



### **ENSEMBLE BIOGRAPHY:**

Known for his “rocketing rhythms and stylish moves” (*The Boston Globe*), Ryan P. Casey uses his towering, 6’8” talent to create engaging, inventive, rhythm-based tap work that is at turns thoughtful, comical, and satirical. Incorporating poetry, humor, and more, Casey and his Boston-based cast, featuring Kelly Kaleta (“Imagine Tap!”) have presented original, full-length shows, including “Transitions” (named “one of 10 dance shows to see this fall” by *The Boston Phoenix* in 2012) and “Class Act,” throughout the Northeast. They have performed with the Inside/Out series at Jacob’s Pillow, Massachusetts Dance Festival, Dance for Life Boston, Dance for World Community Festival, and Luminarium Dance’s 24-Hour ChoreoFest, with appearances on *The Steve Katsos Show* and in New York City, with David Parker’s “Soaking WET” series at the West End Theater and Symphony Space’s “Stam-pede.” They are proudly supported by Creative Ground and The Field, and are eligible for New England States Touring (NEST) funding. The company is available for full concerts, as well as smaller sets or shows at private events or as guest artists with other performances.

### **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY:**

**Ryan P. Casey** trained under Thelma Goldberg and Kelly Kaleta with the Legacy Dance Company of The Dance Inn in Lexington, Massachusetts, where he is now on faculty. He was Dance Captain of Aaron Tolson’s New England Tap Ensemble and a founding member of Michelle Dorrance’s critically acclaimed company, Dorrance Dance. He has also performed with Billy Siegenfeld’s Jump Rhythm Jazz Project and Lisa LaTouche’s Tap Phonics. You may have seen him on *So You Think You Can Dance* or read one of his articles for CNN.com, BroadwayWorld.com, *Dance Spirit*, *Dance Teacher*, or *Dance Studio Life*, in which he was featured. He has taught classes for studios, colleges, and youth companies across North America and presented work throughout the Northeast. Currently teaching at Boston University and choreographing for the University of Connecticut Tap Team, Ryan is a proud alumnus of NYU, The School at Jacob’s Pillow, and the National YoungArts Foundation. He is available for solo performances of anywhere from two to forty five minutes, workshops, choreography, and lecture-demonstrations. [www.ryanpcasey.com](http://www.ryanpcasey.com)

## **VIDEOS:**

**Performance Reel** – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZFr9R5Ndws>

“The Tall & Short of It” – <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoCL9VmGhMM>

“Not One” – <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCx3UJ7jzaE>

“Ball Change” – <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hN1BgeA6K4>

“Me & My Shadow” – <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lApxlB6nBg8>

“My Manhattan” – <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=adek9Y1Y-MU>

## **PRESS:**

<http://www.diydancer.com/dd-response-2014-choreographers-canvas/>

<http://the phoenix.com/Boston/arts/146684-ryan-casey-and-lorraine-chapman-looking-up-looki/>

<http://www.salemnews.com/local/x1133192509/Widening-perceptions-6-foot-8-tap-dancer-to-perform-in-Marblehead>

<http://amherststudent.amherst.edu/?q=article/2013/10/01/weekend-full-fresh-local-dance>

<http://the phoenix.com/boston/arts/144276-ten-dance-shows-for-fall/>



*Photo: Nicole Tomaselli*



“**Transitions**” is an original production of **rhythm tap dance** integrated with poetry, cinematography, Vaudeville, and hip hop dance, boasting a soundtrack ranging from Blossom Dearie and Harry Connick, Jr. to Dinah Washington and Shel Silverstein.

At turns thoughtful, satirical, and humorous, the show features routines inspired by periods of change and personal development in the life of its choreographer and director, nationally recognized tap dancer **Ryan P. Casey**. While “The Tall & Short of It” portrays the struggles and successes of his towering, 6’8” talent, “My Manhattan” lampoons his culture shock as a pilgrim to New York City, and his former teacher, **Kelly Kaleta**, original cast member of *Imagine Tap!*, becomes his partner in a series of playful duets, “Just the Two of Us.”



*Photo: Whitney Browne*

An engaging evening of rhythm and storytelling, introspection and comedy, “Transitions” debuted to sold-out audiences in 2012, when *The Boston Phoenix* declared it “one of 10 dance shows to see this fall.” It has since performed in Massachusetts, Maine, and New York.

Excerpts have been featured with the Inside/Out series at Jacob’s Pillow, Massachusetts Dance Festival, Dance for Life Boston, David Parker’s “Soaking WET” series at New York City’s West End Theater, and Symphony Space’s “Stam-pede.”



