

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY



International Folk Dance Ensemble Summer Tour 2002



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TOUR HISTORY 2002

Wednesday, July 3, 2002 (Willis Pueblo)
Provo, UT-Independence, MO

How does one begin an epic story? The Book of Mormon begins with "I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents;" the Bible begins with "In the beginning." However, because the events of our tour may prove to be slightly less significant than those explained in the BOM or Bible, and it would be odd to start "I, Louis, having been born of goodly...;" I believe this start will suffice: "A long time ago in a Midwestern state far, far, away; Scottie and Karen were trucking a load of costumes, technological wonders, and hay? Far behind them, across the Great Plains and jagged Rocky Mountains, Ed and Vickie were surely bustling about the office taking care of last minute items while sleepy-headed performers rolled out of bed. Louis and Brent randomly ran into each other at the American Fork Wal-Mart at 9am. As Louis was leaving the store, with new "action figures" in hand, Brent was going in to make some last-minute purchases. Across the valley, Jonathan Wood was ironing and dressing himself in the WRONG tour outfit, for which he was rightfully heckled upon arrival at the RB!"

After stuffing our pockets with fat wads of per diem cash, we were herded onto the bus and got underway. It was somewhat difficult to hear Ed's instructions over the grinding of the bus gears. The poor bus driver, (bless her heart) could not find which gear she was supposed to be in to save our lives! Despite an action-packed bus ride filled with stalls, grinding gears, bumps-a-plenty, and a pit-stop in Orem to pick up Gregg and his driver's license, we arrived safely at the airport.

Once at the airport, DeYounger discovered she had left her identification behind. However, they must have cleared it up 'cause she's with us now. But who can blame her? I mean, who could have foreseen that we would need our driver's licenses or identification on a trip which we travel entirely by bus? Come on now, really!

It was a day of bumpy rides. Although the plane ride was a rather turbulent one, the ride was made delightful by the little ones on the plane. There was a youngster named Shawn who sat by Lane and entertained his fellow travelers. Lucky for us, Shawn brought some play toys including some fighter planes, some hot rod cars, and trucks. Shawn led us in a battle and then brought out his coloring books to everyone's glee! Shawn passed around a notebook on which we all signed our autographs. Then, Shawn proceeded to the back of the plane to work his magic on the Busath sisters and Tiffany. He was a smooth little man from which we could all learn a thing or two. There was also a cute little family towards the back whose little ones made music that kept many of us alert and awake.

Once in Missouri, we headed out to Liberty Jail and enjoyed a fabulous and powerful guided tour. It was amazing to me that despite the horrible living conditions of the dark dungeon to which the prophet and his companions were confined, they were able to keep their faith and trust in the Lord. The prophet Joseph Smith had such a spirit about him to make any situation or condition an edifying one. Liberty Jail was truly a prison temple.

We next traveled to Olathe, Kansas to meet with our precious host families who had patiently waited hours for our arrival. We were well taken care of. Well, there you have it friends: day one of our epic adventure.

Thursday, July 4 2002 (Cat Larsen)
Independence, MO

A good way to celebrate the holiday called Independence Day is in a place called Independence, Missouri. (These people really like blueberries for breakfast.) It is in Independence where you can do stuff like wear your Rendezvous costumes and have a TV interview if you're Jacob and Alicia Davis, eat at the Family Buffet with all the sugar-free desserts and boiled cabbage you could ask for, buy some chinchies at the local Toys-R-Us, take some group pictures at Adam-on-di-ahman and feel the Spirit in that area, and skip Far West because, well we're not sure why, and eat at a relief society dinner complete with all the American

knicks and knacks and odds and ends you could ever ask for adorning the tables, and you should probably bring an umbrella because it might sprinkle-sprinkle.

It's a nice place to visit, Independence is. They have a super deluxe fireworks show right around 9:30 PM and you can find some nice folks to talk to from Louisiana who will tell you Missouri has "dry" weather as you lather up in your dose of mold-preventing baby powder.

Perhaps it was because of the super famous Kansas baked beans or due to the M&M cookies. It could have come out of fear of chiggers and ticks or dehydration. Maybe it was the ugly noise spewing from the band monitors during the first half of the show. It could have arisen out of the hour commute from our host family station in Olathe, Kansas to the venue in Independence, Missouri. Whatever it was, it was the cause of a portion of fake barf being taped to the Hoedown basket. "Alright, boys I've got two baskets left . . . chicken and dumplings and ____" you know from there!

The temple of the Community of Christ represents something beautiful. For a church with so few members, they spent gobs of money on their edifice, sacrificing their own resources to the Lord.

"The Dome" belongs to the Community of Christ church. This building, having a certain sports arena type feel, had its own mood ring in the ceiling. The audience of about 4,500 was magnanimous. They seemed to like each new dance more than the one before.

Our host families bless their hearts, waited AGAIN for us long after the show. We've really got to get this system down.

Friday, July 5, 2002 (Emilee Savage)
Independence, MO-Louisville, KY

Today we arrived at the bus around 8:30 am, all a little tired and groggy from the exciting, late night we had. I'm sure it was probably about 9:00 by the time we actually started driving...it wouldn't be normal if we weren't around a half hour late!

The first thing we did this morning was a little sightseeing in Independence. We were able to visit the LDS Visitor's Center, which is right across the street from the Community of Christ temple and their auditorium where we performed last night. We were given the choice to either look around the visitor's center for about an hour or to go see the temple across the street – most of us chose to go see the temple. A lady there gave us a tour and told us a lot of interesting information concerning their temple and their church. The Community of Christ temple is more like a conference center or large church, very different from the LDS temples most of us are used to.

After we were all back on the bus, Sherie Adam's uncle gave us a brief "walking-tour by bus." It was interesting to get a little bit of an inside view of the city and to see so many places that we have read about. It is nice to be able to now put a picture with those places! When the tour was over, we dropped off Sherie's uncle and started out for Louisville, KY.

The drive to Louisville lasted about eight hours. Most of us did a lot of sleeping, but we played some games too. Kenneth passed out papers and had us all write down our "guilty pleasures" and then we all guessed which one went with which person. They were interesting to say the least. We all found out that Celeste's guilty pleasure was that she dreamed of being in Keltatak with Josh Probert. When questioned, however, we all discovered that Josh was the one who forged Celeste's guilty pleasure – so maybe it is actually Josh's dream for Celeste to be in Keltatak with him! We also discovered that Kenneth liked to bite his toenails, Brent likes to dress his Star Wars action figures in Barbie clothes while putting on makeup, Lane (the quiet one of the band members) likes to play Dungeons and Dragons, and Lindsay's favorite outfit is her fishnets and rabbit fur skirt. As far as the directors go, they are pretty wild people: Ed confessed he was a midnight snacker and Vickie likes to read...WHOA a little crazy huh?!?

We drove by St. Louis and waved at the arch as we drove by, but didn't stop. We just kept driving and arrived in Louisville around dinner time. A variety of restaurants were provided for our choosing. So we all ate and then headed to our hotel--which was more like a ghetto motel! We had all planned on getting in the pool, however when we saw that it was filled with buckets, and bugs and a large black tarp we decided against the idea. As we all arrived at our rooms, the bugs around the door were like a little welcoming committee. I'm sure everyone had at least one or two bugs run into their faces. We all got settled in our rooms--and so did the bugs. A few people went running that night while the rest of us played card games in a couple of the rooms. We postponed getting in the beds as long as we could because, who *knew* what was under the covers already!?! We were later informed that we had been scheduled to be in the brand new Hampton Inn with an indoor pool and everything, but there were communication difficulties and so the Days Inn was ours for the night--Joseph!!! Good thing it was only for the night! Ha! Ha!

