

Performance Tours 2010

International Folk Dance Ensemble



Table of Contents

Personnel List	5
Mid-Semester Tour (Colorado)	7
St. George Performance	21
Pre-Tour Show (Heritage School)	23
Nauvoo	27

**International Folk Dance Ensemble
Personnel List
2010**

Single Women

1. Nikki Adams (trainer)
2. Emily Bills
3. Sally Boyle
4. Angie Bush
5. Emily Carpenter
6. Ashlee Carroll (band)
7. Courtney Carter
8. Brittany Christensen
9. Emily Dance
10. Jarelle Fuller
11. Alina Geslison (band)
12. Katie Harmon
13. Tesha Jones
14. McKenzie Morrill
15. Nabby Parkinson Foulk (band)
16. Erin Patterson (band)
17. Cindy Swenson

Single Men

1. Cameron Foulk (tech)
2. Bryce Gandy
3. Brandon Gassaway
4. Jeremy Gohier
5. Scott Johnson
6. Justin Kelly
7. Tim Krumweide (band)
8. Dylan Maltby
9. Scott McDermott
10. Javier Misiego (band)
11. Jesse Morris (tech)
12. Ryan Nickerson (band)
13. Josh Park
14. Greg Rawlings
15. Mike Romney
16. Mike Steele

Married Couples

1. Amy and Colin Slade
2. Brian and Lindsey Watson

Tour Leaders

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Ed Austin – Artistic Director | (Midsemester, Nauvoo) |
| 2. Mark Ohran – Technical Director | (Midsemester, Nauvoo) |
| 3. Jonathon Wood - Tour Manager | (Midsemester only) |



Mid-Semester Tour

Colorado, Feb-Mar 2010





Performing Arts Management

Oliver House • Provo, UT 84602-8500 • (801) 422-3576 • Fax: (801) 422-0546 • Email: perform@byu.edu

FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE ITINERARY COLORADO FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 6, 2010

Thursday, February 25

Mark will depart for Fort Collins – with Jesse, Colin, Amy, and Brian

Friday, February 26

Fort Collins, CO

515mi/8hr20min

4:45 am Bus arrives at RB
 5:00 am Meet and load bus at north doors of RB – breakfast provided - *muffins, fruit, juice*
 Bus departs for Fort Collins, Colorado
12:00 pm Lunch stop in Laramie, WY – provided by PAM enroute
 1:30 pm Load in at the venue – **417 W. Magnolia Fort Collins, CO 80521**
5:30 pm Performance – Lincoln Center (1 hour performance) – capacity 1180
6:30 pm Dinner – Jimmy Johns Sandwiches

7:30 pm Performance – Lincoln Center (1 hour performance)
 8:30 pm Group to hotel for the night – *Bus required*
 Exceptions: Slades, Watsons, and Jeremy Gohier staying at Colin's house

Group Hotel for the night

Comfort Inn
 601 SW Frontage Rd.
 Fort Collins, CO 80524
 (970)407-0100

Presenter Lincoln Center, City of Fort Collins
 Contact Susan Herlihy
 Email sherlihy@fcgov.com

Saturday, February 27 Fort Collins, CO

12:00 pm Lunch – provided by PAM
 1:00 pm Group arrive at the venue - **417 W. Magnolia Fort Collins, CO 80521**
3:00 pm Performance – Lincoln Center (1 hour performance)
4:30 pm Dinner – Country Buffet
7:30 pm Performance – Lincoln Center (1 hour performance)
 8:30 pm Strike and load the truck

Return to Group Hotel for the night

Sunday, February 28 Longmont, CO 38.7mi/1hr 5min

8:30 am Attend church with the Parkwood Ward (Colin’s ward)
Provide musical number in Sacrament Meeting
 PM Lunch – at the Slade home
 Depart for Longmont
6:00 pm Fireside with Longmont Stake at Stake Center
 7:30 pm Students home with host families for the night/Leaders to hotel

Monday, March 1 Longmont, CO

7:30 am Group meets the bus at the Stake Center
 8:00 am Arrive at Twin Peaks Charter Academy for set-up (15 minute drive)
340 South Sunset St, Longmont 80501
8:30 am Assembly K-5 (30 minutes)
 10:00 am Arrive at Central Elementary for set-up – **1020 4th Avenue, Longmont 80501** (5min)
10:30 am Assembly Grades 3-5 (45 minutes)
 11:30 am Lunch – provided by the elementary school
Afternoon Free

 6:00 pm Dinner – Provided by the Twin Peaks Singles Ward at the Longmont Stake Center
7:00 pm FHE with Twin Peaks Single Ward
 8:00 pm Host families arrive to pick students up/Leaders go to hotel for the night

Tuesday, March 2 Longmont, CO

12:00 pm Lunch – provided by PAM
 1:00 pm Load in to the venue – **600 East Mountain Avenue Longmont, CO 80501**
 4:00 pm Dinner provided by Longmont Colorado Stake at the stake center
7:00 pm Performance – Vance Brand Civic Auditorium (1377 seats)
 9:00 pm Strike and load the truck
 10:00 pm Home with host families for the night/Leaders to hotel

Presenter Longmont Colorado Stake
 Contact Robert Auman
 Phone B: 303-823-0327
 H: 303-746-0663

Wednesday, March 3

Denver, CO

35.2mi/1hr

8:00 am Load bus at Longmont Stake Center. Depart for Denver
1721 Red Cloud Road, Longmont 80501
Stop at the Denver Colorado Temple grounds (25-30min from University)

12:00 pm Lunch –

1:00 pm Load in at the venue

4:30 pm Dinner – provided by presenter at venue

7:30 pm Performance-Colorado Heights University (957 seats)

9:00 pm Strike and load the truck

10:00 pm Students home with host families/Leaders to hotel

Presenter Denver Alumni Chapter

Thursday, March 4

Alamosa, CO

235mi/4h

8:15 am Host families bring students to Parker Chapel to load the bus

8:30 am Depart for Alamosa

12:00 pm Lunch – provided by previous night's host

1:00 pm Load in at the venue
Adams State College

4:00 pm Dinner – provided by presenter

6:30 pm Doors open

7:00 pm Performance- Plachy Hall, Adams State College

8:30 pm Strike and load the truck

9:30 pm Students home with host families/Leaders to hotel

Presenter Alamosa and Manassa Stakes

Contact Ross Coombs

Phone C: (719)850-3552

Friday, March 5

Pueblo, CO

122mi/3hr

7:30 am Host families bring students to Alamosa Stake Center to load bus
927 Weber Drive, Alamosa CO 81101

7:45 am Depart for Pueblo

10:45 am Load-in at the venue
East High School

12:00 pm Lunch – provided by previous night's host

12:30 pm Assembly for the High School (in the auditorium)—pending
Continue to load-in after the assembly

4:00 pm Dinner – provided by presenter at the Outlook Building

7:00 pm Performance – East High School (950 seats)

8:30 pm Strike and load the truck

9:30 pm Students home with host families/Leaders to hotel

Presenter Pueblo Colorado Stake

Contact Kevin Klemm

Phone 719-547-4107

Saturday, March 6 Delta 217mi/4hr

35min

8:15 am Load bus at Pueblo Stake Center
4720 Surfwood Lane, Pueblo CO 81005

8:30 am Depart for Delta

12:00 pm Lunch – provided by previous night’s host

1:00 pm Load in at the venue

4:00 pm Dinner – Provided by presenter

7:00 pm Performance-Delta Performing Arts Center (680 seats)
822 Grand Avenue, Delta CO 81416

8:30 pm Strike and load the truck

9:30 pm Students home with host families/Leaders to hotel

Presenter Montrose Colorado Stake
 Contact Dan Jester
 Phone B: 970/275-5189
 H: 970/249-5775
 Email brotherjester@hotmail.com

Sunday, March 7 Provo 280mi/6hr

30min

8:30 am Meet at Delta Chapel and depart for Provo
1679 Pioneer Road
Delta, CO 81416

9:00 am Attend Sacrament Meeting

4:00 pm Arrive in RB

Friday, Feb. 26, 2010
Greg Rawlings & Angie Bush

It was the best of times; it was the worst of times... and by that we mean we were leaving for mid-semester tour!! ... at 5 A.M. The whole group met at the RB and loaded the bus in the wee hours of the morning. The young Ambassadors were also leaving on tour. They looked at us with jealousy 'cuz we had a brand new bus and Frank the amazing Le Bus driver extraordinaire. We anxiously boarded the bus and, in anticipation of touring Colorado, we all slept for 2 hours. We woke up to the sun blazing through the windows and the sweet aroma of freshly baked, pre-packaged Costco muffins ... and Topica. We munched on our yummy breakfast as we enjoyed our first scripture study, word of the day (perfidy!), and clip of the day. Courtney & Jeremy led our discussion about leading as Christ led. Another highlight was Tim stuffing an entire muffin in his mouth. Wow.

After being spiritually uplifted, we had a pit stop at Little America. Then it was more driving until we stopped in Laramie for lunch. We all scattered with our funds to find some grub. We played cards, watched movies, and played the ever popular M.A.S.H. on our way to Fort Collins. We arrived at the Lincoln Center to find Mark, Colin, Amy, Brian, and Lindsay working hard having set up almost the entire theater with the local crew. Lovely.

We performed two one-hour shows sponsored by the Lincoln Center and the City of Fort Collins. They were meant for families, so lots of kids were in the audience. The first show went pretty well, but we lacked in energy a bit. Shua made it extra special as he almost sailed off the stage into the audience. It's a good thing Greg never did because he couldn't see – having left his contacts on the bus. Needless to say, the show was still well received. Then we had 30 seconds to eat our Jimmie John sandwiches and get ready for the next show. The second show was better and Ed was much pleased.

We all rejoiced because we didn't have to strike the set. So, we cooled-down and hung up our costumes. On the bus, Ed made rooming assignments for the Comfy Comfort Inn. Among his assigning, he informed Angie and Brandon that they would be rooming together. As Ed realized what he had done, Dylan added, "If Brandon gets Angie, then I get Tesha." Awkward.

