ON THE ROAD WITH CAST B 2009

By Laura Lynn Horst, USA
Cast B 2009 Staff
Music Coordinator

The halls are alive with the sound of Up with People! The historic Sherman Center in downtown Denver is full of a fresh new group of Up with People students. Each floor of the building has different sounds and different stories.

The 4th floor is the auditorium. Our tech team set up the stage for our staff to perform parts of the show during opening session on Sunday, July 12th. The staff worked long and hard to prepare an awesome first impression for the cast. You could feel the excitement as the new group entered the auditorium not quite knowing what to expect. It was an awesome feeling walking onstage during the opening number and looking out into an audience of people I barely knew, but will soon be my family. The host family meet and greet after the show provided an opportunity for cast members to mingle with each other and to get to know the host families and staff as well.

Also on the 4th floor you can hear laughter in the morning as both staff and students answer the “Question of the Day” during morning meeting. In the afternoon you can hear the rhythm of an Oye el Boom dance workshop or the band rocking out to the Love Medley.

One of the most inspiring sounds coming from the 4th floor are the intense conversations that can follow an education session. It was amazing watching the cast after our silent card tournament. The rules of the game were different at every table and the cast was not aware of this added challenge. The debate and discussion that followed was truly inspiring as the cast related the experience to living in other cultures and to how we communicate and respond to the members of our own cast who may have difficulties with each others’ languages.

On the 3rd floor you can peek in on Backup Singers workshops, or maybe listen to a rap or spoken word. In the ballroom on the 2nd floor you can hear the harmonies in Shosholoza, a South African song, during a vocal workshop. An hour and a half later you can watch the cast learn the dance to the new opening number, Sing Your Song. It is so exciting to be involved in the production of this show because of the new and different moments that this cast will perform. The opening number is such a display of raw emotion and joy that it’s almost impossible to not be caught up in the moment. The growth in the performing arts that I have seen from this cast just in the first week is absolutely incredible.

Probably my favorite sound of the first week of staging comes from the lunchroom on the 1st floor. This is truly where connections and friendships are being made. I’ve had great lunches with some amazing students and I know that what I’ve seen is being shared with the entire cast. It’s going to be an adventure watching this cast grow and learn as their semester continues!

Follow Cast B 2009’s tour on their blog: www.uwpontour.com!

Performing Jai Ho at Opening Session

One of Cast B 2009’s Home Teams

JULY/AUGUST 2009
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: 
AUDE GOUDREAULT, CANADA

jurred and couldn’t walk. It took me one year to recover and I had to close my dance company. After my recovery, I reconsidered Up with People. After getting the physical ok, I applied three months ago, and here I am!

**What inspired you to join UWP?**
I studied in dance and performance. I like to travel and discover new ways to see life. I like to meet new people. I can learn from the different ways that people do things. Every aspect of the Up with People program is a part of me. I was involved in service projects in the past. Up with People is perfect for me.

**What are you looking forward to most during your UWP experience?**
I look forward to the differences in cultures and different ways to see life, and the confrontation of my reality and the reality of someone else. I expect to learn new things from new places – languages, new ways to look at life. I want to establish different relationships with people in different countries, so that I can call them to visit any time, and they can do the same with me.

**How do you anticipate being challenged?**
I expect to be challenged. It has been a long time since I have performed on stage. I think it will be a challenge and also it is a goal of mine to readjust and to take the time to grow and further myself.

After my injury, I want to take this time to reflect on what I really want to do, and realize a dream that I have had for a long time. Without the injury I would not be here. This is a great opportunity for me.

**How did you hear about UWP?**
My aunt traveled with Up with People when I was young. I helped her in her fundraising process, selling tee-shirts. I remember thinking “wow” when she was telling me all of her stories from the road. I applied when I was 18, but doing the program at that time never worked out. I went on to create my own company in physical preparation for dance. Recently, I was badly in

CAST B 2009 TOUR SCHEDULE

Tour cities and dates are subject to change.