Today was a long day, even though we didn't do that much. An eight hour bus ride can do that to a person! We all eventually got to bed to get ready for the next day, the remainder of our drive to and our show in Lexington, KY.

Saturday, July 6, 2002 (Lane McMahan)
Lexington, KY

The day started early for some of us. After a great night at the hotel; Katie, Cat, Emilee and Lane went early to find some things at Wal-Mart before hitting the road. The idea was good, but things don't always turn out as planned. While buying a few essentials at Wal-Mart, we discovered that this particular Wal-Mart didn't sell fruit. Emilee was after fruit, so she asked a store clerk if he knew of any grocery stores close by. The clerk told her that there was a store a couple of blocks down the road where one could buy fresh fruit. While discussing the dilemma as a group, a fellow Wal-Mart shopper offered to run us down the road to the store on her way home. A strong sense of adventure defeated our common sense and lack of time, which it often does, and we accepted the offer. After all, the woman seemed really nice and sweet. The woman turned out to be really nice. However, what we hadn't planned were the several minutes spent nervously watching the time tick by as we waited at the stoplights. For the record, Louisville has the longest stoplights anywhere. Our quick trip around the block wasn't so quick, and by the time we reached the store, we were already out of time. We walked toward the store until the nice, old lady was out of sight, turned around, and started quickly back toward the hotel on foot. We didn't even bother looking for the fruit. Needless to say, we made it back just in time to meet the bus on our way to Lexington. The trip to Lexington was nice, not too long. After unloading the truck and setting up, we traveled to the stake president's home for a barbeque dinner. The food was great, and so was the entertainment. There's nothing like watching a "walk, no run," ultimate Frisbee game. This team has some excellent male speed walkers! After dinner, we returned to the high school and put on an excellent show for the people in Lexington. Many people told me personally that the show was the greatest thing they'd seen. Good job guys!

Sunday, July 7, 2002 (Sherie Adams)
Lexington, KY

This day was Sunday, our "day of rest" as we continued to spend the weekend in Lexington, Kentucky. I stayed with Morgan at the Mortenson's. They had two children who were competitive Irish dancers, ages 8 and 10. They were adorable and spent a good portion of our day dancing for us. We shared and compared dances. They were so cute!

We attended church at 9am and found Jonathan, Britney, Alicia, Jacob, Trevor, Ben, John Noll, and several others. Our group was split between 3 wards. The presiding member of the bishopric said he was a little nervous when he saw all the blue suit coats sitting in the front rows...until he realized who we were! The

building was really cold, and in the Relief Society Room they had little blankets for us! What a fabulous idea! I think everyone took the chance to have a nap.

Jessie said that the missionaries ate at her host family's house for dinner. One missionary was questioning her about our clothes always matching. When she said we all wore the same clothes every day, he responded, "Whoa, that's hard core, I don't think I could do that." Notice a discrepancy? She said, "You do that every day too." His reply? "Yeah, but that's different!"

Our fireside rehearsal still seemed a little rough but, the actual fireside went great! We did find two members missing—Trevor and Willis were visiting with an old mission companion of Willis'. Joseph, Brad, Celeste, and Keenan spoke, and Kenneth gave our scripture at the end. Each of them did such a good job and really brought the spirit in. Kudos to them. All the music went really well too—you'd have never known we hardly had any practice on the numbers.

The most memorable moment of the evening actually came when the high counselor, Tom Blodgett, who was presiding at the meeting, got up to introduce us. He mentioned that the young man staying with them had asked to go for a Sunday walk and if there were any good places to walk around. Brother Blodgett was confused and said the neighborhood was just fine. Then this young man clarified that he actually wanted directions to the house where one of the young ladies in our group was staying. Even though he was dating someone else, he still wanted to get to know her. Obviously the audience really enjoyed that story, and the team was all left wondering who it was. Ed voiced our question and low and behold, Joseph Andersen stood up! We all should have known. As he was the first speaker, he had a moment to speak in self defense. Instead he turned around and asked Emilee to stand up (she's the one he visited) and said, "Look at her. Any guy would be crazy not to want to get to know her better!"

Not surprisingly, Emilee was a little red, but she's so cute when she's embarrassed that it just made her all the more adorable!

That pretty much covers the day. I have to tell everyone they did a fabulous job on our first fireside! Yay! Go us!

Monday, July 8, 2002 (Ben White)
Huntington, WV

We met at the Stake Center in Lexington with the boys finally busting out the Frisbee and throwing it across the parking lot. Nestled next to the University of Kentucky, Lexington is truly a beautiful place. Most everyone got an opportunity to try the most divine ice cream in Kentucky, Graeters! Benny and John's host dad brought us four pint sized jugs to taste from. Only 21 grams of fat per fourth of a pint....a moment on the lips, a lifetime on the hips!

We had a great 4 hour drive to West Virginia for our next performance. The Monday after the Sabbath is always a fresh day for us dancers. Truly, the 7th day is divinely appointed for REST!

We arrived in downtown Huntington only to find that our stage was on the third floor of the town hall, complete with an elevator that had "mega hud syndrome." That means it was way slow. This made loading and unloading a beast. While everyone else was setting up, our veteran Katie and rookie Gregg went to do a radio interview at WRCP with the former mayor of Huntington. Basically it went well except for this bit about Marshall beating BYU in a bowl game. How can you brag about your school when your mascot is the "Thundering Herd?"

For dinner and a little sightseeing we went to The Heritage Farm which was a "historic-type log home museum-type place." It had quite a collection of "old school" stuff, such as a variety of cars from different time periods, and lots of different inventions from the last two centuries. Our slightly overzealous tour

guide happened to mention that the most important invention was the pony express and others that led to the telegraph. Contrary to what he might think, I think the printing press was much more significant.

We also had dinner there. It consisted of the chili hot dogs that are famous around these parts complete with all the trimmings. There were missionaries there, too, and Benny even found one that he had taught in the MTC over a year ago!!

Katie Strong and Nate Moller started their squirt gun war... and best of all there was a psycho player piano, Professor Pueblo pontificated, perchance petrified p-p-p-p...never mind!

Our show was on a pretty small stage with the dressing rooms upstairs--complete with steamy, hot "stink" emanating from them. Each trip to these "sauna-type" rooms saw the temperature rise a few degrees higher...aagh! Despite a somewhat tame crowd, the performance was full of energy and "pizzazz." Some of the comments after the show included a 7 or 8 year old little boy who said, "I didn't know what to expect, but it was better than I thought." And then there was Bouba's experience with an older lady who grabbed him, and hugged and kissed him repeatedly because that was the only way she could really express how much she had enjoyed the show.

Finally there was the "ultimate intimidator of missionaries"... the girl who during a conversation with a missionary, (the one Benny taught at the MTC), reaches over and wipes something off his lip. Innocent enough? Well, not if you haven't touched a girl in many moons--let alone one two inches from your face who begins touching your face. YIKES! Guys, just think back to how weird it was to hug girls again after your mission....nice but sort of wacky. Good job Jessie!

Tuesday, July 9, 2002 (Andrea DeYoung)
Huntington, WV-Washington, DC

Rise and Shine for a long bus ride to D.C., including a little Indiana Jones and the Empire Strikes back for your entertainment pleasures. Eat, sleep, and eat surprises from host families, and sleep, and movies, and sleep, and use the loo. The bus loo is out of order because the back seat is too high on toxic fumes; those passengers are now transferring to the front of the bus for revival of life.