Back at the hotel, everyone couldn't get to the pool fast enough. We spelled the alphabet with our bodies as we jumped in the pool. We kept ourselves entertained flipping, diving, talking, and taking pictures with Shua's underwater camera. Showers and off to bed.

Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010 - Fort Collins, CO
Cindy Swenson & Joshua Park
Performing in the Lincoln Center

Hello, this is tour history.

After a lovely morning (that happened to be the only morning that we got to sleep in on tour up to this point) of eating delicious continental breakfast and Ed crushing our hopes and dreams by jokingly telling us that Fruit Loops cause cancer... we boarded Le Bus and left the hotel for lunch!

John then in his infinite kindness and power distributed money to us lowly dancers in order to go to the restaurant of our choice. There were many individual adventures during lunch time, including Josh and Justin getting some outstandingly comfy Nepalese pajamas at a shop, Brittany and some others finding a statue doing the Bali-wood mirror dance move, and others finding extraordinary treats at the Mongolian grill, Irish Pub (Restaurant), Gelato Shop, and other unknown endeavors.

After lunch we departed from the main street with all the shops and food places, and proceeded to travel an exceeding distance (two blocks) to our venue at the Lincoln Center. We performed a short one-hour show there which went rather smoothly (a few specifics may be attached at the end in our exciting story section...) and then we left for the Country Buffet!!! ...where we enjoyed a vast array of food including chocolate milk, enjoyed by most... Except for Justin, who experienced a perfidious act. Tesha Jones had 'enhanced' the flavor of Justin's chocolate milk with copious amounts of Salt, Pepper, and Tabasco Sauce. This, he enjoyed immensely... I think.

After dinner we returned to the venue and notwithstanding our pressurized abdomens, performed one of the best shows up to that point, ever. We then struck the set, loaded the truck, and left for our last night in the Comfort Inn.

Right when we arrived at the hotel John and Ed graciously allotted us two minutes to take our stuff to our room before we began the most delightful marathon of choir practice, which lasted just long enough for us to master our fireside numbers as well as drive a good number of the team insane with the wiggles (for the pool and other exciting activities awaited...). Over all, and in all seriousness, a lot was accomplished, everyone sounded beautiful, and everyone survived with little or no injury.

Then many of the group went to the pool for more underwater picture fun, and other aquatic acrobatics, and others relaxed in various places throughout the hotel until bedtime. This for some was a bit later than for others...

The End

Fun Stories and Quotes of the Day!!!

- 1) Out of nowhere, John Wood stands up on the bus and proceeds to make us think that he is going to give some sort of important announcement, but to our astonishment asks the question: "...Greg, are you and Sally dating? If not, then why not?" ... The bus erupted in both gasps and uncontrolled laughter. This is something that we had all wondered for quite some time... we love you Greg and Sally!!! :P
- 2) Apparently... and unbeknownst to us at the time, there was an adjacent theater next to ours where another performance was taking place. Well, we were told there was a show there and that we were not to go through the doors to the other stage so we wouldn't disrupt it. The part that was unbeknownst to us was that it was some sort of nude (or nyood if you like) show and they were really just afraid of us going over there on accident and getting traumatized for life...

- 3) (Our personal favorite) In Balle Balle, Cindy has a tendency of looking away when she is supposed to push Josh's face to the side. This particular time, she managed to slap him sufficiently and then poke his eye out! ...apparently, she loves to be very real with her acting skills on stage. After large amounts of apology and regret, she was very relieved when Josh made the statement: "I enjoy being slapped around by Cindy... is that a bad thing?" We will leave you to decide the answer to that.

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2010

Nabby Parkinson and Cameron Foulk

We all woke up to the sound of a phone ringing at 5 AM. We all went back to bed at 5:01 AM, annoyed at the mysteriously scheduled hotel wake-up call. Several hours later, we gathered to go to church with the Parkwood Colorado ward at 8:30 AM. Priesthood and Relief Society were held first, in which the Relief Society teacher used the Folk Dance Ensemble as a metaphor for life. Colin's mother gave an insightful lesson during Sunday School, and in Sacrament Meeting Colin himself was able to inspire us about the light we can share with others. Also in that meeting was a baby blessing, confirmation, and the farewell of Jake Ward, a former BYU folk dancer (for a semester, at least).

For the special musical number, we were all able to share our talents by singing *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* accompanied by Sally Boyle (piano), Cindy Swenson (flute), Ashlee Carroll (violin), and directed by Brian Watson.

Hungry and exhausted, we traveled to the Slade home for lunch. On the way, we sang several versions of Happy Birthday to Scott McDermott a.k.a. "Stumps." The lunch provided by Sis. Slade was incredibly delicious. It included fruit salads, shredded beef burritos, cookies, peanut butter squares, and muddy buddies galore. After stuffing our faces, we practiced our musical songs for the fireside that evening, then retired to card games, ping pong, serenading, and "groggy" naps.

We reluctantly left the Slade home to travel to Longmont, Colorado. Here we quickly prepared for the fireside at 6:00 PM, which was well-attended. Ed introduced the group and the theme—the love of Christ. We opened with *Jesus' Love is Like a River*, followed by a testimony by Brittany Christensen. The band then played *Emma's Lullaby*, followed by insightful thoughts from Tim Krumwiede and Brandon Gassaway. Next was a beautiful rendition of *I Feel My Savior's Love* by a trio of men including Javier Misiego, Colin Slade, and Mike Romney. The final testimony was shared by our trainer Nikki, and we closed the evening with *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*, and *Go Ye Now in Peace/God Be with You Till We Meet Again*.

After the fireside, we ate the refreshments while greeting the members of the Longmont stake, and met up with our assigned host families. They graciously took us to their homes, fed us, and accommodated us for a wonderful night's sleep.

Monday, March 1, 2010

Brittany Christensen & Javier Misiego

Buenos días amigos. Today was an excellent day. We first went to a *muy bueno* school called Twin Peak-os. There were a lot of *niños* in the crowd. We performed our usual *maneras*. The kids were going *locos* when we did Karickća. And we thought it was because we were *muy buenas*. But to our surprise it was because they could see under our skirts. *¡Niños malos!*

Ahem. To build on Javier's sagacious foundation documented in the previous passage: we sped to the next school, Central Elementary. We again delivered a most fabulous performance for the obstreperous crowd of 3rd-5th graders. They loved our show and we loved running from the bus-turned-changing room to the school.

Then we went to *comida*-time and we had carrots with *arroz* and *pollo*. We all ate our "food" except the *chica cala* Emily, who Jon still hasn't forgiven. We had cookies *de la fortuna*. The best *fortuna* of the day was given to *Eduardo*, a good *amigo* of mine, and it said: "Eat your fruits and vegetables so you can become healthy." *Eduardo* preferred his neighbor's fortune of becoming a millionaire.

Following the lunch experience that proved tragic for many ... from Colin and Amy's social plummet to the rice consistency ... a battle of epic proportions ensued. Justin and Katie discovered their winning competitive natures and each other's talents as they played a rousing game of tetherball. With Katie's stunning victory came a new wave of pride that only proved fatal in future perfidiously *chicamorous* matches.

Then we had *tiempo libre*. Some of us went shopping in *las Tiendas*. The best shopper of *il día* was Tim who retired his talking shoes for styling *neuvos* shoes. Sally also bought shoes and *un hermoso sombrero*. Emilie, Angela and McKenzie who bought matching skirts at "Navio Vieja" Then we went to see a *filmo* called "El Ladron del Relampagos."

Some were not privileged enough to understand the beautiful romance language that was "The Lightning Thief." Although Perseo turned out to be my hero, many others from the team did not like him so *mucho*.

Happenings of note in the movie theater included the expansion of the friendship club. Colin, Brian, & Justin decided to enlarge their previously exclusive club of friendships by giving rings for all members of the team. It all culminated in the bus after the movie with our director, Ed Austin, who was inducted as member #40 by reciting the secret pledge, courtesy of the clip of the day. We also celebrated Mark's birthday in the theater by giving him wings to fly, Slovakian style.

Then we went to have an FHE with the adultos solderos and it was mucho mucho fuño. We first played the game, Pioneer Trek. Oddly, I was beaten by a 7-year-old kid-o. I was very very angry-o. The next activity was drawing pictures of ourselves. Some were amazing-o and others looked like Picasso. Next we had a *baile* called La Bastringue, and the banda played it live. The moves were *extremelembent delicioso*.

We next pushed the single adult ward to the limit teaching them the "spinning-laden" Korobushka. With Brian's fingers flying across the accordion. I somehow lost my partner. But I'm not at all bitter. We finished the night with a rousing game of basketball "speed," and some lingered for an even more rousing rendition of "High on a Hill was a lonely goat-herd." After our

long day of fun, laughs and dancing, we went back to the welcoming homes of our host families to prepare for our next day of adventure.

¡Adios Amigos!

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Colin & Amy Slade

The third of March in the year of our Lord two-thousand and ten would be a day to be remembered. It would be remembered as one of beautiful weather and time spent in the company of friends. It would be remembered as a day of joy spent in the Mile High City.

We left Longmont after meeting at the stake center at 8am. Once loaded on the bus it was realized that Tesha was missing her phone. Frank, Jon, and Ed were gracious enough to take us to the elementary school around the corner where we had performed the day before to see if Tesha could find it. No luck. Back on the bus Tesha conceded defeat.

Despite the loss of Tesha's phone there was much jubilation in that Amy and Colin were finally joining the group for good. They had enjoyed their time with Colin's parents in Fort Collins, but it was time to move on—to Denver!

Denver proper is not far from Longmont, but we did have a bit more of a drive to reach Parker on Denver's southeast side. This gave us time for scripture study led by none other than Tesha, Sweet and Sours, and naps.

Our reason for going to Parker was Linda Murri, our contact with our presenter—the Denver Alumni Chapter, who lives in Parker and has a daughter attending Gold Rush Elementary School. Linda invited us to perform at the school for her daughter's third grade class. We did a shorter version of our school show for the third graders. It went well, so we were able to end our elementary shows on a good note.

