

BYU GROUP ENCOUNTERS UNREST IN INDONESIA

by Ed Austin

This article first appeared in NFO News, July 1998

This summer, students with Brigham Young University's Folk Dance Ensemble faced some unexpected experiences while in Asia.

The group's first destination was Jakarta, Indonesia where the Asian financial crisis has hit particularly hard. We arrived on a Wednesday, May 13th, just one day before student protests turned into rioting and over 500 people died by arson fire. Fortunately, the students were never in any danger as we were able to gather at a hideaway hotel in Bogor, about 45 miles outside of Jakarta.

Myself and Scott Horman, another leader, stayed in Jakarta to review venue sites for the coming week, and saw some of the destruction first-hand. We knew we were near the unrest when we went up on the roof where we were staying, and observed smoke ascending from every direction. We later learned that we were only 1½ miles from the center of the riots. As we left the city early Friday morning to

rejoin our group, we zigzagged through burning cars, smoldering toll booths, and people rummaging through the previous night's destruction, while tanks and truckloads of armed soldiers entered the city. By this time, of course, all previous plans and performances had been canceled.

On Saturday, "official Americans" were evacuated from Jakarta, but the BYU group was advised by embassy officials to wait for a Monday departure. Instead, our group performed that evening for hotel guests including expatriates and ethnic Chinese who were leaving homes and businesses for a safer place. The music and dance was a perfect way to ease, at least for the moment, the anxiety felt by all. Helicopters continued to land in the middle of the night to evacuate private businessmen wishing to leave. During this time we were in contact with colleagues and families at home in the U.S., and in constant consultation with the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta.

Although there was a time when our transportation to the airport seemed impossible to obtain, by early Monday morning, all arrangements had been confirmed, the unrest had

momentarily subsided, and the airport was once again functioning more normally. We quickly, quietly, traveled to the airport with no incident, performed some spontaneous songs and dances for weary families waiting to leave the country, and departed Indonesia with conflicting feelings and emotions – and a genuine sigh of relief. There was never any evidence of violence directed towards Americans during the crisis. One simply had to avoid being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

During the next three weeks, in addition to performing, the group traveled through the jungles of Thailand riding on elephants; enjoyed lychee fruit (and rambutan), dragon fruit (red pitaya), and a dozen other exotic foods; fought off dehydration, cockroaches and mosquitos; and explored the Cu Chi tunnels used by the Viet Cong near Ho Chi Minh City – but that's another story . . .

(In August, the folk dancers spent 3 weeks in the People's Republic of China. But that's also another story . . .)



through April 19th, 1999. Jeanette Geslison is the coordinator and Amy and Kyley Jex are the directors of this wonderful program. If you have children in grades 3-12, consider this unique opportunity.

Call Karen Pingel at BYU Conferences and Workshops, 1-801-378-4854, for more information.

Scholarship Recipients

*Congratulations to each of our
scholarship recipients in 1998-1999.*

MARY BEE JENSEN ENDOWMENT

Mike Brown
Amy Pinegar

EXCELLENCE IN FOLK ARTS

Clayton Dorny
Anne McNally

VILTIS

Katie Strong
Greg Tucker

HARMON SCHOLARSHIP

Kamae Bradburn
Jeff Dunster
Matthew Gamette

Folk Dance for Youth

The Folk Dance For Youth program will be held January 4th

1999 N.F.O. Conference Hosted by BYU by Vonnie Brown

The National Folk Organization of the U.S.A. will hold its annual conference January 21-24, 1999, in Provo, Utah.

The conference begins on Thursday evening with an international folk dance party hosted by over 200 students at Brigham Young University with various dance leaders from across the nation. On Friday and Saturday, sessions will focus on (1) official business meetings; (2) presentations and panel discussions relative to recreational and performing folk dance, music, folk traditions, and folk festivals (CIOFF and IOV); (3) workshops in folk dance; and (4) a performance by the Brigham Young University Folk Dance Ensemble with special guest performances by Darena (a women's Balkan choir), Eastern Arts, and Narodna - with an opportunity for NFO'ers and all performers to mingle afterwards.

Sandwiched between all of this will be the usual networking, good camaraderie (and world-class downhill skiing for those who choose to come early or stay longer). The conference ends Sunday morning after the NFO annual planning meeting.

Everyone, whether an NFO member or not, is invited to attend. A mailing with the registration form will be sent to all NFO members and former conference participants sometime this fall. You may request a registration form or further information by contacting Vonnie R. Brown, NFO vice president, 1717 Applewood Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808. Tel-Fax: 504/766-8750 (area code may change to 225); e-mail: duward@prodigy.net

SPRING PERFORMING

ARTS COMPANY

Scheduling for the Spring Performing Arts Company is once again underway.