Upon arriving to D.C, Clay became our tour director and led our attention to the important sites of the back roads. We were going in circles for many minutes (we even crossed the bridge to "no no land" for Mormon kids to see.) We arrived at the Hard Rock Café in one piece, ready for some hard rock music videos and realllly nice waitresses. With the group options of Caesar salad, pork burger, hamburger, cheeseburger, turkey sandwich, Cajun chicken, veggie burger, or a house salad, all the needs of the group were met. Dinner was topped off with huge chocolate cookies, favored by some more than others. After a few pictures, rock n' roll shots and a dance in the rain we were back onto the bus to go to Maryland for a great night in our hotel.

We unloaded and had a great devotional in Ed's room. Some washed their smelly clothes, soon destined to reach the dump. Some talked to boys who were part of a football camp and encouraged them to go to BYU. We explained how neat it was even for those not of our faith. Others traded rooms for fear of lung disease from a one night stay in a smoky room. And still others "short-sheeted" their buddies in hopes of a good laugh at bed time.

Wednesday, July 10, 2002 (Nathan Moller)
Washington, DC

We're in Washington D.C.!! We stayed at a pretty nice hotel last night after driving to see the temple and some of the sights. Some of us woke up early this morning to go to the temple: Clay, Jon, Ben, Gregg and

Nate. It was a very beautiful temple and a special experience. Later in the day Ed, Vickie, Nate Olsen, Celeste, and Doug also went to a session. While in the temple, I spent some time thinking about the Law of Consecration. I really feel that as ambassadors of the Church we are sharing ourselves, our time, and our talents for the building of the Kingdom of God on the earth and for the establishment of Zion. Later in the morning, we all met at about and went to the metro. We got our tickets and headed out in small groups for Washington D.C.

The group I was in included Clay, who served his mission in D.C., Jon "The Boss" Gibson, his sister-in-law Brittney, Ben, and his future wife Keenan. We went all over the city, starting at the Arlington Cemetery where we arrived just in time to see the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was really interesting how precise they were--kind of like Folk Dancing!

After seeing the Changing of the Guard and more of the cemetery, we headed to Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Wall, Washington Monument, the White House, the National Art Museum, and a historical museum where there was the Hope diamond with 45 karats. (I'm sure Becky would like something like that someday!! Ha Ha!) We took a lot of pictures and had a good time, although the walk was quite long and tiring. We were all happy Clay knew his way around--it saved us a lot of time. Before returning to meet the rest of the group, we went to the Cheesecake Factory. It was the best--really filling--and they had a list of about 50 different kinds of Cheesecake to choose from. I definitely recommend it.

Some of the other groups did different things. One of the favorite things to see by some was the Holocaust Museum. *Men in Black II* was a disappointment to those who saw it. Kenneth reported that his group could hardly stay awake. I also heard later in Virginia, when we got to our hotel, that some of the team went running for who knows what reasons. Whitney was being chased by a dog and was forced to break into a sprint, jump a fence, cross a small stream, and then avoid on-coming traffic. In the process she sprained her ankle. She was really fortunate to escape alive!! After the long day, some of us got in the hotel pool and relaxed a little while others talked to their "boys" or "girls" on the phone. Washington D.C. was a neat place to visit, and I'm glad we had the time to see it.

Thursday, July 11, 2002 (Whitney Busath)
Richmond, VA

So, much to my dismay, I woke up this morning in Richmond with a chubby ankle, twice as big as its partner. This was from my run-in with a manhole the night before when a group of us went running. We set off bright and early, armed with our goody bags that the Young Women of Richmond had kindly given us the night before, and took a tour of the historic city. Before we started our tour, our sponsors gave the boys Virginia key chains, and the girls received pineapple magnets, a symbol of Virginian hospitality.

We drove down Monument Avenue and saw the building that Thomas Jefferson designed. Yeah, I can't remember much of what we learned this morning. Unfortunately, some of us didn't stay awake for the tour. Whoops.

After our tour, a group of us were dropped off at the University of Richmond to do a workshop for the dancers who were attending the Governor's School. This was a summer school program for select students in the state. We taught the eager dancers an Israeli dance, a Bulgarian dance, and our new favorite dance from India. They had a great time. We met up with the rest of the group at the cafeteria and had a scrumptious lunch with a few of the dancers who took a liking to a few of our guys. There's nothing like high school girls falling all over you, eh guys?

After lunch, we drove to the venue at Dogwood Dell. This was our "miracle day." The members of two stakes had fasted for two days so that we could have bearable weather to perform in. It turned out to be a beautiful and mild day, perfect for an outdoor show. Also, when we showed up at Dogwood Dell, the stage was already set up with a Marley floor because of the last minute change of the ballet company that was supposed to be performing that night instead of us. We were very blessed. The techies from Richmond

were very helpful. We had to be careful what we asked for because anything we said we needed, they just made it for us in their shop. Oh yeah, and we had a steamer in the dressing room that we were able to use for our costumes. It doesn't get any better than that.

We also had a TV news taping at 4:00 after load-in for the local evening news that night. It was...good...I guess--perfect execution. We did the Hungarian Suite for the taping. Anything bad that could happen, you name it and it happened. Jessie's heel fell off her boot, Katie's skirt fell off, and sticks were flying and dropping...not our best work. Sorry Ed.

Then we had dinner on the lawn provided by our lovely sponsors. We had yummy chicken salad, rolls and grapes. Dinner was concluded with a little water balloon fight, and the bubbles provided on our tables were thick in the air.

After dinner, the guys took off for their usual game of Ultimate Frisbee and the girls had a dance party in the dressing room with special guests Kenneth, Clay, Brad, Masaki, Nate Olsen, and even Vickie! We totally pumped ourselves up for the show. Good times.

The band was able to have a show of their own before our normal program. They did so well and were totally fun to watch. What a talented group of musicians. Nate and Jonathon even got to get in on the action with a great rendition of "Orange Blossom Special." Our show went very well and we had a great audience. All the kids from the Governor's School showed up the moment before the show started and made the already crowded audience completely packed. The amphitheater was supposed to hold 2,400 people... yeah, there were like over 5,000 people there. This was a very noisy and appreciative audience and their cheers definitely helped out performance. After striking the set, we went home with our host families as usual. I'd have to say, this was one of my favorite days on tour.

Friday, July 12, 2002 (Penny Taylor)
Kinston, NC

I don't know about anyone else, but I really didn't want to get up this morning...I was so tired!!!! But being the little trouper I am I got up with everyone else. We had a little bit of a bus ride as we headed to Kinston, North Carolina. Our venue was a fairly nice sized theatre with a fairly good stage, but very little backstage space. A bunch of us and all the props were in a room on the side of the stage, and everyone else split themselves up in the absolutely tiny dressing rooms.

After setting up some of the tech, most of us headed out to a hotel where the Kinston Stake Youth Conference was being held. I didn't really know what to expect when we got there, whether or not the kids would even want to talk to us or not. But we all mingled with the kids as soon as we entered and they responded very well.

Before long we had all the kids on their feet and organized into squares. Alicia and I joined together to help out one of the groups. There were two Polynesian girls that were really enthusiastic and laughed a lot at themselves, which made me laugh too. They did great with Cumberland Square, though we all had ample opportunity to laugh at each other.