Following our performance and getting everything back on the truck we had pizza at the school. We also had a little discussion on tour business and ways to speed up our strike. After lunch Amy, Scott M., and Ed left to wash our costumes that got super dirty from the previous night's show. The rest of the group left for the Denver Temple to take some quick pictures.

Our venue was the theater at Colorado Heights University. It was an older theater with a lot of passages and doors leading to more passages; some of them secret! Katie and Brittney experienced them first hand.

The Denver Alumni Chapter provided us with a Chinese dinner at the venue. We enjoyed sesame chicken, sweet and sour pork, and beef and broccoli. Those of us who were in China last summer commented on the differences between American Chinese and Chinese Chinese food. Both are favorites.

The show started at 7:30. The energy was high and we had a lot of fun. There were also plenty of flubs and mistakes to make for good sweet and sour material; namely Rapper Sword.

Once the set was struck we took off with our host families. We had a great time in Denver.

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Dylan Maltby & Ashlee Carroll

Thursday morning we woke up and met at 7:45am at the Parker Chapel, but the bus had some difficulties finding us and arrived about a half hour late. Then we began what was the longest bus ride of the tour thus far, except for the initial drive to Colorado. We ate lunch on the bus, our host families having provided sack lunches for us.

We arrived at the Plachy Hall at Adams State College in Alamosa and found that the stage we were going to be performing on was assembled in sections. It was about 4 feet off the floor and initially it was not in the right spot so all the guys crawled under it and lifted their backs in unison, then crawled to where it was supposed to be and set it back down. Because of the stage's configuration we only had one entrance on each side (a small set of stairs) so some of the entrances and exits had to be adapted to that. We were performing in a gymnasium so the lighting was also adjusted to fit the stage as well. The Giotto's were up on the balcony behind us and the other lights were rigged up on a truss lifted above the band. Before the show we did some blocking in the indoor track facility and Cindy couldn't stop looking at the attractive boys on the cross country team. After that we went to dinner at the local church where our meal was provided by our presenters: the Alamosa and Manassa stakes. They served us a delicious spread of enchiladas, lasagna, potatoes, salads, and desserts. Then we returned to Plachy Hall for the performance. On our way back Ed told us that when we returned Colin and Amy would do a quick one on stage (referring to blocking). We all got a hearty laugh out of that and it was time for the show!

The show started a little shaky. We were not used to that size of stage so some of the formations in Serbian were a little squished. We were able to fix it pretty well for the rest of the show however. The stage did bounce quite a bit, but we didn't seem to have any huge problems with it. After the show we were able to take down our things rather quickly and load them into the truck, but then as part of our contract we had to dismantle the stage and load each of the individual sections onto a separate truck since it had to be returned from where it had been rented. Then we went with our host families and prepared for the following day when we would be going to Pueblo.

Friday, March 5, 2010

Mckenzie Keene & Scott Johnson

To our dearest PAC and Band Members,

Oh what an epic day we had here in the blessed land known as Colorado. Let us begin by remembering how splendid it was that we were able to sleep in and not have to arrive at the stake center until 9:00 a.m. 'Twas indeed a sad moment when we had to leave the barren tundra of Alamosa where we had one of our most gargantuan audiences to date. As we boarded the magic school bus to escape the bone chilling wind we came to realize that the sun outside was rather meretricious.

We then were off on an interesting bus ride to the beautiful land of Pueblo. Within the first few minutes a battle ensued over who could provide Mrs. Slade with a precious band-aid for her punctured finger. Needless to say, Ms. Boyle was a little put out that she was beaten by Ms. Carroll. The movie clip of the day provided some insight into the weird quotes that some

members of our team often say, "Adventure Time, shing!" There were definitely diverse opinions about this "creepy" clip, as Justin so graciously put it.

Our daily scripture study was special because our wonderful tour leader, Jonathon Wood, led us in a discussion on the "manner of happiness" and how it is our choice to pursue it or not. He gave some amazing stories and analogies about the straight and narrow path and how the covenants we make with God are how we can achieve and live in this "manner of happiness."

Next was nap time! Shua, Justin, and Scott took up any walking space by spreading out across the aisle. This was not the best idea for Justin who had been feeling a bit queasy. After a few minutes of quiet time Justin leaned up and whispered to Courtney, "I think I am going to puke." The poor boy hobbled to the front of Le Bus and proceeded to empty "Clarence." Many believed that he was car sick, but we later discovered the ailment was much more horrific.

Do you all remember what happened next? Yes, Jon got us ice cream, just as he had promised! We walked through some frightening wind and enjoyed the ice cream and even root beer float at A&W's.

As we approached our venue, we waited patiently until we were allowed to set up. Pueblo East High School was a set up that we were not expecting. Edwin surprised us all with his mad sweeping skills and many others cleaned up the dust, feathers, and interesting costumes that were lying in shambles. Mark also faced some challenges with the set up that created adventures for those in charge of lighting. Of course, the smallest girls on the team (Sally and McKenzie) looked up at the lighting bar in fear of how to hang the pars and scrollers. Mike and Bryce came to the rescue and with other technicians stayed throughout dinner to get everything done in time.

The fabulous stake of Pueblo and Fazoli's provided us dinner at no cost to the members. It was delicious, especially the rich chocolate cake that, as Ed stated, "will cause you cancer but it is worth every bite!"

After dinner, the show began before we knew it. Nikki had rubbed more legs and arms out than ever and sadly Justin had been sleeping and throwing up all day. Needless to say, we all were excited to perform. McKenzie's ankle was gratefully feeling better, but in order to take a break Lindsey kindly worked hard to take her spot in Hungarian. So the show began! It was an adventure like always. Costume changes were, as always, a treat. Justin threw up right after "The Gathering" and ran off in the middle of "Hopak" to empty "Clarence" one more time. Brian's Hungarian apron fell off right at the beginning of the dance and Jarelle struggled to get her apron off to change into Hopak. Needless to say, she resorted to other methods to free herself of that burden. All in all, the show went great and we were exhausted by the end. We quickly took down the set and went off to our host families' houses for a wonderful evening of rest.

Saturday, March 6, 2010
Emily Carpenter & Bryce Gandy

“The end draweth nigh:” Our last full day of Mid-Semester Tour. The timeline for the day went as follows:

- As members of the Brigham Young University Folk Dance Ensemble, we met bright and early at 7:30 am at the Pueblo Stake Center.
- We then started our second longest bus trip of the tour to Delta, Colorado. Traveling through beautiful mountains and making bathroom stops at Wal-Mart, we made the most of our trip by playing games, sleeping, and watching the Bollywood version of Aladdin.
- We arrived in Delta around 1:30. Our show was in the Delta Performing Arts Center, which was attached to the Delta Middle School. We got to work on setting our stage up for our last performance of tour. It was a nice theater, but the grid system didn't lower, which made the lighting set-up take longer. Many thanks are needed for Mark Ohran, Mike Steele, Bryce Gandy, and our two techies for putting so much effort into that set-up.
- Nikki set up her massage station outside on the sidewalk, under the sun!
- Ed had a meeting to talk about future dates and encouraging us all to inform him of our future plans. There were lots of nervous dancers around Ed that night.
- Dinner was at the local chapel, where we were fed wonderfully yummy Mexican food (maybe not so good to eat before dancing). To entertain themselves, Josh taught his table to tie maraschino cherry stems into a knot with their tongues. After Javier raced and successfully beat Josh in the fastest knot tying, the whole table decided to race. Jeremy joined in and spit his knotted stem out in under 3 seconds! We made him do it again, in case he was cheating. He wasn't.
- Devotional before the show was given by McKenzie who wrote a thoughtful letter to the team about our tour experience. It's kind of sad to end tour. Can't we just tour for the rest of the semester?
- The Delta city presenter was the Montrose Colorado Stake.
- We considered the show pretty successful because Justin didn't throw up during the show. We struggled a little back stage, because the wings were so dark in between numbers that we couldn't see anything. The girls learned what the boys really do during intermission while they are frantically trying to braid and get into costume for their next number. Colin sat on the floor singing with his Hungarian boot on his head, while some other boys took turns with the automatic massager. Meanwhile, the twins barely made it on stage. The boys should learn how to braid hair.
- Tim forgot to bring his bow on stage during “Gypsy Aires,” and “picked” his part for the entire number! He would later earn the ultimate Sour for it, or should it have been the ultimate Sweet?
- After striking the set and getting the truck loaded, we met and went home with our last host families.

Hooray for Mid-Semester Tour!

Sunday, March 7, 2010
Tesha Jones & Justin Kelly

Exhausted from a week of travel and different beds every night, the BYU folk dancers awoke on the Sunday of their last day on tour. It was quite an amazing feat for those who had the ability to stay awake in church. Some arrived late and as a result everyone was scattered throughout the congregation.

It was fast and testimony meeting in the ward they attended. For some, one testimony stood out above the others. It was a young girl around the age of 12, just barley a young woman, if that. She began speaking about a sick family member who had been suffering for some time and how the pain was really great for her. The young woman spent time with this member of her family and one day told her something very significant. She explained to the one who was sick that Christ suffered for our pains so we don't have to suffer, and if she was willing to give her pain up to Christ, she would feel better. After days of pain, the family member did as the young woman advised and a miraculous thing occurred. The pain ceased, even though the sickness continued. This young woman's testimony reminded the congregation the importance of Christ's atonement and how we need to use it in our everyday lives. It reminds others that we have to suffer nothing alone, for Christ has suffered it all for us and feels out pain.

After sacrament meeting it was time to be done with the mid-semester tour in Colorado. The team said goodbye to host families and loaded onto the bus. The bus drove to the Golden Corral where the team feasted upon a buffet of delicious food. The poor restaurant did not know what was about to hit them as 30+ BYU students filed in with appetites, but it survived.

Once dinner was over, Jon and Ed allowed the team to change out of their Sunday clothes, since the ride home would be more comfortable in warm-ups. The girls were first to change on the bus, followed by the boys. When the boys were changing, the women demonstrated their brute strength by shaking the bus.

