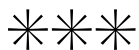


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THE FOLK DANCER

Int'l Folk Dance Ensemble
Alumni Newsletter

Editor

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THE FOLK DANCER

International Folk Dance Ensemble, Brigham Young University

South Pacific Greets IFDE

From July 10 to August 10, the BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble took their broad repertoire of music and dance to the South Pacific.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TOUR**New Zealand**

After three performances at the Auckland Girls Grammar School in Auckland, New Zealand, the group traveled to Hamilton, New Zealand and then to Wellington, where they entertained students at St. Patrick's High School, an all-boy's school comprising mostly of Maori students. One of the highlights of the tour occurred at the end of our performance when 500 boys stood and chanted a Maori Haka in our honor.

Australia

In Perth, Australia, the ensemble presented matinee and evening shows at the Methodist Ladies College. The performances catered to 38 VIPs, including two members of Parliament, the Australian national chairman of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Congress, and the U.S. consul general.

Before the show, we were deeply touched when we received a traditional welcome by the Aboriginal leaders.

Presenter Phil Baker noted, "The performance 'blew our socks off'[with] nearly two hours of solid, continuous entertainment from a group of 36 performers who are a credit to not only themselves but to BYU."

The Folk Dance Ensemble arrived in Melbourne July 28, where they performed at the Frankston Cultural Centre before a sold-out audience of 808.

The group then traveled to Tasmania where, "We were treated like world ambassadors because we were the first group from BYU to go there," according to technician Ben Blaser. "The countryside was beautiful, and the people were extremely receptive to our performances."

While in Tasmania, the ensemble performed two school assemblies in New Norfolk and an evening performance at the University of Tasmania. The standing-room-only crowd that night included the Lord High Mayor and members of Parliament. The Hobart, Tasmania, radio station interviewed Ed and select members of the ensemble for a potential listening audience of 200,000.

Tamworth Town Hall was the site of another sold-out performance. "That experience in Tamworth was a perfect example of community collaboration. We felt we rendered a service much greater than just the entertainment/performance itself." And the almost \$10,000 USD in proceeds was donated to the local lifeline helicopter.

"The fact that we were doing every single performance for charity rather than making profit as an ensemble brought a whole new feeling and look to the university," said Rachel Sneddon, one of the student performers.

Many of the folk dancers thought this tour was monumental in its capacity to serve others and strengthen the ensemble's unity and talent. "This tour was memorable because we were able to interact with more host families and to learn firsthand about their culture," said Joseph Andersen.

"The truth is, we really came away from our tour in the South Pacific receiving much more than we gave," Amber Wood concluded.

Audience Responses:

"This ensemble would be without peer. I felt the Holy Spirit as I watched these young people--If your church can keep this up, you are going to change the world!"

Kim Beazley Sr., Former Federal Minister for Education & Family Values Award recipient, Perth, Australia, July 22, 2000

"I have traveled the world and I have never seen such a vibrant performance! You mentioned in your introduction that all of these young men and some of the girls were returned missionaries and you have 67,000 more of these? Wow!"
State Government Opposition Whip, Ted Cunningham, Perth, Australia, July 22, 2000

"Thank you ever so much for your talented students who performed at Melbourne last week. It was a wonderful experience to witness not only beautiful dance and colorful costumes but a performance which outclassed any that I have ever seen before, characterized mainly by the sheer cohesion and ~~dedication of the ensemble. I was really~~ spiritually moved to see these wonderful young performers in action, and judging by the enthusiasm of the audience I believe I may wholeheartedly represent their feelings also."

*Mike Webb, Melbourne, Australia,
August 5, 2000*

Special thanks to the Office of

The emphasis of Pourparler 2000 was on sharing material for children's folk dance classes, and as I have just recently taken over BYU's Folk Dance for Youth

Performing Arts Management for the above information.