After we finished with that, Lindsay taught how to do the Cha-Cha slide. I just have to say that this dance is the most hilarious, dorky thing ever. We actually had a lot of fun with it. I thought it was interesting to note that some of the girls in the crowd absolutely refused to do the cha-cha part. I guess it was just because they felt uncomfortable using their hips. Whatever!??

After the dancing we had all the kids sit down as we organized our dating panel. Lane, Lisa, Jacob, Alicia, Willis, Nate M. and Nicole were selected. We had some pretty interesting, and some pretty hilarious stories, including one involving the word "crotch" by Willis our very own EFY counselor of the year. I think that most of the kids enjoyed it; some parts were slow for them but the ones around me were pretty

attentive, and I, at least, hope that they were able to take something away from it. We had to go to our venue after that so without much adieu we left and headed back to the theatre.

After some prep work for the show we headed for the local stake center where they had an entire pig cooking for us. Needless to say Cat and I were a little green about the whole ordeal, but I think that it was a really nice gesture, and I wish I liked it so that I could have taken part of it. The rest of the group thought that it was fantastic, and the other parts of the dinner was really good...

Our show went really well. I didn't hear of any major mishaps and we were all having a really good time. Our audience was mostly a lot of elderly people so they didn't make a ton of noise. But, I think the energy was high despite that fact. I went out into the audience during Rendezvous and an elderly guy had me climb all the way into his row so he could give me a hug...it was precious. After the show, among everyone who told me how much they enjoyed it was a lady who came up to me and said, "This show is the best kept secret in Kinston." I thought it was an incredibly sweet compliment to our team, because...well...we are awesome!!!

Saturday, July 13, 2002 (David Springer)
Goldsboro, NC

"The compliment can, the compliment can, lets all play with the compliment can. With songs, and stories, and someone's left hand, doo ta doo ta doo doo, it's the compliment can!"

The usual morning silence was filled with boisterous singing as compliments were passed out to deserving individuals. The compliments ranged from "booty-licious Armenian dancer" to the great sounds of our band. One scandalous individual even called Nate "pretty." Wow! And let's not forget about our favorite techies! The grand winner of the day was Masaki, who not only pulled off five compliments, but also was awarded with the "spirit stick" for his hard work and positive attitude.

First stop--Goldsboro Stake Youth Conference. We were met by 150 youth wondering what folk dance was, and if they would enjoy it. We quickly resolved their doubts with a rowdy "North Carolina" version of Cumberland Square, followed by a ruckus rendition of Bhangara. Everyone enjoyed the dancing and got excited for our show.

After the dancing, we once again had a dating panel formed by some of the dancers and musicians. The panel answered questions about dating and told humorous stories about their dating experiences. Amongst the favorites were Joseph's story of milking the goats, and Keenan's "flat tire" date. Joseph also managed to drop the S-bomb word (sexy), not once, but twice! Shame on you Joseph!

We then shared a lunch with the kids, and had time to socialize and get to know each other. We had a fun time and now have quite a loyal fan club in Goldsboro. We even had four guys hide on the bus to come with us. However, Jon Wood announced that all "stowaways" would promptly be put to work unloading the truck.

After a record-setting unload, we were hauled off to the Golden Corral. In order to take advantage of the buffet, Willis, Masaki and I decided to have a "who-can-eat-the-most" competition. One hour and four HEAPING plates later, a draw was called as the competitors were forced to get on the bus. However, determined to prove whose stomach was bigger, Willis and I began eating any food left on the bus as Masaki finished chewing his steak. I sense a rematch coming on.

As Willis, Masaki and I stuffed our faces; the rest of the team played the "roll on a fork" game, which has become a folk dance tradition passed to us from our neighbors in Drummondville. (Director's Note: Actually we learned this game in Europe over 20 year's ago. It is older than you know!) The way the game is played is that someone starts with a roll on a fork and they take it to the person of their choice. They must kiss the person they give it to, and that person in turn will give the roll to someone else,

delivered with a kiss. The game continues until everyone gets tired and goes home. The game had two highlights this afternoon. First, as Lisa went to kiss Brent on the cheek, Brent turned his head and made straight lip-to-lip contact! Perfect execution Brent! The second highlight was Lane's kiss. Prior to kissing Morgan on the cheek, he dipped his lips in whipped cream. That made for a "sweet" kiss that everyone enjoyed (especially Morgan – ooh la la!).

The show that night was awesome! All of the kids from youth conference were there which livened up the audience considerably. A number didn't pass that the kids weren't "hoopin' and hollerin'" at the top of their lungs. The youth of Goldsboro rock! Some of our favorite fans were Tanner and his sisters, Lindsay and Chelsea. They've hung out with us as much as possible and we've developed quite a close friendship. Tanner is determined to become a BYU Folk Dancer, so everyone keep your eyes open for him in about three years.

Sunday, July 14, 2002 (Tiffani Bishop)
Goldsboro, NC

Today was a very restful day. It was Sunday so, of course, we didn't have any shows. We were all able to go to church and spend the day with our host families. At 6:00 pm we had our fireside for the Goldsboro Stake, our favorite fans. The lucky speakers were Trevor, Lane, Jessie, Penny and Masaki. The Goldsboro members were as receptive to our fireside as they had been for our show. This was also the place where we had helped the kids with Youth Conference, so the kids were really excited to see us again.

After the fireside, about five host families got together and they all had a party. A few of our band members were there and they had a very memorable jam session. The rest of us went home and had a nice, relaxing evening with our hosts. Many yummy North Carolina Sunday dinners were served, and many naps were taken!

Monday, July 15, 2002 (Jonathan Gibson)
Raleigh, NC

Well, Monday began our last week of tour! We met at the Stake Center at 8:00 when we began our day. We drove to a place not far which was called Chapel Hill or "Chapo Heeo" as our old host Dad called it. He had a pretty thick accent. In Chapel Hill we had two shows, one matinee and one night show. As soon as we got there we unloaded and set up as usual. We got pizza before the first show which was pretty nice of Jonathan Wood. A bunch of us went out as soon afterwards to go and play Ultimate Frisbee. It was really hot and humid and all of us came in disgustingly sweaty. I, of course, was the most disgusting. We did have barely enough time to take a shower in the locker room.

The first show was a little rough. I slid on my coffee grinders and it was so funny that I could barely finish them. Most were laughing pretty hard. (Some of the guys were pulling pants down in Hopak so that I had a few more feet of material to deal with when I did the trick step.) The whole show was filled with pranks and such. Ed started this trend with squirting people from off stage with a squirt gun. (Directors Note: It was never established for sure that the director was even involved. I, for one, don't believe he would ever do something of this nature.) Cat and Britney Wood dressed up while we were singing *Sto mi e milo*. They were both dressed in Russian, and Cat had a hat and mustache. It was pretty funny. As Clay and Travis were pulling out the sawhorse, it snagged the curtain and pulled it all the way in front of the band. Josh and Whitney did great on their 10 count turn! (They told me to put that in.) The show was about half filled with kids under 5 years old, and seniors over 65.

The second show was a little better. (Director's Note: The second show was a lot better.)

We all went home to host families. I went with Joseph, Masaki, and Bouba to a host Dad whose wife

wasn't home. We all helped wash all the dishes, (he made us), and we refilled the dishwasher, (he made us), and we packed our own lunches, (he made us). He was a great guy though.

Tuesday, July 16, 2002 (Brad Parker)
Newport News, VA

Oh, baby...was today fun!!! We departed from Raleigh for Newport News where we did our evening show. We all hopped on the bus ready for some serious naptime, only to be pleased with the announcement that there were several people who were going to give their presentations. Yeah!!! We were all so excited. Along the way we got to stop off in Williamsburg for a tour of the old city. It was rainy today. Oh wait-- what I thought was rain was actually sweat dripping down every ones faces due to humidity and heat.