And we drove home.



St. George Trip

Tuacahn, April 2010



**Saturday & Sunday, April 10 & 11, 2010 - St. George:
Brian and Lindsey Watson**

We met the bus early in the morning to head off to St. George. We were all very excited for this trip because we knew it was going to be warm AND because it was going to be an outdoor show. This was an interesting trip because we had no director with us. However, we were still, mostly, under control. The bus ride was surprisingly uneventful.

When we drove into St. George there was much rejoicing because of the great amount of sunshine. Setting up the stage at Tuacahn was a breeze. The girls (plus Tim Krumweide) all sunbathed on the stadium seats while the boys wandered around looking busy. Eventually it came time to block the dances. This was arduous, laborious, and just not fun. We also experimented running the underground tunnel. We had heard that it was so long that it took the modern dancers four minutes to cross. However, this would just not do for the folk dancers considering we have thirty second costume changes (including hair). So we timed it. It took us about thirty seconds to run the length of the tunnel. We have no idea what the modern dancers were doing in the tunnel.

However, after over an hour, we finally finished blocking and people had the next couple of hours to lounge about. Several of the dancer guys decided to start up a band, others hiked around the backside of the theatre, and still others read, slept, or sunbathed. We must note here that Jarelle Fuller, after about two minutes in the sun, had a perfect tan, whilst all the other girls were still pasty white.

After a delicious meal (with ice cream) the show began. Luckily there was an abundance of costume racks and plenty of space to change on the sides of the stage. To Amy Slade's dismay the new rose petals for classical Indian blew away gracefully with the wind. Justin Kelly fell, we think six times (maybe it was only two). But he survived.

To the boys' dismay, the girls took way too much time packing their boxes. All of the boys had their boxes on the truck before any of the girls had their box on the truck. The award goes to Emily Bills for the first to have her box on the truck. So the boys decided that every time the girls brought their box to the truck that they would sing the "Ole" song. It got kind of obnoxious.

Finally we made it to the hotel. People ate pizza, played games, watched movies, and slept.

Sunday arrived and we had a yummy continental breakfast at the hotel. Then we went to church at one of the student wards. Unfortunately Justin Kelly and Alina Geslison got left behind, but if you want to see how they used their time, ask them...they have a video of it.



Pre-tour Show

Heritage School



Friday, July 30, 2010 - Heritage School
Courtney Carter & Scott McDermott

Back in March, we had the wonderful opportunity to participate in a special musical sacrament meeting for the LDS branch at the Heritage School. There are only three LDS students at the school, but combined with the nonmembers that attended, there was a decent-sized congregation. Through music and short talks, we were able to bear testimony to those youth about Christ's love for each of us. The school emphasizes the importance of responsible relationships, so it was nice to help teach them about one of the most important relationships of all - our individual relationship with our Savior. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Branch President made a statement along the lines of, "They sing really well, but you should see them dance." This remark ultimately ended with our doing a show at the school right before heading off to Nauvoo.

We started the day nice and early (7:30 AM) with a full run-through of the show. It was great to all be together again after a few months apart. We did the Southern Waltz in costume for the first time. Well, most of us were in costume, anyway. Some of the ladies only had their under-costume because a few of the dresses still needed some work done. It's amazing how costumes can really help take your mind to the place where a dance originated. The costumes helped to add an extra oomph to the dance we had yet to implement.

After the rehearsal, we packed up and headed to the Heritage School to set up the stage. Their theatre, the James B. and Lynnette C. Loveland Performing Arts Center, is beautiful, and we were all excited to dance in it. Tammy, who helped organize the event, had set out water bottles and vegetable platters to welcome our arrival. Some of us (like say Katie, for example) may have spent a bit too much time with the food. But when you're hungry, what are you gonna do? During setup, a few girls passed by the open doors of the theater and peeked in. Some of us asked if they were coming to the show, and they said they were. It was evident that they were very excited to see it.

After the setup was done, we had a little break, which for many of us meant rushing home to pack. All our personal luggage was going on the truck, so it had to be ready for loading after the show. So, at 4:30 P.M. we met back at the school with bags in hand.

Once we were all together again, Tammy (who serves as the school chaplain) took some time to speak to us about the school. She started by sharing a funny personal experience with dance. When she was younger, she fell while doing a square dance and since decided that dance is just not her thing. However, she was very excited to watch us do it. She then talked to us about the Heritage School - what it is and what it does.

The Heritage School philosophy is that "the happiness, well-being, and success of any person are based on their ability to form and sustain responsible relationships both with other individuals and the community at large" (www.heritagertc.org). With that in mind, the Heritage School uses a relationship-based therapeutic model to help at-risk youth learn to "live life with hope" and become productive members of society. About 350 Heritage staff work to help about 175 students at the school. These youth come from across the United States (mostly California) and range in age from 12 to 18 years. They come from a variety of religious and social backgrounds. They leave their family and live at the school. In this boarding-school-like environment, they participate in various educational, social, and recreational activities geared to their special needs.

It was obvious that Tammy has a passion for her work and a deep love for the youth she serves. She became emotional as she tried to help us understand how important our show was to the students. She said the kids were very excited, especially those who had attended our sacrament meeting program.

When Tammy was finished, the school provided dinner for us. Brandon said the prayer on the food. In his prayer, he also asked for a blessing on the air conditioning system. The air wasn't working in the audience, and things were starting to get pretty warm.

We enjoyed Papa John's pizza for dinner. Afterward, we got to choose from a variety of snacks to take backstage with us, too - granola bars, fruit snacks, etc. At first, some of us were confused and thought the concessions candy was an option, too. But alas, the peanut butter M&M's had a different purpose.

Before the show, Bryce gave our devotional. He discussed the importance of fulfilling our baptismal covenant. He taught us that in performing for these youth we were in fact living up to that covenant. After devotional, we went outside for warm up. It was so hot outside that it didn't take long to warm up, especially in our Serbian costumes.

Now, on to the show. The theatre was beautiful, but our stage was pretty shallow and the floor was pretty slippery. That always makes for an interesting show. We did, however, have very spacious dressing rooms, which are always welcome. In both dressing rooms, there was a funny sign indicating where the waist is located on the human body. It was a nice anatomy lesson.

The show went pretty smoothly up until Karicka. Somehow, Emily Carpenter's vest got caught on Katie during the conveyor belt. By the time it was over, Katie had managed to tear all the braiding off of Emily's vest. Apparently, the stage wasn't completely clean, either. At the end of Balle Balle, there was a lot of black on what should have been white costumes.

The audience definitely seemed to be enjoying the show. Though they weren't our biggest audience ever, they were definitely one of the loudest. They were pretty well-behaved, too. The only flaw was the bottle cap that was thrown onto the stage and that hit Courtney in the foot. We were also baffled when we kept seeing people coming in and out. After the show, Tammy explained that some of the students who had to step out for various reasons, were sad to have to miss parts of the show.

As usual, we got to mingle with the audience a bit. A couple of kids told Cindy that they liked the show. When they left, another person told Cindy that it takes a lot for those particular kids to say they like anything, so their compliment to Cindy was really saying a lot. It's great to know that our show had such a positive impact on the youth.

Of course, we can't forget the funny audience comments. Apparently, it was hard to see our faces from the audience. One kid told Dylan he really liked his back flips, and somebody else told Rachel she played the violin very well. Just a bit of confusion as to who was doing what.

We ended the night with a cool down, a set take down, and a truck loading. We were afraid that everything wouldn't fit, but when we were done there was room to spare. There wasn't weight to spare, though. We found out later it had been about 500 pounds too heavy. Some of us must be heavy packers!



Nauvoo

August 2010

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS
Nauvoo
August 2-August 15, 2010
ITINERARY

Monday, August 2 Provo to Nauvoo To Denver 1:22 Hours/To St. Louis 2:03 Hours

W: Colored-ribbed shirt, black skirt, black heels, black undershirt

M: Blue blazer, white polo, charcoal pants, black shoes, black socks (pack white dress shirt and tie in carry-on)

5:10 am Bus arrives at RB

5:30 am Group meets bus

5:45 am Depart for SLC Airport by LeBus – 800-366-0288

6:45 am Arrive at SLC Airport and check-in

7:50 am Depart Salt Lake City – Frontier Airlines **Flight # F9 0572** (Terminal 1)

9:12 am Arrive Denver, CO

Burlington Trailways

West Burlington, IA

Phone: 800-992-4618 ext 118 (dispatch
 emergency)

*Call Kathy and get driver name and ce
 #)

10:40 am Depart **Flight #F9 0294** Denver, CO for St. Louis, MO

1:43 pm Arrive St. Louis, MO

Lunch: Per Diem \$10.00

2:00 pm Depart in bus to Nauvoo

5:30 pm Arrive at Nauvoo Vacation Condos and Villas

Meet Elder and Sister Hughes/Elder and Sister Dye

Dinner in condos

6:30 pm

8:30 pm

Ice Cream Social at Ludwig's

Men change into white shirt and tie

Elder Hughes: 217-453-2237 ext. 115

Nauvoo Info #: W: 217-453-2237

Shane Wright Cell: 801-360-8952

PAM: 801-422-3576



President and Sister Ludwig



Elder and Sister Hughes



Tuesday, August 3 Nauvoo (Elder Bill and Sister LaRae Dye—hosts)

W: Warm-ups

M: Warm-ups

7:00 am Breakfast in Condo
 8:00 am Prayer Meeting
 9:00 am **Rehearsal on Nauvoo Indoor Stage (9:00 am—12:00 noon)**
 12:00 pm Hot lunch—Served in the Nauvoo Visitors' Center lunchroom
 1:30 pm Rehearsal on Nauvoo Outdoor Stage
 4:45 pm Orientation in Nauvoo Visitors' Center
 5:00 pm Video of "Joseph, Prophet of the Restoration," Visitors' Center
 6:30 pm Dinner in the condos
 8:00 pm Sound check
8:30 pm Performance—Nauvoo Outdoor Stage – Arrive in warm-ups

