

Animal Dances

- In the early 1900s there several animal dance fads, such as: the Horse Trot, Kangaroo Hop, Chicken Scratch, Turkey Trot and the Grizzly Bear (around 1909)
- The Animal Dance craze was directly related to the popularity of ragtime music
- The Grizzly Bear was first introduced to Broadway audiences in the Ziegfeld Follies of 1910 by Fanny Brice
- The dance was rough and clumsy, imitating the movements of a dancing bear. During the dance, the dancers would yell out: "It's a Bear!"
- in numerous cities across the U.S., animal dances were labelled as "degenerate dances"
- In 1910, Sophie Tucker (Last of the Red Hot Mamas), was arrested for singing the *Grizzly Bear* (by Berlin and Botsford) – “You and me is two, I'll make it one when we get thro' doin' the grizzly bear”
- In 1912, New York placed the dance under a "social ban", along with other "huggly-wiggly dances"



George Botsford (1874-1949)

- ❖ born in Dakota Territory, grew up in Iowa
- ❖ toured as a "Theatrical Pianist" i.e. variety shows
- ❖ New York City in 1902 and worked as an arranger and composer with a Tin Pan Alley publisher
- ❖ *Grizzly Bear Rag* (1910) and *The Dance of the Grizzly Bear* with lyrics by Irving Berlin (1910)
- ❖ also wrote *Black and White Rag* (1908) and *Hyacinth Rag* (1911)