Christmas Around the World 2000

This year's Christmas Around the World concert is *Celebrating the New Millennium*. We hope to see many of you once again and remind you of our special reception for alumni and friends directly following the Saturday evening performance, held in the Cougar Room adjacent to the ticket office.

We are once again offering a Saturday afternoon performance in addition to our evening performances on December 1st and 2nd. Each promises to be a colorful extravaganza of exciting entertainment adding to the spirit of your holiday.

The songs and dances of Hungary will open our program. Then, a Celtic celebration featuring the exciting dances of Ireland, Scotland, and Wales will once again be featured including the premier performance of "Keltatak", a stunning new piece choreographed by Tina Shelly and Johanna Lambert in the style of Riverdance. The program will also rekindle your memories of Moldova, Ukraine, Poland, Croatia, People's Republic of China and many more. program, this was an opportunity I could not miss. In attendance were many "experts" in the field of folk dance education, several of whom travel

Tickets go on sale Saturday, November 4th. You may reserve your tickets by calling the Marriott Center ticket office at 378-BYU1 or 1-800-322-BYU1. Performances begin at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday's matinee will begin at 2:00 p.m.

2000-2001 Scholarship Recipients

Mary Bee Jensen Endowment
Lindsay Folkman

Viltis Award
Marsha Searle
Paul Springer

Excellence in the Folk Arts
Jonathan A. Gibson
Alicia Davis

Harmon Scholarship
Josh Probert
Amber Wood

Norma Pardoe Anderson
Arden Anderson

Pourparler

Recently Becki Love, director of the Folk Dance for Youth program had the opportunity to attend the 4th annual Pourparler Conference in Sacramento, CA, for folk dance teachers of children nationwide.

throughout the United States, or in their respective states as artists-in-residence in public schools or other venues. Others in attendance were people just like me--

just starting out in a folk dance program, or those teaching in their own studios, or hosting monthly family dance parties. Experience and knowledge amongst participants was varied, but all in attendance were made to feel valued, encouraged, and most importantly, empowered to be successful in making a positive difference in the lives of their students.

The well organized conference, which lasted about 3 days, was filled with many wonderful and worthwhile activities including: "sitz sessions", where questions and concerns from participants were discussed; dance sharing, where anyone who wished could teach the group new dances and share material they have found success with; time to socialize and share ideas on a one-on-one or small group basis; two evening folk dance parties where we met and danced with many other avid recreational folk dance fans from the local Sacramento community; and a very enjoyable dinner cruise down the Sacramento River to end our weekend festivities. Through each of these activities I was able to obtain very useful material for my classes, meet many wonderful people who were willing to share their talents, friendship, ideas and encouragement, and tap into a nationwide network of tremendously valuable people and resources. Not to mention the fact that Pourparler is just plain fun!!!

I highly recommend the conference to anyone who is teaching folk dance, whether it be in the public schools, studios, community parties, church groups-- whatever.

It was a great experience to be able to meet so many of my colleagues and to learn so much from each of them. Next year the organizers are hoping to host Pourparler in the Boston area. Get there, if you can! It is well worth it.

EPCOT CENTER - 2000-

The Folk Dance Ensemble was invited to perform last May 1-13 at the Epcot Center in Disney World, Florida. This was all part of their special Millennium Celebration 2000. They performed one-half hour shows: selections from their international repertoire--often four times daily.

Each day they had to tear themselves away from their private swimming pool and waterfall, and the other theme parks to dance before an audience of 250 people per show. During their 42 performances, they performed for an estimated total audience of 10,500 people. That number doesn't even begin to account for all the people they spoke with each day as they explored the parks.

The Disney staff was extremely impressed with their professionalism and positive attitudes. And the audiences really "got into" each of the shows--the way only audiences can in a Magic Kingdom.