Wednesday, August 4 Nauvoo

W: yellow shirt, grey capris

M: striped button-up, charcoal pants

7:00 am Breakfast in Condo
 8:00 am Prayer Meeting
8:15 am (2 performers leave Carthage to tape a radio interview to be played on August 5)
 9:00 am Wagon ride half group on ride; other half visit historic sites
 10:00 am Reverse: half on ride; half visit sites
 11:30 am Lunch in condos
 1:30 pm Oxen ride, Trail of Hope; Exodus Memorial
2:00 pm "Mountain Strings" performs 30 minutes in Women's Garden - Dancers perform one number
 4:00 pm Tour sites in and near Nauvoo: Stone Arch Bridge; David's Chamber, Old Pioneer Burial Ground; Joseph Smith's farm
 5:30 pm Dinner in condos
 8:00 pm Sound check
8:30 pm Performance—Nauvoo Outdoor Stage

Thursday, August 5 Carthage Outreach , Evening Performance

24 Miles/0:32 Hours

W: white shirt, black pants

M: grey polo, black pants

7:00 am Breakfast in Condo
 8:00 am Prayer Meeting
 9:15 am Leave for Carthage via the Connable Road
 10:30 am Visit Carthage Jail Historical Site

11:45 pm Sack lunch—Carthage City Center Park
12:00 noon **“Mountain Strings” short performance in Carthage City Center Park (20-30 min)**
 12:30 pm Tour Kibbe Museum
 1:30 pm Set up and practice at Charger Center Auditorium [Is this too early? The facility charges the Chamber of Commerce per hour, so they don’t like to open an earlier than they have to.)
4:00 pm **Dinner provided by Carthage**
 6:30 pm Prepare for performance
7:00 pm **Performance—Carthage (Charger Auditorium)**

Friday, August 6 Nauvoo

W: trek clothes and blue shirt, black skirt

M: trek clothes and white polo, tan pants

7:00 am Breakfast in Condos
 8:15 am Prayer Meeting
 9:00 am Handcart trek, two hours for 2 miles
 11:00 am Condos to clean up
 12:00 noon Lunch at condos
 Change into tour clothes
 1:30 pm Meet at Joseph Smith sites/video, talk/tour
 3:00 pm Visit other Historic Nauvoo sites
 5:30 pm Dinner in condo
 7:00 pm *“Rendezvous in Old Nauvoo”* at Cultural Hall
 8:00 pm Sound check
8:30 pm **Performance—Nauvoo Outdoor Stage**

Saturday, August 7 Fairfield Evening Performance **80 Miles/1:3**

W: white shirt, black pants

M: blue polo, black pants

7:00 am Breakfast in Condo
 8:00 am Prayer Meeting
 9:15 am Depart for Fairfield, Iowa; via Montrose, visit Bentonsport

Sondheim Theater
200 North Main Street
Fairfield, IA 52556

12:00 noon Sack lunch in Bentonsport
12:00 noon **“Mountain Strings” perform, 30 minutes at Bentensport Pavilion**
 12:30 pm Fairfield Auditorium for load-in/set-up (one van goes separately to Fairfield)
4:30 pm **Dinner provided by Fairfield**
 7:00 pm House opens
7:30 pm **Performance—Fairfield Auditorium (90 minutes)**

Presenter: Convention and Visitors’ Bureau

Address: 200 North Main Street Fairfield, IA 52556

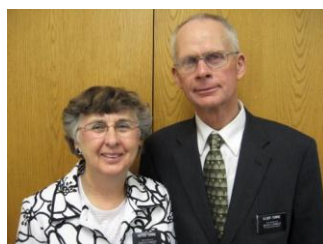
Website: www.travelfairfieldiowa.com

Sunday, August 8 Nauvoo

W: black dress, nylons, jewelry, black heels

M: white collared shirt, tie, charcoal pants, blazer

- 7:00 am Breakfast in Condos
- 9:30 am Depart for Sacramento Meeting at Nauvoo LDS chapel
- 10:00 am Sacramento Meeting at Nauvoo 1st Ward
- 11:20 am Sunday School
- 12:10 am Priesthood/Relief Society Meeting
- 1:30 pm Lunch at condos
- 2:00 pm Free Time to visit sites in Old Nauvoo or rehearse for Sociable
- 5:30 pm Dinner in individual condos
- 7:30 pm International Folk Dancers present Sunday Fireside at Stake Center**

**Monday, August 9 Nauvoo (Elder Wayne and Sister Judy Torrie—hosts)**

W: ribbed shirt, grey capris

M: blue polo, tan pants

- 7:00 am Breakfast in Condo
- 8:00 am Prayer Meeting
- 8:30 am Personal time for laundry, etc.
- 10:45 am *"Just Plain Anna Amanda"*
- 11:30 am Picnic lunch near Pioneer Pastimes
- 1:15 pm Carriage Ride to Inspiration Point (1/2 group); remaining tour historical sites
- 2:15 pm Reverse groups: ½ carriage ride; remaining tour historic sites.
- 5:00 pm Dinner in individual condos

Note change: 6:30 pm Sound check**7:00 pm Performance—Nauvoo Outdoor Stage (This one performance will have to be early so that the Young Performing Missionaries can perform their annual talent show at 8:30)****Tuesday, August 10 Springfield Outreach**

161 Miles/2:56 Hours + stops

W: white shirt, black skirt, black flats

M: striped button-up, black pants, black shoes

- 6:00 am Breakfast in Condo
- 6:40 am Prayer Meeting
- 7:00 am Depart for Springfield
- 10:00 am Arrive Springfield, Lincoln Museum
- 11:00 am Performance in Lincoln Museum [This is a 15 to 20 minute performance in the rotunda of the Lincoln Museum. The sound system is excellent, and there are dressing rooms. The space is circular, with one side limited because of statues. 1800's or American pieces only!]**
- 11:45 Noon Continue Museum tour; lunch

2:00 pm Visit Lincoln Tomb
 3:00 pm Depart for Nauvoo
 6:00 pm Dinner in condos
 8:00 pm Sound check
8:30 pm Performance—Nauvoo Outdoor Stage

Wednesday, August 11 Quincy Outreach 48 Miles/1:10 Hours + stops

W: blue shirt, black pants
 M: grey polo, black pants

7:00 am Breakfast in Condo
 8:00 am Prayer Meeting
 8:30 am Depart for Quincy with stops at Warsaw and Morley Settlement
9:30 am Arrive Quincy/ visit John Woods Museum
 12:30 pm Sack lunch—at Clat Adams Park
2:00 pm Performance— Quincy Senior and Family Resource Center (30 min)
 3:30 pm Return to Nauvoo
5:15 pm Dinner at Hotel Nauvoo (reservations for 38 people – under Ed Austin)
“Sunset by the Mississippi”
 6:45 pm
 8:00 pm Sound check
8:30 pm Performance—Nauvoo Outdoor Stage

Thursday, August 12 Nauvoo Temple

W: black dress, nylons, jewelry, black heels and yellow shirt, grey capris
 M: white collared shirt, tie, blazer, charcoal pants and striped button up, charcoal pants

7:00 am Breakfast in Condo
 8:00 am Prayer Meeting
 8:30 am Leave for Nauvoo
 9:00 am Tour Nauvoo Historic sites, shop, etc.
 10:30 am Arrive at Temple for 11:00 am Endowment for 21 people
 12:00 noon Arrive at Temple for 12:30 pm baptism session for 16 people
 1:30 pm Sack lunch in NVC/ Tour Nauvoo historic sites
2:00 pm “Mountain Strings” performs 30 minutes in Women’s Garden outside Visitors’ Center [Here again, dancers could do a couple of dances if the brick surface works.]
 3:00 pm *“High Hopes and Riverboats”*: NVC
 5:30 pm Dinner in individual condos
 8:00 pm Sound check
8:30 pm Performance—Nauvoo Outdoor Stage

Friday, August 13 Keokuk Outreach 15 Miles/0:30 Hours

W: ribbed shirt, grey capris
 M: white polo, tan pants

7:00 am Breakfast in condo
 8:00 am Prayer Meeting
 8:45 am Touring of historic sites
 11:00 am Depart for Keokuk

12:00 noon "Mountain Strings" Performs in Keokuk Pavilion [This is another opportunity for some brief dance performances, if the bricks are okay.]

1:00 pm Lunch in Park

1:30 pm Depart for Nauvoo

2:00 pm Temple Baptisms (we can only have a total of 30 people for this baptism session, so I scheduled **15 men/15 women**)

4:30 pm Arrive condos

5:00 pm Dinner in Condos

8:00 pm Sound check

8:30 pm Performance—Nauvoo Outdoor Stage

Saturday, August 14 Nauvoo

W: blue shirt, black skirt

M: blue polo, charcoal pants

7:00 am Breakfast in Condos

8:00 am Prayer Meeting

9:00 am "Remembering Nauvoo," Nauvoo Visitors' Center, and site visits

12:00 am Lunch in condos

1:00 am Free time for shopping; finish touring Historic Nauvoo

4:30 pm Dinner in condos/packing

6:00 pm Testimony meeting in Seventies Hall

8:00 pm Sound check

8:30 pm Performance—Nauvoo Outdoor Stage

Sunday, August 15 Nauvoo to St. Louis **184 Miles/3:45 Hours + stops**

W: black dress, nylons, heels, jewelry then ribbed shirt, black skirt, black undershirt, heels (for travel)

M: white collared shirt, tie, charcoal pants, blazer then white polo, charcoal pants (for travel)

7:00 am Breakfast in condo

8:00 am Sacrament Meeting

11:00 am Load bus and depart

Sack lunch to take on bus to airport

Drive by and see the St Louis Arch/Temple

5:00 pm Depart for airport

5:30 pm Arrive at St. Louis Airport

Dinner: Per Diem \$10.00

6:55 pm Flight departs – **Frontier Airlines Flight #F9 0667**

8:12 pm Arrive in Denver, CO

9:10 pm Depart Denver, CO **Flight #F9 0589**

10:32 pm Arrive in SLC, UT (Terminal 1)

11:00 pm Load bus return to Provo - LeBus – 800-366-0288 (call Le Bus once you arrive)

12:00 pm Arrive in Provo

Monday, Aug. 2, 2010

Emily Bills & Brandon Gassaway

Once upon a time, on the second day of August in the year 2010, the mighty International Folk Dance Ensemble gathered before dawn to embark on an epic journey to the far eastern town of Nauvoo, Illinois. Just as the horseless chariot was about to depart, Sir Colin exclaimed, "Alas! Wherefore are thy garments? I must have committed the egregious error of forgetting such precious clothing at my abode. Therefore I shall retrieve them, and brave the concrete jungle of I-15 alone to reunite with you again." He bid his fair damsel, Amy, farewell as the Coach departed.