They will be presenting an educational showcase for elementary schools during the month of May. There is no better multi-cultural program to bring to your elementary school. If you and your children's school are interested in booking this entertaining and educational folk dance program, contact Colleen Anderson, 1-801-378-3104.

Costumes for Sale

The following costumes are currently available for purchase:

Polish

14 Red-striped pants w/sash
6 W skirt, aprons, blouses, vests
10 W black lace-up boots
14 M black vests

Lithuanian

9 W skirts, vests, blouses, headpieces
10 M pants, vests, belts

Hungarian

6 M grey vests
9 M grey wool pants w/black trim
28 M white pants w/black trim

Mexican

27 M black boots

Western/U.S.A.

10 W black, sequined, long-sleeved jackets
10 M black/red/white shirts
12 M white w/red yoke shirts
12 W white/blue bandana clog dresses
12 M white/blue bandana clog shirts
14 M black w/white trim shirts

For further information, please contact Colleen Anderson at (801) 378-3104.

Resources

New Books

Recreational Folk Dance by Susanne Davis and Colleen Anderson contains 42 popular folk dances. This book is the current syllabus for our beginning folk dance classes. Folk dance teachers will get excited about the many dance briefs and other folk commentaries included in this book. For more information contact Susanne Davis at (801) 378-5301, susanne_davis@byu.edu

Cultures and Styling in Folk Dance, by Sanna Longden and Phyllis Weikart has recently been released. Written for schoolteachers, as well as a companion to Phyllis Weikart's other books, it is useful for anyone who teaches folk dance. Excellent cultural background information, styling, traditional music, and many photos are included. Contact Sanna Longden for orders and further information, (847) 328-7793, or sannamars@aol.com

New Videos

Andor Czompo has produced a video, "Hungarian Recreational Folk Dances," that includes most of his popular dances such as Tuberósza, Somogyi Karikázó, Oláhos, and 16 others. The dances are beautifully demonstrated by members of the Timar Hungarian Folk Dance Ensemble in Budapest, Hungary. Contact Professor Czompo



at (757) 258-0466, aczompo@aol.com

Alumni Directory Update

We continue to update the folk dance alumni directory. By the time 1999 rolls around we would love to have it as correct and up-to-date as possible. (Would you all please stop moving!) If you have any changes in your address or phone number, or have any information about one of our "lost souls", please send your information to Vickie Austin, 259 RB-BYU, Provo, UT 84602. And don't forget to include *e-mail addresses*. Thanks to those who have kept us informed. You have been a great help.

Here is our current "lost" list:

Richard Anderson T67
Robert C. Anderson
Marcie Nash Arter T72 Germany
Douglas Barker T70

Angus Barnes T79
Paul Beck
Robin Mercer Beck
Mark Bennett T83
Larry Bickmore T72-YU
David Bingham T72-YU
Charles (Chuck) N Blake T76
William A Bond T71
Glen Boulter
Norm & Cyndi Pullins Brower T78
Gaye Brown T82
Barry Bullock
Del Cabe T83
Clayton Chamberlain T89-Japan
Manuel & Patricia Chavez T80-Japan
Greg Duerden T71
Robert Erickson T72-Germany
George Estacapio T72-Germany
Tiana Fatutalie T78
Allen Glander T83
Lowell & Yvonne Murray Glenn
Jacques Gohier T72-Germany
Roni Hammond T72-Germany & YU
Laurie Jordan Hansen
Robert Hawker T72
Susie Hinson Howard T64
Elwyn Norman Hull
David Jensen
Lorna Johnston
Dean Kerr T71
Mark Brian Larsen
Donald C. Lee T64
Doug Lee
Joan Larsen Lunt T71

Lani Henderson Lynch
Matthew Maclean
Marilyn Blauer Mann
Jay Martin
Andy Martinez
Kathryn Maxfield T95
Rena McDaniel
Beth Rains McGowen
Randy Moe
Steve Murdock T71
Erik Neilson
Kirk Nielsen T77
Kim & Geri Nielson T68
Chris Nokleby
Mary Ann Miller Pearson T73
Jack Peterson T71
Brad Powell T75
Cynthia Roberts T80
Shane Rosenberg
Justin Rucker
Tadd Schwendiman T87
John Seymour T68
Jack Spencer T72 Germany, T76
Yayoi Matsuoka Swapp T80
Troy Taylor T89-Japan
Ben & Rachel Tolman Terry T95
Ryan Thornton
Elizabeth Wright Turner
Michael Van Slooten T77
Ralph Wahlquist T71
Matthew Webster
Dwan & Liz Bowers Wride