



Capezio has been a world leader in the creation of bespoke dance and theatrical footwear for more than a century and its hand-crafted customized shoes (“Special Make-Up” shoes) have graced the feet of countless stars and productions. The company’s Professional Division, based in Manhattan, continues the tradition of realizing the dreams of the most demanding clientele today.

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PRESS CONTACT:

CAPEZIO SPECIAL MAKE-UP FOOTWEAR: FIRST CHOICE FOR FIT, FORM AND FUNCTION FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY

(Totowa, New Jersey/New York, New York): It may be responsible for only a small fraction of the company’s production numerically, but Capezio’s Special Make-Up (SMU) footwear is in many ways the very heart of its business. From the day in 1887 when Salvatore Capezio first opened his shop—kitty-corner from New York’s old Metropolitan Opera—Capezio craftsmen have satisfied the most exacting demands of ballerinas from around the world and breathed life into the most exotic dreams of Broadway costume designers.

From Pavlova to Gregory Hines, from the Radio City Rockettes to *Elf*, Capezio’s hand-made shoes have been and remain to this day at front and center stage here in the United States and around the world. At Capezio Professional Division’s headquarters in the heart of Manhattan’s Broadway theatre district, long-time pros Judith Weiss (responsible for pointe shoes) and David Shaffer make sure that the tradition continues. They give every customer, be they student or star, truly personal attention.

The appearance and performance of a Capezio Special Make-Up shoe is, to all intents and purposes, limited only by the imagination of the designer and the shape of the wearer’s foot. Based either on stock shoes from the Capezio catalog or realized entirely from scratch based on the customer’s sample or illustration, SMUs allow for a vast range of individual specifications to achieve perfect look, fit and function. Customers can specify size, color, materials, patterns, heel style, height and reinforcements, sole material and thickness, shank rigidity, trim and a whole range of additional options. One need look no further than the combination of this total dedication to giving customers what they want (as long as it will actually work as a shoe!) and Capezio craftsmen’s superb execution to understand why Capezio shoes have always been the natural choice for major shows—appearing in *The Color Purple*, *The Lion King*, *42nd Street*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Mamma Mia*, *Chicago*, *Movin’ Out*, *The Producers*, *My Fair Lady* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*—to name only a few of the most recent.

Before Broadway came Ballet, and from the Capezio’s very beginning, leading ballerinas and companies have chosen it as the source of their made-to-measure pointe shoes, knowing that they can specify every part of the shoe’s construction to suit their feet and style of dancing—and that the result will consistently meet their demanding standards. In recent years Capezio Professional Division’s Judith Weiss has brought her unmatched knowledge of pointe shoes to dancers at companies around the world, including the New York City Ballet, the Royal Swedish

Ballet, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Houston Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet and many more. As well as color and material, Ms. Weiss will help a dancer to specify the ideal qualities for her of the vamp, throat, sole, platform, box, wings, shank, and sock lining, the use or omission of nails and where paste is used in the construction. The result is a shoe that is consistent and reliable, allowing dancers such as _____, _____ and _____ to dance with total confidence and reach the highest artistic heights.

The range of Capezio stock SMU patterns is enormous, each one with virtually limitless possibilities for customization. For ballet dancers there are ballet flats (with or without heels) as well as pointe shoes; there is the *Hermes Sandal*, as used in *Jesus Christ Superstar*; the *Elf Shoe*, a customized jazz shoe specially designed for the movie starring Will Ferrell; a *High Wellington* that starred in *Phantom of the Opera* and a *Low Wellington* that starred in *Cats*; *Lace Boots* from *Pippin*, *Flexible Can-Can Boots* from *Oklahoma!*, *Theo Tie*, *Money Shoe* and *Lido*, all from *42nd Street*, *Gregory Hines Tap Shoe* from *Jelly's Last Jam* and *Triple Sole Tap Shoe* from *Stomp*. These and many other stock SMU patterns cater to every style of dance and a vast range of theatrical situations and when they don't, totally customized shoes can be created.

"Our SMU shoes and Professional Division are the soul of the company," said _____, Capezio's _____. "We have an amazing history of providing specially-made footwear for most of Broadway's most famous shows and for many of the greatest ballet dancers in the world. We are proud of that history, but even prouder of the fact that we continue to live up to it and to be the choice of the most demanding professionals."

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