At the show we ate at a really nice church where they fed us authentic style pizza. We ate with gorgeous silverware. The question soon became, "Who actually does have a set of silverware so large?" We ended dinner blowing bubbles all over the gym and covering everyone in a soapy covering. OOH! So hot!!

Our show was rather interesting. We were graced by Andor Czompo, an expert in Hungarian dance. I think his favorite part of the show would be watching Jon Gibson do his gypsy solo with his pants outside of his boots. He looked like a cute little jazz dancer. Whoever said Jon has attitude was quite mistaken. There also was an acapella portion of Keltatak and a certain Cat running off stage when her song was supposed to start. Overall, the day was great, the weather was hot, and the dancing was fabulous.

Wednesday, July 17, 2002 (Morgan Busath)
Fayetteville, NC

Today started out at 8:00am at the Stake Center in Newport News, Virginia, followed by a 4-hour bus ride to Fayetteville, North Carolina. On the bus ride, we were entertained by "Remember the Titans," as well as the activities committee and their usual awards. We had quite the scare when Ivan our bus driver decided he wanted to play a funny joke on us. He said that there had been a reoccurring problem on the bus and he had talked to Jon Wood about it, and now he was going to talk to us. So Jonathan gets on the microphone and kindly tells us that he is a little embarrassed that this problem had even come up. Then all of the sudden, he busts out with his oh so funny "the horse and the bar" joke. I have to admit that it was a very good prank Ivan pulled.

We also took some time to clean out the bus because it was so full of old food and trash. I think it would be accurate to say that we pretty much filled up a dumpster with all of the garbage bags.

We got to the venue and did our set up and blocking. The show was at the Crown Coliseum Auditorium. Ed met with us to discuss after tour business. Besides that, most people hung around doing nothing. The boys played Ultimate Frisbee, and a few of the girls came up with a new hairstyle featuring bottles under their hair topped off with a lovely red ribbon. They resembled something like a cone head. It was precious! Our show went reasonably well, and Ed said that it was the best first half that we have done yet, as far as dancing, lighting, sound, etc., all combined.

We had a lot of people that we met in Goldsboro come to the show again because they liked it so much the first time. There have been a lot of neat stories. So many families have been touched by the show and the example set by certain dancers. It's nice to hear those sorts of things--a wonderful testimony to the fact that what we are doing really makes a difference.

Tiffani Bishop had a visitor from Goldsboro as well, a young man by the name of Alan. He got her cell phone number from a previous host family and called it about three times. Then he showed up at the show tonight. I'm pretty sure she was excited.

After the show, we got to leave our costumes hanging so they could air out. The mixture of sweat soaked costumes stuffed into a hot truck in this southern humidity is not pleasant. Hanging them out was our attempt to remedy that.

We then all went home with host families, except for one group, who ended up at a home with no one there. Jon and Britney Wood were the chaperones for that group of girls. There was also another unique group that consisted of 4 guys and 2 girls. That was a little bit of a shock, but a lot of fun. Overall, it has been, for the most part, a typical day on tour. But it was very fun, as always!

Thursday, July 18, 2002 (Celeste Nebeker)
Hickory, NC

There is much from this day that I want to know...
Please, your patience show.
How did a kid like Tanner get to be so great?
And what more did we all do than reciprocate?!
His letter to all of us was so cool
Really made us feel like Heavenly Father's tool.

Within an hour,
The bus ride turned sour
As we pulled up to the auditorium in Fayetteville
How could someone so greedily steal?
The truck windows were broken,
And the evil thereof made us feel outspoken
But we had to reluctantly leave Scott and Karen,
Out the windows we were all sadly staring...

But soon enough we heard funny stuff
That caused more than Brent and Clay to hoot and huff.
We smiled and laughed like we'd all been drinking
To think of all that mischievous Cat was thinking
We suppose it was to keep it from stinking,
When in Emily's bag she zipped a big cockroach...
Then we heard the next hilarious poach.

Kenneth, we all wonder how much practice it took
To become our own "Annie" sing-along coach!
Many complained, but were really entertained
And later, for Punjab's moves, many strained.

While waiting for our truck to get fixed
Lisa, Jessie and company tore it up with aerobics
And boys (with Marsha too) played Frisbee for kicks.

A couple of hours later the truck came – that's Scotty Power!
And we all set up for the show, even used racks in the shower.
Oh, and, by the way, Jon and Britney thanks so much for the flowers!

The show itself went well, so say the masses
But backstage was better especially with big googly glasses.
And Joe, inconceivable Joe, exposed quite a bit more than his eyelashes.
And a few other things happened, I'm not fibbin'
Like how uncharacteristically Katie lost apron and ribbon,
And what was it that made the audience keep snippin'
And laughing at Gypsy Boss Gibson?

Way to go Dave, for finishing a book like during other shows
You do your job like nobody knows-
Even got all your lighting cues – hey do you take “No Doze?”

Kenneth had another teenage fan club, no new news...
But the girl who sold the pen you used,
She, she is the one you should choose!!

For kinda scary BIG red lips, God's gift to women, no happenstance,
For many a dramatic feather boa dance.
I pronounce you, the team, infamous band and even Ed,
All as Annie so beautifully said,
“The best thing [ever] since sliced bread.”

So here's this poem – wish I'd had more time to work
But hopefully you've all at least been able to smirk.
One last thing – Probert and I won't shirk
We'll end up merry and dancing in American Fork.
(Sorry Josh, I just can't do Scipio)

Friday, July 19, 2002 (Nicole DeYoung)
Ashville, North Carolina

We began the day at the church where we ate dinner the evening before. Many families lived quite close, but others had to drive up to 45 minutes in order to be at the church by 8:30 am. Today was the day for the five dollar gift game, but not every one had made their purchases so we decided to wait until our two hour drive to the hotel after the show. Tiffany presented her gift this morning because she is leaving tonight. She gave Travis Batman “under-roos”. They were great (those who saw the “performance during Armenian will never be the same...thanks Travis). Lindsay Turner gave Tiffany her gift also; a pair of tiger ears from the Smithsonian.

We left the church in Hickory and began a two hour bus drive to a mall near our Ashville show. This gave many shoppers a couple of hours to purchase five dollar gifts and other last minute souvenirs for the trip home.

We arrived at the theater and prepped for our 7:30 pm show. Marking began at 4pm and dinner was around 5pm. We had a great devotional before the show and had a chance to hear from some of the departing members of the team. Afterwards “Go Ye Now in Peace” was sung by those remaining on the team to the departing ones. It was a great bonding moment as we realized the great love that exists between us all. The tears and hugs flowed freely.

The last show of the tour went pretty well. One man said to many of the performers that we “danced with angels.” It was a great ending show to a fun tour. There were again a few cameos in “Sto Mi” with the likes of Paul Springer, Lane McMahan, Joseph Andersen and others joining us onstage in authentic costuming.

After a quick striking of the set, it was off to Knoxville, TN. It was a long bus ride, but it was quite entertaining with the exchanging of the “\$5 gifts”, and another movie, Mission Impossible. We arrived at our hotel very early in the morning (around 1:30 or 2am) and it took no time to enjoy the beauty of our “Marriott.” We were all tired...and “skidadled” off to bed.