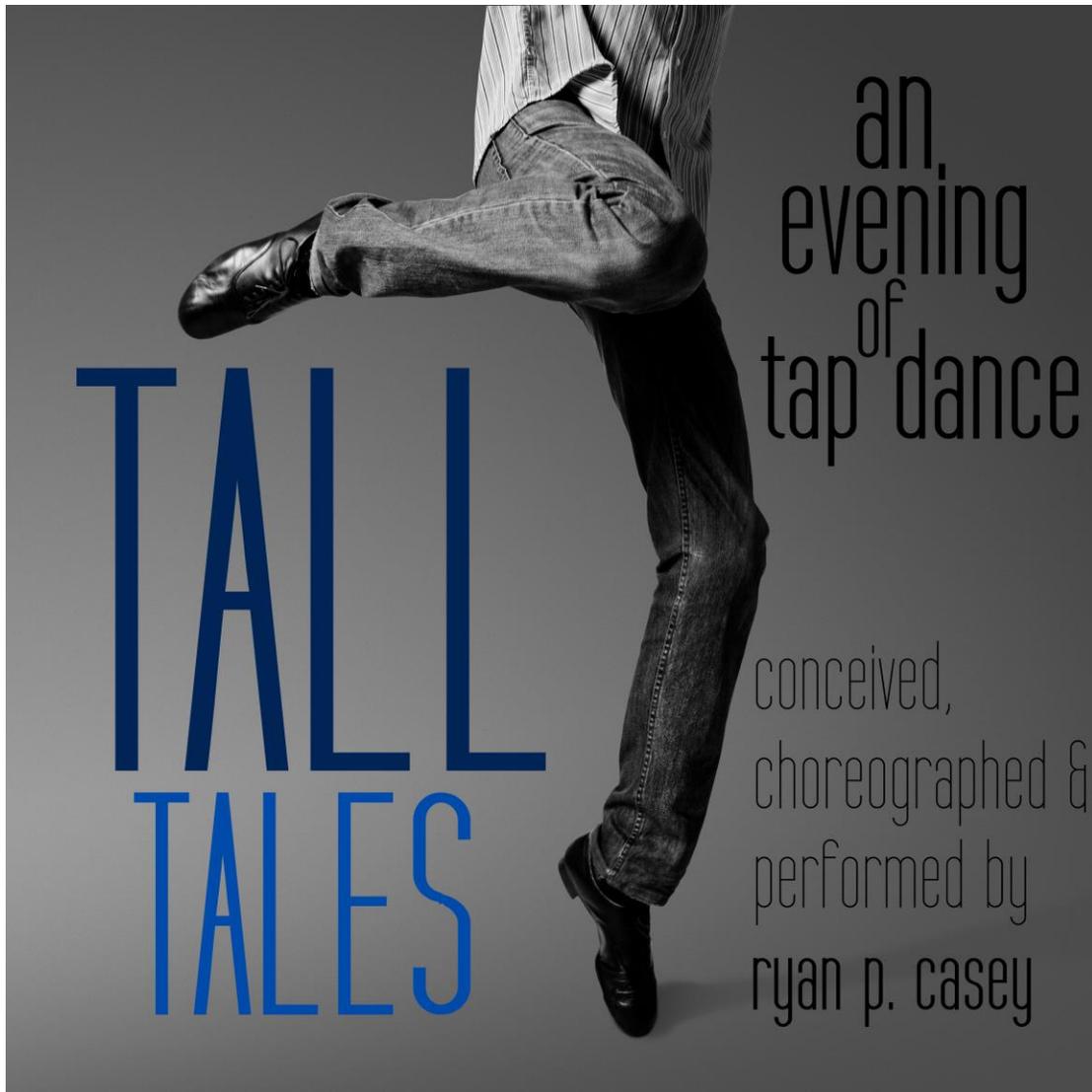
*Photo: Courtesy of Massachusetts Dance Festival*

**Now booking for future performances,** “Transitions” runs approximately 60 minutes and features a variety of solo, duet, trio, and ensemble routines that can be adapted for different venues, lengths, and events, featuring Casey, Kaleta, and a cast of five dancers. Contact Ryan ([ryancasey24@gmail.com](mailto:ryancasey24@gmail.com)) for rates & availability.

*Fee support for Ryan P. Casey and “Transitions” may be available to nonprofit organizations through the New England States Touring (NEST) program of the New England Foundation for the Arts. Visit [www.nefa.org](http://www.nefa.org) for more information.*

*“Ryan outdid himself in ... designing thoroughly humorous and captivating dances and physical feats.”*

*—Audience Member in Boston, MA*



*Known for his “rocketing rhythms and stylish moves” (The Boston Globe), **Ryan P. Casey** – featured on So You Think You Can Dance and in Dance Studio Life Magazine – uses his towering, 6’8” talent to present engaging, inventive, rhythm-based tap work that is at turns thoughtful, comical, and satirical. Incorporating poetry, humor, cinematography, and more, Casey playfully lampoons his height, parodies his pilgrimage to Manhattan, and doffs a top hat to idol Fred Astaire, all to a soundtrack including Blossom Dearie, Shel Silverstein, and Fats Waller. Peppared with musings on life and dance, “Tall Tales” takes tap dancing to new heights – literally – with Casey’s debut solo show. (Runs approximately 50 minutes.)*

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Big band jazz; femme fatales; Vaudeville; hidden speakeasies; Fred Astaire: Step back into a bygone era with inventive, high-energy tap choreography that weaves a unique tapestry of rhythm, humor, storytelling, poetry, cinematography, and more, featuring choreography by nationally recognized hoofers **Ryan P. Casey** and **Kelly Kaleta**.

With a soundtrack featuring legendary musicians such as Count Basie, Benny Goodman, and Glenn Miller, “**Class Act**” pays homage to crime noir, *The Great Gatsby*, classic movie musicals, and Vaudeville shows. From tap dancing detectives to hoofing basketball players, rhythm-making mobsters and high-kicking flappers, this ode to the 1920s and ‘30s is sure to have audiences jazzed up and tapping their feet!



*Photo: Kelly Chadwick*

A satisfying union of tap dance and jazz music , “Class Act” has delighted audiences at OBERON in Harvard Square, Massachusetts, and at The Dance Hall in Kittery, Maine.

Excerpts have been featured with the **Inside/Out series at Jacob’s Pillow**, Massachusetts Dance Festival, National Choreography Month Boston, David Parker’s “Soaking WET” series at New York City’s West End Theater, and Symphony Space’s “Stam-pede.”



*Photo: Whitney Browne*

**Now booking for future performances**, “Class Act” runs approximately 60 minutes and features a variety of solo, duet, trio, and ensemble routines that can be adapted for different venues, lengths, and events, featuring Casey, Kaleta, and a cast of five dancers. Contact Ryan ([ryancasey24@gmail.com](mailto:ryancasey24@gmail.com)) for rates & availability.

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