As Tim of the Bard guild eloquently delivered the tale of his forbearer who bravely lead the exodus from the town of Nauvoo across the frozen river, in a time of great sorrow long ago. When we arrived in the fair city of the Saline Lake, we disembarked from the horseless chariot to climb inside the magical flying metal dragon. Unfortunately, the preparedness of Brandon and Brian proved potentially perilous, for they failed to leave all of their weapons of war behind and were in danger from the knights who guard the metal dragons. In this moment of great distress, the dutiful squire Shane who was staying behind offered to watch over their precious artifacts.

As the magical flying metal dragon landed in the metropolis of Denver to feed, the mighty folk dance ensemble disembarked. Many dancers attempted to use skrying techniques to purchase entry to the school games; however, conditions were such that the magic telecommunication devices could not communicate with those at the school. Others occupied the time by playing cards and other such trivialities.

The magical flying dragon took longer to feed than usual, but at last they left for the city of St. Louis along the powerful Mississippi River with only a slight delay. Once they landed, they supped at the local markets of McDonald's, the Way of the Sub, and a chicken purveyor. Boarding another horseless chariot for the final leg of their trek, they were entertained by the epic tale of the Greek hero Hunkules, as told by the bard Disney.

By and by, the mighty folk dance ensemble arrived in the beautiful town of Nauvoo. After arriving, they feasted on curious round bread with various meats and cheeses before preparing to socialize with Lord and Lady Ludwig, rulers of the Nauvoo Mission. As each dancer was introduced to the court, one of the guests asked if Cindy was Alina's mother, and thereby she was dubbed 'Mama G' for the rest of the journey. They indulged themselves with frozen cream and delectable toppings, after which the bard guild gave an impromptu performance.

While most were enjoying the lively minstrels, Sir Shua clandestinely stole his maiden Emily Carpenter away from the gathering, and led her towards the magnificent temple on the hill. With a thundering in his heart, he knelt before her and loving asked for her hand in marriage. Shocked and giddy and the same time, she gladly accepted his proposal. As they the rejoined the festivities, and after trying to conceal their engagement, they could not withstand the tension any longer. The both stood up and exclaimed "We're getting married!" Shouts of joy and congratulations were given by all in attendance, including a special blessing and congratulations by Lady Ludwig, whose own daughter had recently become engaged. It was a marvelous end to a marvelous beginning. And they all lived happily ever after. Or so they believed...

Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2010

Sally Boyle & Tim Krumwiede

Today we had a beautiful devotional by Ashlee Carroll on missionary work. We are so excited to be here in beautiful Nauvoo and to be working with such inspiring missionaries. We had a blocking rehearsal on our cute little “eye”-shaped stage for quite a while and although our mini-show could be very nice there, some of us were alarmed by how slippery and loud the floor was.

At lunchtime we went downstairs in the visitor’s center and had such yummy food! Some people especially loved the mustard sauce. Many people played Nertz and other card games and took naps. We then went outside to set up the outdoor stage—pretty sure that was the hottest time of the day☺. We rehearsed and the best thing about it was that no one got heat stroke. We were all amazed at how much we could sweat and many people discovered new pores; most commented on how weird it was to sweat on our eyelids. After rehearsal we watched the beautiful film, “Joseph Smith, Prophet of the Restoration” in the visitor’s center.

So ... our first show was quite humid! As it was the hottest day of the summer, we were soaking wet the whole time we performed and everyone was exhausted, but a good, satisfied kind of exhausted. Overall, we enjoyed performing and the show went really well. Basically we are all amazed that we lived through that show and we love Nauvoo!

Thursday, Aug. 5, 2010

Dylan & Rachel Maltby

Today was incredible. We started off with a devotional from Alina, then we packed into our vans and headed for Carthage. When we arrived we split into two groups to see the historic jail. One toured the jail itself while the other watched a movie on Joseph Smith, then we traded. It was a special experience for the team.

After seeing the jail we headed over to the county court house where the band set up their equipment on the big stone steps. The dancers sat on the steps with them as they played a great show to a relatively small crowd. Among those there was Emily Bills’ sister and her family. We all enjoyed watching her brother-in-law bust some... interesting dance moves. The band had her little niece come up to perform with them on one of the numbers, but she was really shy and her dad did most of the performing for her.

After the show many of the group went across the street to an artsy shop that had previously served as a jail. The owner loved hearing the band’s performance and in thanks he offered to let us see the old jail cells underneath his shop. It was definitely not a place you would have wanted to be locked up in. At the same time, others of the group went inside the large courthouse and admired the architecture. There was an attractive dome in the ceiling at the center of the building and the floors were done in beautiful mosaic patterns. On the third floor was an incredible stained glass window of lady Justice. A friendly bailiff also showed us the old courtroom which had a second dome in the ceiling and old wooden benches that looked to be almost a hundred years old.

We left the courthouse and ate lunch on the grounds of the historic Carthage jail. After that, we went across the street to the Kibbe museum. This museum was full of history from the local region. There were displays on the Mormons of course, but there were also displays on

Abraham Lincoln, local geology, children's toys from various time periods, military weapons and uniforms, and many other things. We didn't get to see a lot of the museum unfortunately because we had to go and set up for our show.

Our show in Carthage was held at the Charger Center Auditorium. Rob Carson was the representative we worked with from the venue and he took good care of us. The Charger Center is still not quite through its renovation process, so there were some extra things that needed to be taken care of. One of the bigger challenges we faced was the lack of wings. The theater had absolutely no curtains or dividers, so we created our own using some portable walls that we had brought with us. We also set up our own sound system and our own lights as well. When we were done it hardly seemed any different from any other venue we were used to. We ate dinner in the hallway outside the auditorium and then prepared for our performance.

The show went very well, and afterward many people in the audience told us how happy they were that we could come. Several mentioned that they remembered the last time the folk dancers came from BYU and were thrilled that we could return.

After the show, we packed our equipment back in the truck and headed back for the condos in Nauvoo.

Friday, Aug. 6, 2010

Tesha Jones & Greg Rawlings

The day started out like any other, except we had a long journey ahead of us. We were going to travel from Iowa City to Salt Lake City, and we only had two hours to do it! We had to rely on our own prowess and ability because our two not-so-fearless leaders decided not to accompany us. We met and organized into families: some with creepy uncles from Spain, and Justin with 5 wives..... Katie was the fifth because he didn't like her very much. Oops. We got our handcarts and set off on our adventure.

One group had 4 boys and 2 girls. Rachel and Erin thought they would have it pretty easy since they had manpower on their side. They did, however, pull together for a little bit as they joked they would probably encounter a steep hill with roots. And they did. Scott and McKenzie's family had set out ahead of the rest of the group and found to their horror that they were going backwards. Oops. When upon meeting the other groups, they decided to keep going to Salt Lake eastbound. On their backwards trek, they had some fun in the mud. Tesha and Courtney kept getting stuck. Oops. To fix the problem, Scott decided it was a good idea to put mud on everyone's faces. During this spa treatment, they heard a wild Indian attack taking place nearby. Meanwhile..... The Brian and Lindsay Watson family was merrily singing their way along the trail, when suddenly savage Indians came and stole their women folk and water supplies. Chief Colin Cut-em-up personally attacked Father Brian and the handcart. Sally got away from Savage Shua by revealing that her name was Pocahontas. Angie only got away because Tim Tomahawk dropped her on the ground. I guess he had enough. Squanto Scott was making off with the water, but Greg jumped on his back, stole it back and beat him on the head with the bottles. When the company was nearly to the Salt Lake Valley, there was the funniest handcart accident ever.... only because no one got hurt of course. Shua and Emily decided to take a ride in the handcart pulled by their faithful sidekick-to-love, Tim. Unfortunately, he's not very trustworthy anymore because he let the handcart tip over backwards, spilling Shua and Emily into the dirt and grass, the handcart nearly toppling on top of them. Oops. It was so funny seeing both of them sprawled on the ground in a cloud of dust.

When we were finally in Salt Lake, Colin, Brian, and Greg decided to go for a little splash in the river. It was very clean.

Next up ... hit the showers. We all went and got gussied up for the day. We had delicious hamburgers for lunch. They might've been even better if we had found all the condiments BEFORE we ate. Oops.

After we were all refreshed and filled, it was onto more Church History sites with the Community of Christ. Members of the group who have ventured to these lands before were pleased to encounter Kevin as their tour guide (the same man who had given them the tour two years previous). The tour was as excellent as before. We listened to stories about the Prophet Joseph and stood where he once spent a piece of his life.

After an excellent tour, Mark recruited all the boys to help unload and set up the stage for the upcoming evening show. Sally displayed her amazing van driving skills as she filled up a van and took the girls for a shopping spree on Mulholland Street. After a half hour it was back to the condos for some dinner and fun. Javier won his first ever round of Nertz, a feat not easily accomplished when playing against infamous champions.

After a dinner of fried chicken, it was off to the old cultural hall for "Rendezvous in Old Nauvoo". We mustn't forget the lessons learned from that most blessed event. Number one, old people are funny...and we're not quite sure what else, but take what you will from it... Elder and Sister Dye did an especially fantastic job in the show and were such a joy to watch. Tesha was pleasantly surprised when she noticed a couple from her home town of Burley, Idaho!!! (holla) But her reunion was cut short as everyone made a mad dash to the show.