Saturday, July 20, 2002 (Kenneth Blaisdell)
Dollywood, TN (actually Pigeon Forge, TN about 35 miles from Knoxville, TN)

Hey kids, Kenneth here. After the late arrival last night, we got the big sleep in. Eleven o'clock was our departure time. Breakfast was served at ten—a luscious meal of bagels and cream cheese-yummy. So off we were to rescue our molding costumes from their prison of a bag in order to let them breathe for the day. Then after a devotional and last good-bye to Celeste and Nate Olsen, we were off at last: the trek to Dollywood.

The road was long with many a winding turn, but we made it—past Sevierville (the birthplace of Dolly Parton, January 19, 1946), and Pigeon Forge, hung a left onto Dollywood Lane and we were there. So our trusty Jonathon Wood went and got us a deal on a group discount while we took group pictures and frolicked in the warm Tennessee air.

The entrance was through the Dollywood Emporium and we all checked out the merchandise while following our tour guide Katie Strong to the Tennessee Tornado, the infamous rollercoaster. Through a brief closure of the water rides due to poor weather and possible lightening storm, and a hearty meal of funnel cakes and chicken strips; our afternoon continued to wet and wild times. Who can forget Ed, Vickie, Britney, and Jon “kicking the trash” out of the other group on the water slide race, or the girls khaki capris being entirely soaked!

Other highlights were the bumper car rally with Ed, Jon and Britney getting bumped by every one of the kids, Joseph Andersen's brown leather cowboy hat, Katie Strong's grandma joining us in the afternoon, and the largest log flume ride in the United States. So for seven incredible hours we skipped around in Dolly's romping grounds with fun, water, games, food, and more water. Towards the end, everyone was found in the emporium purchasing their precious baubles of Dolly bliss: a Dolly mug for Shane Wright, Dollywood and Smoky Mountain patches for our PAC bags, and other tacky memorabilia sold to us by those precious grannies ringing us up at a sweet, sweet pace.

Just before the ol' Coach USA pulled out of our hallowed wood'o'Dolly, the Frisbee was lost atop a building—what a fitting end to the “ultimate Frisbee,” losing it the second to last day of tour. Meanwhile back at the bat cave, Ed was getting hugs from all of his soaking wet kids who loved sharing their misery. We got everyone loaded up, even Secily and Lisa who were the stragglers of the shop-o-rama, and headed off to dine at the local Cracker Barrel.

Fine dining and good times were to be had, just as in the book, *French Lessons*, from which I periodically have shared selected readings on the bus. We then took the fun outside to the porch to rock on the rocking chairs as a team. So leave we did, with beautiful serenades from the newly acquired harmonicas, till we arrived back at the sweet, sweet Marriott.

After arriving, we headed up to Karen and Scott Horman's room for a bit of the old devotional. While waiting for the festivities to begin we decided to see how many would fit in their bathroom. 33 of us made it inside, with 12 people actually filling the bathtub. (Director's Note: This group is crazier than I ever expected!) We then joined the rest of the gang and lent Lindsay Turner an ear for a thought and prayer. Afterwards, we gave Nathan Moller his final farewell and split for the night.

As Lindsay shared with us this evening, and similar to what a man said in Hendersonville, we have danced with the angels—we need to remember what has happened here. This has been three weeks of beautiful shows and neat experiences. I want all of you to know that I really love you and know that the work we

have done has changed lives. This really was a unique tour. We have already done the Olympics this year—and had our share of each other—but we pulled together for nearly a month of smooth sailing....on buses. (It was actually three weeks on the bus, and with not too bad of an attitude.) You know there was a higher power with us. Thanks for sharing your light with me.

Sunday, July 21, 2002 (Keenan Christensen)
Knoxville, TN-Provo, UT

A restful night's sleep at the Marriott Hotel in Knoxville made for a great start on the Sabbath. We were served a great bagel breakfast and then joined together for Relief Society and Priesthood. The women discussed the third member of the Godhead and the men discussed fatherhood. We all then met for Sacrament meeting which was held in a small conference room in the hotel. Scott Horman conducted the meeting and many were able to share their testimonies. The spirit is always so strong when this group gets together, and our church meetings today were no exception.

After our short meetings we loaded the bus (for the last time) and were off to the airport. We thanked our great bus driver, Ivan, and gave him some gifts. The flight to Atlanta, GA was short. Most everyone ate during the layover and before we knew it we were again on the plane and headed to SLC. The flight showed "John Q" and most of us watched it with no sound! We were served a "dinner snack" of salad, cookies, cheese and crackers - yum! :) After the movie was over many in our group of folk dancers got restless and were up and moving around. There was plenty of signing programs and journals--all were getting their last laughs and fun. Everyone is ready to see loved ones with the girls touching-up their make-up, and all are excited.

Finally, the plane landed -- we were all at the back of the plane, but we exited quickly and had many sweet reunions! Happy day! Some went home with loved ones, and the rest jumped on another bus for the Richard's Building and BYU. The last memory made on the bus was a great, last singing of the turtle song!

Thank you everyone, for a great tour with lots of laughs, boo's, and great shows.

FROM OUR DIRECTOR:

At the end of a season of performance and touring, it is always amazing to think of and remember all of the the hard work and achievements of the Performing Arts Company. The International Folk Dance Ensemble is always fortunate to have students who not only can sing and dance, but who also truly consecrate their talents, unselfishly, for the building of the kingdom. This year, 2001-2002, has been no exception.

Thanks to all of you who found ways to assist and support the faculty, and your fellow students during the year. With the 2002 Winter Olympic Games held in Salt Lake City, each of us had to stretch and lengthen our stride. And each of you certainly did! What a marvelous experience we had as we put ourselves literally under the direction of our beloved Prophet, and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. We learned patience, and how to willingly submit ourselves to another's will. We learned the meaning of enduring to the end. We learned of the love and blessings that come into our lives when we use our faith to follow our leaders. And we learned that some of the best friends that we will ever have are right here within this group.

This year, each of you literally performed for millions of people, including a prophet of God, even Gordon B. Hinckley, the entire Quorum of Twelve Apostles, and the President of the United States, George W. Bush. Your live audience during the opening ceremonies was filled with national and foreign dignitaries, and included some of the most famous people in the world. It was the direct fulfillment of prophecy:

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s House shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.”
(Isaiah 2:2)

We sang with the Tabernacle Choir, (I sang “in” the Tabernacle Choir), and you were premiere cast members of an historic artistic endeavor, the first of its kind to be produced by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – *Light of the World*.

Because of this year's activities, and the many opportunities which were opened to us, we will never be the same. We should give thanks each day of our lives for this exciting time in which we live. Let us remember who we are, and why we have received so many opportunities. Let us strive each day to be worthy of our blessings and give all credit for what we have achieved to our loving Creator. And let us continue to work hard, and share our talents unselfishly.

This summer's tour was wonderful – a perfect ending to an incredible year. It would not have been the same without our tour leaders: my beloved wife, Vickie, Scott and Karen Horman, and Jon and Britney Wood. And my deepest thanks goes to my student managers Josh Probert and Alicia Davis for their much appreciated insight -- and also to my student assistant, Jacob Davis for his tireless work – and once again to each of you.

May the Lord bless you as you each pursue your dreams. Stay true to our Savior in all that you do.

Warmly,

Edwin G. Austin, Jr.
Artistic Director

LETTERS RECEIVED

July 6, 2002

Re: Performance by International Folk Dance Ensemble in Independence, MO

Please accept our heartiest commendations extended to your fine group for an outstanding and remarkable performance in the Community of Christ Auditorium in Independence, MO, on July 4, 2002.