Among Ourselves

Colleen Travels to Ukraine

In August 2000, Colleen West had the opportunity to be a part of a "Cultural Arts" tour to Ukraine. The intent of the tour was to visit historic sites, cultural arts museums, open air architectural and folk art museums, cathedrals, etc. After arriving in Kiev she traveled by bus for two weeks. Some of the cities and villages visited were: Kaniv, Ternopil, Kam'ianets'-Podil'syi, Ivano-Frankivs'ke,

Yaremche, Kolomyia, Kosiv, and Lviv.

It was an educational tour in Ukrainian arts and ethnography. It was quite an experience traveling through many villages throughout the countryside. Ukraine still struggles economically as it tries to establish complete independence. The generally poor living conditions and poverty of the people was contrasted with the richness of culture and traditions. Colleen hopes to continue her education in the folk dance, music and arts of Ukraine.

Delynne Leads SPAC 2000 to Washington

The Spring Performing Arts Company (SPAC) was such a tremendous success this year that Delynne says, "I'm going to go another round with it again next year!" The 30 dancers traveled throughout the state of Utah sharing world dance in 64 school assemblies and seven additional shows.

The group went as far north as Brigham City all the way to Blanding in the south. The students did a magnificent job day in and day out without the slightest murmuring (well-- almost)! They brought a lot of smiles to thousands of cute little faces, ate school lunch on a few occasions, and had fun hanging and swinging on monkey bars or playing ball with the kids out on the playgrounds.

A special highlight for sixteen members of the group was to drive up to Vancouver, Washington and participate in a Bi-Stake Youth Conference and Dance Festival directed by former dancer, Dennis Hill. From July 21-23, we danced in their *Kick-Off Celebration* conducted workshops (i.e. *Dating on a Dime*, *Things I Wished I'd known Before Getting to College*, *Sharing the Gospel Through Talents*, etc.) and danced in the main performance. We also presented a fireside on the Sunday. "Our lives were blessed by being there and we hope that they felt of our testimonies. We owe a big "thank you" to Dennis for hosting this event," says Delynne.

WEB SITES TO REMEMBER

www.byu.edu/dance/folk/default.htm

Tour histories, and current events. Information on tours, scholarships, and special events.

www.nfo-usa.org

National Folk Dance Organization of the U.S. NFO membership, performance groups, resources, events, conferences and workshops, and festivals.

pam.byu.edu/folkdanc.htm

Performance scheduling, information, news releases and even video clips of the BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble

www.byu.edu/~ddance/

BYU Dance Department website. Curriculum, schedules, faculty, and performing groups.

Alumni Directories Still Available

*Folk Dance Directories are still available for purchase on a limited basis. They were up-to-date as of December 1, 1999. Please send \$6.50 payable to **BYU Folk Dance** (includes postage and handling) to: International Folk Dance, 261 RB-BYU, Provo, UT, 84602. Please include your current address with the order.*

THE NEW FOLK DANCE CD

Folk Dance Classics–Volume 1, a new CD of fun and teachable folk dances is now available for purchase. It contains many dances that you will be familiar with: Alunelul, Ciuleandra, Doudlebska Polka, Ersko Kolo, Kriči Kriči Tiček, La Bastringue, Salty Dog Rag, Virginia Reel, and Vulpița, etc. plus some new dances for your repertoire.

Due to the musical and technical talents of Mark Geslison, Clive Romney,, and Troy Sales, we now have some great music that will assist us in introducing others to the folk dances of the world.

It is a helpful tool for teaching church and community groups, and there are dances suitable for dancers of all ages. It is also fun for just pure listening entertainment.

To order this CD, please send \$20.00 payable to **BYU Folk Dance**, (includes postage and handling) to: International Folk Dance, 261 RB-BYU, Provo, UT, 84602. Be sure to have your current address included with your order.



SEND US YOUR NEW ADDRESS!!!

To Update Information

✂ clip this portion and send to Vickie Austin, 259 RB-BYU, Provo, Utah 84602

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

SS#:

E-Mail:

(all SS# info for office records only)

Other Addresses You Know

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

E-Mail:

Name:

Address: