

## Courtney Runft

In 2007, Courtney Runft was featured in the Rogers Ballet, Inc. newsletter, soon after making her debut as a professional tap dancer at the Duke On 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Theatre in New York City. She has now (2010) been living in New York City for almost five years and tells us she loves her job. Courtney was a student of Sharon Rogers from the ages of nine until nineteen, dancing in the Rogers Ballet Spring Concerts and the Friends University Fall and Spring Ballets as well as the annual performances of *The Nutcracker* at Friends University. Since moving away from Wichita, she has performed at the Apollo Theater, in the Tap Extravaganza performances with Bob Audy and Mable Lee, and in Tap City Performances with Michelle Dorrance, Jared Grimes, and Brenda Bufalino. She was invited to perform in the popular Broadway Underground show and has participated in many outdoor festivals with the C3 Tap Cooperative. Aside from performing, Courtney is also a highly sought after children's tap dance teacher. She is currently teaching year round for the American Tap Dance foundation and for the summer Tap City Festival. You can read about her in the April 2010 Dance Spirit Magazine and watch her in a video on their online website. She is also Assistant Choreographer for Cirque du Soleil's newest show, *Banana Shpeel*, at the Beacon Theatre in New York City. Courtney credits Sharon Rogers for her dedication, work ethic, attention to detail, discipline and love for the art form. "Without her, none of this would have been possible!"