We have never been out of the US but have witnessed over the past 10 years performances at Silver Dollar City (Branson, MO) during their International Music Festival in which they bring in musicians and dancers from many other countries. Your group performed each country's dance every bit as well as the natives plus going on to the next country's reflection with hardly a moment for the dancers to change costumes and catch their breath. Absolutely incredible!

We were in complete awe during the entire evening at the professionalism, the enthusiasm, the costumes, the music, the steps. This performance was such that the spectacular fireworks display immediately following paled by comparison to the energy we were fortunate enough to witness on stage.

Thank you so much for sharing this group with us.

Enthusiastically yours,

J. Howard Kim

July 2002

The BYU International Folkdance Ensemble came to Huntington, WV and they were wonderful! I just wanted to thank them for how they conducted themselves and for the wonderful show they put on for the people here. It was a truly memorable event. The people here take pride in their mountain heritage, the music and all that embodies early American life. The program that the Folkdance Ensemble brought here will be long remembered. Thank you again!

Sincerely,

Beth Edmunds
Huntington, WV

July 16, 2002

Thank you for providing such wonderful entertainment. I'm still tapping my feet from last night's show.

I work with a non-profit organization that builds understanding of different cultures and we are planning a festival for 2003.

I think it would be marvelous for our city to experience the energy and beauty of the ensemble. How much would it cost us to try to get the Living Legends or International Ensemble to participate in our festival? Who do we contact? What are we required to do?

Fiorella Guerra
Cary II Ward
Raleigh, North Carolina

July 19, 2002

Hello from Newport News, Virginia -

My family and I were privileged to see the "Reflections" performance of your International Folk Dance Ensemble this last Tuesday night, here in Newport News. I cannot come up with enough superlatives to describe what a great show it was!

As a recreational folk dancer and a member of a Polish dance performance group out here, I understand the work that goes into achieving that sort of skill level. They were sharp, crisp, athletic and expressive. But more importantly to me, these young people were having fun up there dancing! One of my friends compared them to the "Tammies," a group from a college in Pennsylvania, but she said, "These kids are enjoying themselves!"

Thank you for supporting such a great program, and for sending them out our way! If they ever come back, we will be first in line.

Sincerely,

Ben L. Allbrandt
Newport News, VA

July 22, 2002

Dear Brother Blazer:

I want to take a moment to thank the BYU International Folk Dancers for the wonderful service they performed for our community.

From the time I placed a call to Jonathan Wood things started to fall in place. Jonathan was in Richmond on the day of our stake public relations committee meeting and was able to attend. He helped us with a vision of what the BYU International Folk Dancers could bring to our community.

We took this vision and were able to open many doors that until now had been closed to the Church in this community. The main reason was that the City of Richmond officials we contacted had seen the opening ceremonies of the Salt Lake Olympics and were so impressed with the BYU dancers.

We did not want this to be another performance in a high school auditorium with mostly members and a few friends. We wanted to share this performance and talents with the Richmond community. Dogwood Dell, an open theatre in a park was our first choice of venue, but it was already scheduled for the 11th of July. When the Dogwood Dell management saw the promotional materials and realized what an opportunity was theirs, they agreed to move the Richmond Ballet to another night.

Jonathan Wood had told us that dancers could do a workshop on the morning of the 11th. Someone in our group was aware that the Virginia State Residential Governor's School for the Humanities was being held at the University of Richmond. They were contacted and enthusiastically agreed to a workshop with the BYU International Folk Dancers.

The events in place, we did our part along with the City of Richmond to promote this evening in the community. The event was free to the audience. The cost was covered by donations from members. The rest was up to the BYU International Folk Dancers and the weather.

The first resounding success was at the University of Richmond Governor's School workshop. Ed Austin and the BYU Folk Dancers were fabulous with the students. From all reports they and the Governor's School students reached a level of excellence and participation that was enthralling to all those who participated and observed.

For the performance at Dogwood Dell, the weather could not have been more perfect. It was the coolest night in July in 39 years. By the end of the performance the temperature was 55 degrees.

Just before the performance the Dogwood Dell management estimated the crowd at 4,500 (maybe 2,000 were members from the two Richmond Stakes). Then 20 buses arrived with the students from the Governor's School. By the time the performance began there were over 5,000 people in attendance.

The BYU International Folk Dancers put on a spectacular performance. Many members and nonmembers voiced these same impressions. The quality of the dancing was as good as any Broadway performance I have attended. Attendees gave especially glowing comparisons to the "River Dance" numbers.

The magnificent quality of the dancing and the beautiful costume were overshadowed by the spirit and message of international brotherhood. I believe every person in the audience sensed the character of those young men and women. The audience's hearts and spirits were touched; their lives were changed for the better because of that special night.

I was so touched by what the BYU International Folk Dancers had brought to our community that I asked to speak to them the next morning as they were getting ready to depart. As I watched them perform and observed the reaction of the audience the night before, a scripture kept coming to mind; D&C 1:30 "—have power to lay the foundation of this church, and to bring it forth out of obscurity and out of darkness, the only true and living church upon the whole face of the earth.—"

Seeds were planted in the hearts of the people of this community that will bring forth fruits for this Church for years to come.

Thank you for all you do for us and may the Lord bless you.

President Frank E. Ramsey

Sunday, July 21, 2002

Dear Jonathan,

I hope you are well and have had a wonderful trip. Your group was awesome! You exceeded our highest expectations. To be the most well attended event on the Festival of Arts calendar on your first visit was phenomenal and I would guess less than one-third were LDS. The few missionaries that were in attendance told me that they were thanked for the performance many times as people left the Dell. I think a lot of factors of course played a part in the tremendous attendance one of those had to be your excellent press materials. The city featured you on all their spots and articles because they had those beautiful pictures etc to give to everyone. I am sorry to say my eyesight was so poor and being seated in the back that I didn't recognize you on the violin. I was amazed!!!! At the time I thought where did they get another fiddle player that good. I have watched performing arts most of my life.

I was called to community relations immediately before this opportunity to have the International Folk Dancers come up. I had previous connections with folk at the Dell and Governor's school.

1. As soon as Dogwood Dell was mentioned at the regional public affairs meeting I knew that was where we needed to be. When I contacted them they were booked for the entire summer. They called back within twenty-four hours and said, "if we can move the Richmond Concert Ballet do you still want the Dell?" OF COURSE! (Instant non Mormon audience, no cost facility, piggyback existing publicity) YES OF COURSE with an attempt to curb my excitement realizing too we had a wonderful gift for our city.

2. The Richmond Ballet would be putting down a special dance stage for their performance the following night any other night during the summer would not have that necessary dance surface.

3. The weather in Virginia is usually unbearable, hot and humid in the summertime with many thunderstorms. Both Stakes were encouraged to fast and pray on July 7th for good weather. The temperature dropped to a 39 year low the night of the performance and humidity dropped. It had been in the mid to upper 90's the week before and rose up again the following week.

4. I contacted the State Department of Education concerning the Governor's School for the Gifted in Humanities. Yes it was going to be held in Richmond. Yes it was in session on July 11th. Yes they thought it was a wonderful idea to do a workshop there. They sent a note of Intro. To their director and they contacted me. I thought, once I get this set up I will contact U of R about the possibility of the University feeding them lunch because the lady I was working with from the church had a lot of stress and I wanted to alleviate some of it. The University of Richmond's Governor's school invited BYU to lunch the first time they communicated before I could even mention the idea. I thought I will invite the governor's school to attend the performance at the Dell and that will give us at least 500 non-members. When I invited them they informed me that they already had it on the agenda.