After a crazy fast set up Scott McDermott discovered he was missing A SINGLE rapper sword sock. Oops. Ed took a van back to the condos to retrieve it. When he returned, frustrated from people continually leaving things at the condos, he wasn't exactly happy to see the band in tan pants. Pretty much the best moment of tour now follows: Ed starts asking why they aren't wearing black pants. The band responds that Tim forgot his, so they thought they should match. Okay ... suddenly, he asks Tim, "What size pants are you?" Tim quickly replies, "36." Without any hesitation, Ed opens the curtain to the men's dressing den and exclaims, "Get in here and drop your pants!!" All the performers exchanged shocked looks as Tim responds, "Are you serious?" Well, he was. For the next minute or so, the whole team waits for the show to start in suppressed giggles listening to the two of them switching pants. Ed: "Do they work?" Tim: "Yes." (Ed tries Tim's pants on) Ed: "THIS isn't going to work!!!" Behold, they were actually Greg's pants... not going to fit. Oops. The show was stalled for only a few minutes while this happened... and Javier and Ryan also changed their pants in record time.

Despite the pant exchange, "the show must go on." Another highlight happened when a cicada dropped to the stage in the middle of Serbian and buzzed around like it couldn't fly away. Our little opankies danced nervously over the large bug as we hoped we wouldn't squish it. Don't worry.... no one did..... except Brittany. She got it. I think it died. Oops. During Slovakian, McKenzie's necklace was falling off, so she THREW IT TO THE GROUND! At the end of the dance, Sally tried to kick it farther off stage, but instead, the beads flew everywhere. Oops. During the show, Ed was bewildered by a cell phone in his pocket that didn't belong to him. Never fear, it was Tim's..... For Ed was indeed wearing Tim's pants. In Hopak, Justin's back-handspring was a little worse than normal. When asked why after the show, he responded that he was thinking about something else at the time. What could he be thinking about? Justin: "Oh, Ed wearing Tim's pants." HMMMMM... okay.

Ed and Mark surprised the performers with a trip to the custard shop open late especially for them. Yes, sir. The custard was delicious!!!! Thanks Ed and Mark! When the time had come to leave, everyone had piled in Greg's van only to find that Alina wasn't in attendance. As he began to pull away, everyone screamed bloody murder because the doors were still open. Oops. Greg thought he had hit a small child, but no.... Alina had ditched them for another van. Why she would ditch the party wagon only heaven knows.

After our custard creations, there was a meeting to remember at Ed and Mark's. Justin and Scott had somehow spaced the meeting. Odd ... since we have one every night. When Ed found out that neither of them was there, he announced that they were on "his list." Angie promptly replied, "Is it a good list?"

Well, no Angie, it isn't.

During show notes, Ed memorably said, "Tessa ... you looked much better tonight ..." (long pause.... then lots of laughing.) He was actually referring to Hopak turns, not Tessa's dancing in general. Congratulations Tessa, you did it.

Saturday, Aug. 7 2010

Emily Carpenter & Ryan Nickerson

We started with a prayer meeting at 8:00 am (Much too early for many of us). The devotional and prayer were given by Nabby Foulk. The entire group set out in our somewhat crowded, but always entertaining vans for Fairfield, Iowa where the evening's show was to take place.

We first stopped across the Mississippi River at the point opposite Nauvoo on the Iowa side where the saints crossed over to begin their westward trek to the Salt Lake Valley. Elder Hughes recounted a brief history of the crossing and pointed out several landmarks still standing from that time, including an old Masonic lodge. Nauvoo has made us even more grateful for the sacrifices made by the Saints that have blessed our lives so much. Our vans stopped briefly on the road where the Saints were able to see the Nauvoo Temple for the last time. This was a sobering view.

Our group continued on to the small town of Bentonsport where the band played a short outdoor show in a park. Set up high in a small gazebo by a river, the band played their music to a surprisingly good crowd of people circled around the park. The dancers stood amongst the audience, cheering and clapping for the band. They then performed Appalachian Patchwork on the extremely slippery grass in their tour clothes. Fortunately for those dancers, Ed didn't know there was a small, damp room under the gazebo where they could have changed into their costumes. The small crowd seemed to thoroughly enjoy it the entire performance. A lady from an antiquated general store by the park offered cold beverages to the entire group, which were gladly received as it was very hot and humid (as is the norm here, we've discovered).

The group left Bentonsport and arrived at the Sondheim Center for the Performing Arts in Fairfield Iowa. The rest of the afternoon was spent setting up for the evening's show, reminiscent of midsemester tour. The group had pizza for dinner. We love pizza! The band played a short preshow out in the lobby as guests were coming in. The indoor venue afforded us the opportunity to perform our full show, including the Celtic and Indian pieces. The venue was small but intimate, and the crowd responded very well throughout the show. It seemed to

be our best performance of the tour. It's amazing what a little air conditioning can do for the dancer's energy. After the show many in the group had the opportunity to speak with people in the crowd. Many, including some of the venue's staff, expressed that they were very impressed with the level of professionalism in our group's performance.

We struck the set after the show and made our way back to the Nauvoo Condos and Villas for a good night's rest after a great day. We loved Nauvoo today.

Sunday, August 8, 2010

Mike Romney & Cindy Swenson (A.K.A. Ramses and Cindy Lou)

"The Nauvoo Spirit"

Sunday in Nauvoo turned out to be a big surprise to us all. The spirit of God truly was like a fire, burning in this place of restoration. We were all rejoicing when we knew that we had a little extra sleep time in the morning *Hooray* and ironically enough, it didn't seem to make much of a difference *O_o*. We had devotional at Ed's condo and headed off to church early, leaving time to take pictures by the temple, of course. It is always an awkward moment, walking into the church (all forty of us) late... making a ruckus and all. So we left early, with plenty of time, and made it into our squeaky seats just on time. The topic of the talks given was on education, but most of us were a bit distracted by the adorable baby sitting right in front of the group.

Awwwww

The group then split up *Gasp* and went our various ways to Sunday School. The single adult lesson was given by a temple missionary who simply loved his wife... and us. Moral of the story: "Marriage is great and folk dance is better." ... Relief Society and Priesthood turned out just as delightful. We spoke of being a covenant people, and that it is our delight and duty to act accordingly.

Once filled with the spirit, we all fell into a quiet slumber while the band finished their last preparations before the sociable. Speaking of the sociable, we had a huge turnout! ...of couple missionaries. But before we speak of the happenings of the sociable, we must touch on the delightful rehearsal beforehand. Although we had a difficult time situating ourselves, we ended up pulling it together and were ready for a very special experience. We began with a moment of introductions, as we always do. It is always so impressive seeing how many of us 1. Aren't dance majors, 2. Speak a variety of languages, and 3. Are married to each other. "Jesus' Love" was the first song, which was followed by a beautiful testimony given by Miss Sally Boyle. She spoke of how the love of God dispels contention. She was then followed by "I Feel My Savior's Love" sung ever so marvelously by the trio (Ramses, Colin, and Javier). The rest of the program included a very touching testimony given by Michael Steele who began by saying "Many of you remind me of my Grandfather." ** Once the ice was broken, he finished by sharing a story from his mission, sharing with us the scripture in Doctrine and Covenants 6:34-37. He bore his testimony of the love that God has for us in spite of our short comings. The band also played a beautiful new compilation of various hymns about Joseph Smith. It can only be described as heavenly. "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" was then sung, and we were blessed to have angels singing with us, as we sang with inspiration! Javier closed with his family's conversion story *we were all in tears by this point* and reminded us that you just never know what one little thing can do to bless so many lives. The meeting then concluded with "Go Ye Now in Peace" and the spirit was so strong. We spoke to each other afterwards, and

decided that although we have come here to give to the people of Nauvoo, we have only been on the receiving end. The people and spirit of this place has truly blessed us all.

After the sociable, we had the great blessing of joining all of the Young Performing Missionaries at an Ice Cream Social *YAYYY!!* at the Ludwig home. The ice cream was good, the toppings were good, and the home-made hot fudge was even better. Once settled down, and the conversations were quieted we decided to sing together... everyone in the whole house. Ed asked us to keep it to primary songs, so we all made requests and sang along. What an incredible experience that was. The Spirit was so strong among us, and many since then have described it as *Heavenly*. We all felt an overwhelming feeling of goodness, love, and righteousness as we sat together, singing, while here at the stomping grounds of our Prophet Joseph Smith. The highlight of the night was when we began to sing "I Am a Child of God." We all sang the first verse as a group and then, one by one, various groups of people sang the same verse in foreign languages from all over the world: France, Italy, Japan, Korea, Denmark *Alina's voice was the sweetest*, Tonga, Portuguese (not the country. Ha-ha). We were all filled with the spirit that none of us will ever forget.

Just as we thought the night couldn't have gotten any better, the Young Performing Missionaries decided to sing one last song for us. The words were so powerful and we all knew that they were true, as we had been witnessing it all day.

*When two or three are gathered in His name, in His name,
... there will He be with them.*

Today was a special day that should and will be remembered forever. The spirit was so strongly with us, and it is up to us not only to continue to keep it within us, but also to share it.

Amen!

Monday, Aug. 9, 2010

Erin Patterson & Scott Johnson

The EVER SO Amazing Tour History

read in a British accent

Obviously this is the coolest day of the tour because of the ever so awesome date! I mean seriously, 8/9/10 is ever so epic!!! We woke up this morning to ever so light rain and rolling thunder. The unfortunate first group that went to do the carriage ride at 8:00am soon returned ever so post-hastily when the thunder and lightning became quite rambunctious. The carriage rides occurred one hour later with the whole group in two ever so different carriages. There was an ever so slight drizzle all the while. The highlights of the ride were Inspiration Point and stopping to sing an ever so quick tune while surrounded by throngs of shrubbery.

