

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

Brigham Young University

Newsletter Fall 1991

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

We invite you to unwrap this Christmas season with *Christmas Around the World: The Celebrated Story*. This year's concert falls on December 6th and 7th, Friday and Saturday respectively, and promises to be another great show. Special guests this year include Jaap Leegwater, prominent Bulgarian choreographer and musician, and the Zivio Ethnic Arts Ensemble.

Tickets go on sale Monday, November 11th at the Marriott Center Ticket Office. We've again reserved a block of preferred seats for our alumni for the Saturday show only. You may obtain tickets at the Ticket Office by calling 378-BYUI (or call toll free from Salt Lake at 1-800-322-BYUI). You must order your tickets by November 22nd to reserve a seat in this special section. Please be sure to identify yourself as a Folk Dance alumnus and mention this letter or bring it with you when ordering.

After the show Saturday we will have a reception for the alumni in the Cougar Room (on the Ticket Office level). We saw many new faces last year and hope to see you again along with more "old" faces. If you haven't attended the concert in a while, we're sure you'll love the new look of Christmas Around the World.

Remember to order your tickets by November 22nd!

SPRING AND SUMMER '91

The Performing Arts Company presented a successful and well-received program last March as they traveled through Nevada and Southern California. We appreciated those of you who supported us by attending one of our shows.

Later in May the group flew back to Binghamton, New York to perform in the Two Rivers Ethnic Festival for the 5th consecutive year. This trip is always a highlight of the students as they are treated like royalty. The group's participation is now seeing the fruits of their labors as the church begins to gain acceptance from the people of central New York.

Spring Performing Arts Company

Spring PAC was a huge success during their four week tour of Utah and Salt Lake Valley Elementary schools and Junior Highs. The group was directed by faculty member, Colleen Anderson. She was assisted by students Mark Jensen and Blain Empey. They presented 72 programs and firesides in the four week tour.

Summer Tour

The American Folk Dance Ensemble spent 5 1/2 weeks in Southern Europe at festivals in Marseille, France; Nice, France; and Porto, Portugal with some

concert shows in Spain and Portugal. It was a rigorous trip -- very hot and grueling schedule -- but a very successful and satisfying trip for all involved. The group received great support from area mission presidents and, in turn, the group touched the hearts of many, thus greatly aiding the missionary efforts in those areas. In one particular instance the missionaries in Gouvea, Portugal got 24 referrals and 26 baptisms after the Folk Dancer's performance -- more than they'd had in the Gouvea area. We are grateful for good students who so ably represent the Folk Dancers (all of you) the University and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Delynn Peay, Assistant Director, took the group this summer.

World Folk Fest

Ed Austin, Artistic Director, took the summer off, but not really as he put together a group that participated for the first time in the Springville, Utah World Folk Fest. What a delightful experience that was for all involved. These students did an outstanding job in performance and friendship. They also taught the Polish-Canadians the finer things in life (as how to TP the director's house). They learned their lessons well -- we have pictures to prove it.

FALL

This fall semester proves to be no less hectic or challenging as the students started out with Pre-School Workshop the last week of August. The 1991-92 Performing Arts Company was chosen from this experience. The group is relatively new after a large turn-over but they are a dedicated and hardworking group.

By the time Christmas Around the World arrives they will have had a great deal of experience.

They've already completed a successful week of World of Dance, the last week of September, as well as a performance at the Promised Valley Playhouse on October 4th. On October 12th the entire club presented a half-time show at the BYU Homecoming game. It was a great success. BYU also won the game.

Viltis Party

November 2nd will find the group in Denver, Colorado performing at the Houston Fine Arts Center, Corkin Theater. This performance is sponsored by Vyts Beliajus in conjunction with his Viltis 47th Anniversary celebration.

All in all it will be a very busy, yet fulfilling, year.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TOUR

The winter 1992 semester tour will be presented in Northern California, March 13th - 21st. A detailed agenda will be published in the Winter 1992 edition of the Newsletter.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks for those of you who have given to the Mary Bee Jensen Endowment this past year. We appreciate your support and ask for your continued assistance. We were excited to be able to help five students this year. The students picked to receive the 1991-92 awards are wonderful and we'll let you know more about them in the Winter edition. Two were funded through the Mary Bee Jensen Endowment and three came from monies being set aside from Christmas Around the World.

The two Mary Bee Jensen awardees are Tamara Marshall and Tucker Johnson. They received full tuition for the 1991-92 year. We were also able to award three students with a new award developed in our division, entitled "Excellence in Folk Arts." These recipients are Angela Pace McIntire, Becky Leigh and Denise Rader Johnson.

Tuition continues to rise and costs are going up. The more our alumni will give, the more students we can help. Please give generously.

Please send your contribution to:

*Mary Bee Jensen Endowment
Int'l Folk Dance Ensemble
290 RB
Brigham Young University
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Continue to keep us updated on your whereabouts -- don't become a "lost soul." We hope to see many of you at Christmas Around the World! Don't forget to get your tickets early. See you there!

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