5. I contacted a Ward's Young Women about doing some hostess bags. One of the young women that took on the project happened to have a mother who runs a professional bakery. She makes wonderful cookies for the group and the other Young Women Co-Chairman provided snack goodies from her dad's business for the bags. The Prairie Grain Delivery van delivered those to the hotel. (Cost 0) I certainly was not aware of those connections when I asked a very busy Young Woman's President.

6. The chairman of this event resigned with just a couple of weeks to go. Very sick father followed by his death. She did not have a committee of any kind so it necessitated calling upon my friends because it was too late for committees. The First Counselor in the Stake Presidency's wife volunteers to take care of the housing - she is very successful.

7. I contacted the singles ward concerning the evening meal at the park. A new RS president with catering and entertaining experience had just been called. She checked the site tackled the job and did a great job. The Young PH in the ward were able to handle tables and chairs easily.

8. Senator Henry Marsh who wanted to speak to the crowd arrived at the Dell after the Emcee was already on stage. Thanks to a very fast missionary standing guard and a former assistant to Governor Gilmore, Denise Burch, he was escorted onto the stage without missing a beat.

9. The sound was excellent! Very few planes or any interference. Very unusual!

10. We ask a very busy Inner City Branch President about how to print posters and handbills. He volunteers to do all 1500+ flyers without cost.

11. President Ramsey gives a very special spiritual sendoff to group (unplanned).

12. Richmond Virginia Stake graciously fills in the necessary holes in our plans. They were wonderful to work with.

These are just a few of the little miracles that I am aware of. I wish I could share with you the many beautiful words of appreciation that I have heard from so many. I could not repeat them as well.

Thank you does not seem to be adequate but we appreciate immensely such excellence and tremendous effort. The students were so beautiful and great to all of us.

Sincerely,

Amy Fisher

July 22, 2002

Dear Dance Ensemble:

On behalf of the Kinston North Carolina Stake, I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful evening of entertainment that was presented Friday, July 12, 2002 at the Kinston High School Performing Arts Center in Kinston, North Carolina.

The performers touched our lives with dance and song and allowed us to feel free from the cares of the world for a few hours. Everyone who attended was touched by the performance. The host families were deeply touched by the kindness, energy and the strength of their testimonies.

The Dance Ensemble ventured to our youth conference for a 2-hour workshop of dance followed by a dating panel to answer questions from our youth. That unique experience made many of our youth feel good about their membership and increased their desire to follow the gospel plan. The members of this group have wonderful testimonies that shine in the way they live their lives. Jonathan, Ed and Scott were very accommodating and considerate. We enjoyed their presence very much.

The only regret we have is that the Performing Arts Center was not filled to capacity. About 200 of our members were at Youth Conference and only about 600 people were in attendance at the evening performance.

I hope that the members of the Ensemble enjoyed eastern North Carolina barbecue. No one seemed to be sick from our "pig pickin'" specialty.

Thank you for sharing this talented group with our members and their friends. It was an evening not to be forgotten.

Bruce L. Reese
2nd Counselor, Kinston North Carolina Stake

July 22, 2002

Dear Jonathon and Britney:

I would like to thank both of you for the wonderful spirit you carry and for the marvelous performance we experienced last Friday night. I appreciate you being able to work the Kinston North Carolina Stake in to your busy schedule. I hope your stay with us was as enjoyable as our being around you.

The young men and young women at Youth Conference were influenced the way I hoped that they would. You and your team demonstrated how the gospel can be a positive way to live. It was a wonderful gift of

spirit and love that each team member portrayed. Yesterday at church, the comments from both the youth and the adults were totally uplifting.

I think that several members of the stake are going to Raleigh and Fayetteville to see your performance. Many of the members went to the fireside at Goldsboro on Sunday, July 14th. We just cannot get enough of the "Utah" experience in the south. Thanks again for the chance.

Who ended up with the tobacco leaf, or did it end its sojourn in a trash can? I hope no one got a rash from a tobacco allergy. I expect that the pig pickin' was a unique experience for members of the ensemble.

Again, thank you so much for all you did to bring such a wonderful opportunity to eastern North Carolina. I hope that we will have another opportunity in the future to visit with you.

Faithfully yours,

Bruce L. Reese
2nd Counselor, Kinston North Carolina

Ed,

Would you please read the following letter to the group for me? You have done an awesome job in teaching the dances to them. The show was so great. I'm glad you guys came to teach us those dances. It was great how we and the dancers bonded! Thanks so much again!

Sincerely,

Tanner Jackson
Goldsboro, NC

To the BYU Dancers, Band, and Technical Crew,

I personally want to thank each one of you! Thanks for coming to our Youth Conference this year! That, to me, was the highlight of the whole conference. Thanks for taking the time away from your families to do this. You guys have really touched me in a way that I can't describe! Of course that is a good thing, so thanks a lot for that. I want you guys to know that it has been a dream or goal of mine to become a BYU dancer. I hope that when I do, I will see the majority of you in the audience, at some time, somewhere! You guys are so cool. I am really looking forward to our next meeting! I hope you never forget me because I know I will always remember you. Please keep in touch! I'll leave my email address on this letter, so if you want it, just ask to see it. It's amazing how close we have become in such a short time. That is just awesome! Good luck to everyone in everything you do!

Sincerely,

Tanner Jackson
Goldsboro, NC
tanner_jackson@excite.com

August 4, 2002

Dear Brother Austin:

Before much more time passes I wanted to write to thank you and the entire BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble for the wonderful performance you presented to the members of our community. So many good things have come to us because of it. We are still reaping applause from members and non-members.

I am sure your group realizes the positive impact they have on people. If they don't, then please thank them all for making this a very enjoyable evening. The goodness of the gospel showed in all their faces. After the performance once gentleman told me, "Your church does so many things the right way. Everything you do is first rate. The world could learn from you." Our city mayor told me during the break that he didn't know exactly what to expect before he came. He told me that he and his wife feel this was one of the most enjoyable evenings they have had in months.

Please share with Vickie how nice it was to see her again. What a pleasure it was having you stay with us in our home. Would u please convey my appreciation to President Barrington for allowing your group to return so soon? I hope it doesn't take another tragedy to get you back soon. Keep us in your planning and if we can get a return engagement let us know. God Bless and thank you again.

Sincerely,

A. Lyle Hughes
Stake President, Newport News Virginia Stake

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Songs of the Bus

<p><i>The Compliment Can</i></p> <p>The compliment can The compliment can Let's all play with The compliment can With the songs and the stories And someone's left hand Doo doo doo doo doo doo It's the compliment can</p>	<p><i>The Love Machine Can</i></p> <p>The love machine can The love machine can Everybody's getting' some Whenever they can With hugs and kisses And an expensive wedding band Doo doo doo doo doo doo It's the love machine can</p>
<p><i>The Back of the Bus Rocks</i></p> <p>The back of the bus rocks The back of the bus rocks We all think the back of the bus rocks With (name) and (name) And all their best buds Doo doo doo doo doo doo The back of the bus rocks</p>	<p><i>The Turtle Song</i></p> <p>I had a little turtle, his name was Tiny Tim I put him in the bathtub, to see if he could swim He drank up all the water, he ate up all the soap And now he's sick in bed, With bubbles in his throat. Bubble bubble bubble Bubble bubble bubble Bubble bubble bubble Bubble bubble POP!</p>