We ever so quickly drove our way over to the Cultural Hall to watch the ever so clever production of "Just Plain Anna Amanda". The puppet show prior to the production was ever so charming, with the puppets and all. Our favorite little folk dancer, Lanae, was the star of the show, and she was ever so spunky and adorable. The show was ever so bubbly and had a great moral in the end about loving who you are. The YPMs and the senior missionaries are ever so wonderful!

After the show we came back to the ever so cool condos for lunch and free time. Some people proceeded to go and tour historical sites while others were ever so tired and decided to take epically long naps. Then there were the “crazies” who decided that the circus is ever so appealing and went EVER SO Cirque du Soleil, including Edwin...

Our show that evening was ever so earlier than our normal time. The sun was still shining and the humidity was ever so horrid when we started the show at 7:00pm. The conditions nearly rivaled that of the ever so hot first performance that we endured with ever so sweaty smiles. Despite the ever so dreadful elements, we had an excellent turnout and an awesome show. Afterwards, we were able to stay around and watch the ever so talented YPMs put on their talent filled talent show. It was ever so enjoyable to relax and enjoy the fun-filled day and show.

Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2010

Amy and Colin Slade

Make no mistake about it .., prayer meeting was at 6:40 am. Ew, gross. It was followed by a three hour drive to the capitol of “bustling” Illinois, Springfield.

Springfield, Springfield, it's a heckuva town!

All was worth it though, as we were traveling to the Lincoln Museum per the invitation from Phil Funkenbusch. There we danced in the beautiful central Rotunda for museum goers and Lincoln's wax family. The band played several American/Bluegrass numbers and the whole group showed off *The Gathering* and *Southern Waltz* (I know... Confederates in the Lincoln Museum??). We were warmly accepted not only for our dancing, but also for touring the museum while still in costume.

The museum was AWESOME!! It seriously was Disneyland for history buffs and the uninformed alike. We started our tour by not only watching, but *experiencing* “Ghosts of the Library,” one the museums films. So cool. Makes me want to be a historian. Thereafter, there was much debate about how the whole experience was done. Some decided to leave the magic be. Others returned for another viewing to pay closer attention and figure out how things were done. The team later regrouped after seeing the museum and learning more about Lincoln. We were all impressed by his character, his policies, his opposition, his entire life. What a spectacular tribute to such an incredible man.

The drive to and from Springfield was filled with much unnecessary, but enjoyable radio use. The conversations consisted correct radio etiquette, Illinois cash crops, the history of road lane lines, and the origin of Beardstown. In the end, we were all edified and made it safely back to Nauvoo in time for dinner.

We brought with us some very large rain clouds. For a good while it seemed as though they were just empty threats, but eventually the floods came. It seriously dumped buckets. A large group formed led by the infamous Brian Folger Watson and danced in the torrent. Choruses of “Ole” resounded in between the lightning and thunder blasts. Even Ed and Mark joined in the riot, chests bare and arms flailing. Yet all good things must come to an end, as the time came to get ready for our show.

Due to the rain we had the wonderful opportunity to perform on the eyeball stage inside the Nauvoo Visitor's Center. It was a much shortened show because most of our numbers are too

large for the stage. It also ended up being a much more sloppy show because of the slippery stage. I still blame Brian for not having a recording of it all. Regardless here are a few highlights:

- Sally fell to her knees in Serbian. The audience responded with a generous “ugh...”
- Rapper Sword imploded
- Syracovy experienced new choreography as hats got stuck on heads and fell to the floor
- Elkridge clog was super slick and cramped leading to forgotten formations and steps

Despite it all we were triumphant as the audience emerged to offer their congratulations. One lady remarked, “It was so much better than last night!” A few of the dancers interacted with Hannah, who has seen the show five times and whose parents said that she goes home every night and thanks Heavenly Father for sending the folk dancers to Nauvoo.

That’s all.

Thursday, Aug. 12, 2010
Bryce Gandy & Angie Bush

On this day in folk dance history:

- It was the hottest day of the year in Nauvoo! 117 F (index with humidity)
- We met at Ed’s condo in the morning for prayer meeting where Cameron shared a thought and prayer.
- The whole group went to the temple. Those who could do a session did, except for five of the men that went to help in the baptistery. Before the session started the temple president talked to the group in the chapel about the history of the original temple and the new temple. During this time Justin went on a private tour with Elder Hughes to see some of the less known sites.
- We had box lunches at the condos, and a little mid-day break.
- At 3pm we went to the visitor’s center to see the YPM show *High Hopes and River Boats*.
- After the show some of the group went back to the condos to rest while others spent more time visiting the sites in Nauvoo and shopping.
- Dinner was at 5:30pm in the condos.
- The Irish number was added tonight to the outdoor show; that meant extra time in the sun, on the stage for blocking.
- The show went on outside despite the record heat. No one suffered heat stroke, although there were some minor incidents of dehydration.
- Elder and Sister Torrie brought ice cream for us after the show, in addition to the coolers of cold bottled water and Gatorade to keep us going in the heat.

- We finished the in Ed and Mark's condo with notes and a devotional by Brittany.

Saturday, Aug. 14, 2010

Alina Geslison & Scott McDermott

The day started with devotional at 8:15 am. Rachel read the words of some of the early sisters who were forced to leave Nauvoo and make the trek west. She invited us to reflect on their feelings as we contemplated our own exodus from Nauvoo as tour drew to a close.

Next, we made our way to the Visitor's Center to watch the short film *Remembering Nauvoo*. It gave us a look into the lives of many of the early saints who lived in Nauvoo. As journal entries were quoted, we were able to better understand how some of these early saints felt as they built up the City Beautiful only to be forced to leave.

After the film, we had free time to wander the streets of Nauvoo and see more of the sites. We broke into smaller groups based on who wanted to see what. Hopefully you recorded this in your own journal, because it would be impossible to record what everybody did in this single history entry. We're sure we all had a great time, though.

We headed back for lunch at noon and were pleasantly surprised to find tacos awaiting us. It was AWESOME! We love good food!

After lunch, we had about four hours of free time. Some returned to Nauvoo, some slept, and some engaged in otherwise entertaining endeavors.

We gathered together again to head to the Seventies Hall at 5:00 for a testimony meeting. The team was there with our favorite senior missionaries – Elder and Sister Torrie, Elder and Sister Hughes, Elder and Sister Dye, and Elder and Sister Black. President and Sister Ludwig couldn't make it because they were busy watching the YPMs close all of their shows. It was a wonderful meeting. We felt the Spirit strongly as powerful testimonies were borne. There were intense emotions present, and we felt extra close as a group. It was truly a piece of Zion. (On a funny note, we also learned of Rachel's past desire to marry Greg. Dylan had to clarify that the Greg Rachel mentioned was, in fact, *not* Greg Rawlings. It was a good clarification, because we were all pretty surprised by the revelation ... especially Greg.)

After the testimony meeting, we rushed over to the Visitor's Center for dinner. The door was locked, and we were very grateful when Elder Hughes brought the key and saved the day! We had chicken salad sandwiches for dinner, and they were delicious! Then we rushed over to the outdoor stage to catch the end of *Sunset on the Mississippi* and set up for our show.

All in all, it was an excellent show. The band played most superbly, and the dancers danced without any major incident. It was our longest outdoor show, too, since we added *Refabrique* on top of the duet that had already been added the night before. It was fun to have the YPMs in the audience again. They're great!! They danced in the back of the audience during *Sarandonga*, which the band loved.

And Javier made a new friend, too. During *Irish Blessing*, Jiminy Cricket sang along while perched on Javier's shoulder!

After the show, we headed over to President and Sister Ludwig's house for the final time. We were all happy to participate in a third ice cream feast. While we were there, Sister Ludwig shared with us a real-life fairy tale. She told the story of how she and her husband had met and came to be an eternal couple. Long story short, they were set up on a date, they liked each other, but she wanted to get married in the temple and he wasn't a member. He didn't want to get baptized just for a girl, so he decided to listen to the missionaries, read the Book of Mormon, and pray. He was baptized by her father and soon they were engaged. They decided to wait the long year so they could be married in the temple because Sister Ludwig had previously made a personal promise to do so. They were married in the same sealing room where she had made that promise.

And they lived happily ever after.

Afterward, we hurried back to the condos and began the craziness of packing and getting ready to leave the next day. We're sure that it was a short night for many of us.

Sunday, Aug. 15, 2010

Ed Austin, Artistic Director

Today is Sunday and we are traveling home after a very successful two weeks in Nauvoo. Nauvoo has been a dream come true for many of our students, who not only performed for anxiously awaiting audiences, but also feasted upon the history of the Church and the stories of faith and devotion which permeate this sacred site.

The journey home went very smoothly. The day unfolded like this:

- * Attended the local sacrament meeting at 8a.m.
- * Loaded the bus at 11a.m.
- * Departed for St. Louis
- * Drove by the St. Louis Temple
- * Drove by the St. Louis Cardinals/Chicago Cubs baseball game
- * Visited the Gateway Arch (while folk dancers had lunch a had some relax time)
- * Boarded flight #F9 0667: St. Louis/Denver at 6:55p.m.
- * Boarded flight #F9 0589: Denver/SLC at 9:10pm
- * Landed safely in Salt Lake City at 12:01am

While in Nauvoo and the surrounding area, we couldn't have been hosted better by the wonderful senior missionaries who went out of their way to make sure that every need would be taken care of. Our accommodations were "more than we are normally accustomed to," and other than some days of almost unbearable heat—at least for many of us—the days were perfect. We were rained out only once, and the rest of the time the students were real "troopers" as they courageously went on stage each night to perform a new show. (The heat would have been a challenge for any performing group. One only has more admiration for this group when knowing about the layers of authentic, heavy, and literally hot costumes that are used in every performance.) Wow ... these students were wonderful, with amazingly few complaints during the two weeks. Their performances were not only a product of stellar performance, but also instances of sincere love, faith, and devotion.

A special "thank you" to each of the students, those who accompanied me on the tours, and Jon Wood and Shane Wright for following through with the thousands of details.

What an honor it is to be part of such a fine group.