer most responsible for keeping the tap tradition alive, yet Savion Glover never saw some of the legendary hoofers who graced the stage of the Apollo Theater.

"I didn't have the chance," says Glover, 34.

That's probably because he was too busy making dance history himself. The Newark native debuted on Broadway at the age of 10 in "The Tap Dance Kid," became one of the youngest performers ever nominated for a Tony — at 15 — in "Black and Blue," and starred in the landmark, Tony-winning "Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk" in 1996.

On Sunday, Glover brings his unique, urbanized style of tap to the Apollo in Harlem with "Bare Soundz," an improvisational performance featuring him, two other dancers and gospel singer Lori Ann Hunter.

Part of the Apollo Family Series (with tickets priced at \$12), it's Glover's latest effort to share his life-long passion for tap with a younger generation.

"It's been 10 years since 'Noise/Funk,' and I think the dance has remained visible," says Glover. "We've obviously done something to make people

stop saying that this is a dying art form, or that 'You've brung back tap dancing.' I don't hear those types of things anymore."

Though Glover appeared on "Sesame Street" throughout the early 1990s and wrote a biography in 2000 titled "Savion! My Life in Tap" that was geared toward young people, probably his biggest impact on kids came when he choreographed and "danced" the role of Mumble in the 2006 animated hit "Happy Feet."

"It was cool," says Glover of the movie, about a tap-dancing penguin who saves his colony through his unique talent. "I didn't know what to expect. But after I got used to it, it was just funny."

His next goal is to open a dance school at the Newark Community School of the Arts, which he attended as a child.

"I'm continuing the educational process of getting people to accept dance as music," he says. "I'm going to be taking my production company there, and also my tap school. We won't offer ballet or jazz or hip hop, or anything like that."

"We will deal with just the art form known to me as hoofing. It's going to be my planet over there," adds Glover. "It's going to be, like, Savion World." ♦