Thanks to the efforts of Eva Thimstrand (79A), UWP will be sponsored by Vattenfall, a leading European energy company based in Sweden, to help them celebrate their 100th anniversary. Performances in these cities will be for their employees only (marked below as Private show).

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<th>United States</th>
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<td>Denver, CO (Orientation &amp; Staging)</td>
<td>10 July – 9 Aug</td>
<td>Luleå, Sweden (Private show)</td>
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<td>Aspen/Snowmass, CO</td>
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<td>Lake Havasu City, AZ</td>
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<td>Mexico City</td>
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**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:**

**EMIL WALLNÉR, SWEDEN**

*How did you hear about UWP?*

I actually found out about Up with People through a web search. I wanted to travel and do something new. I wanted to explore the world and challenge myself to grow.

*What inspired you to join UWP?*

I wanted to develop as a human. I love cultures, how people live their lives, and how groups of people develop in different regions. I like meeting new people. I like to dance and perform in shows. I wanted to develop my speaking skills. I am interested in learning about different societies.

*What are you looking forward to most during your UWP experience?*

It is hard to put a finger on just one thing. Living with host families and working within different communities excites me. I hope to get a good idea of what their daily life is like. I look forward to performing on a stage, and I am excited to gain friends from all over the world. I am looking forward to going to countries that are different from Sweden, such as Poland and Mexico. I also hope to find which direction to go in college.

*How do you anticipate being challenged?*

I hope to be challenged in public speaking, and to perform, sing, dance, and speak in front of an audience. I want to be pushed out of my comfort zone through living with host families. I am also looking forward to the challenge of leading a group in our community impact projects or in classrooms.

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**UWP VENTURES TOURS BERMUDA**

*By Phil Worcester, USA*

*Cast B2009 Staff Promotion Representative*

Up with People Ventures completed its inaugural tour on the island paradise of Bermuda earlier this year in June. Despite highly unusual and uncooperative weather patterns, we are excited and gratified by what we accomplished during our time there.

The Bermuda Venture Cast participated in 3 days of community impact projects, ranging from physical labor to youth interaction to environmental projects. Many of the non-profit organizations we worked with were overwhelmed by the amount of work our enthusiastic and energetic cast completed and can’t wait for our return.

Although Mother Nature was unable to spoil our community impact projects, she did her best to dampen our full performance that was to be held at the beautiful Snorkel Park Beach Resort with torrential rain and heavy winds. Luckily, that did not stop us from getting a few preview performances in before-hand at different venues throughout the island. One of our most memorable preview performances was on the steps of City Hall in downtown Hamilton where we performed in front of influential government leaders including the Premier, Dr. Ewart Brown, and the Minister of Labor, Home Affairs, and Housing, Colonel David Burch, an Up with People alumnus (73A).

Much of this memorable experience was due to the endless work of our 80 plus alumni who call Bermuda home. We will continue to be represented in Bermuda by our vigorous and energized contingent of alumni who will be the stewards of what is to come. The inaugural Up with People Venture Cast was a great success and it was wonderful to reestablish the connection and bond between Up with People and Bermuda.
ALUMNI LETTER
By Allan Xenius Grige, Denmark
Cast 84E; Staff 1983-1995
Cultural Entrepreneur and Consultant

“Everything I ever needed to know, I learned in Up with People.” Well, maybe not exactly – but almost. In 1983, I was fresh out of high school, and ready to conquer the world. Having been into music, theatre, and student council in school (the usual story I guess), UWP came by at the right moment.

Yet, doing advance promotion rather than performing became my “thing” in Cast E84, and when offered a promotion staff job at the end of year, my destiny was sealed. So from rounding up 2,000 spectators in small towns in Switzerland (I’m still wondering where they came from) to setting up charity shows in famous concert halls in Chicago, Brussels, Helsinki and Copenhagen, I was fortunate to practice marketing skills, language skills, logistical skills, presentation skills, and loads of other things for the next two years.

To this day, the “everything is possible” attitude with which we, as UWP, rounded up some 10-15 media interviews, 30-40 school and service club presentations, 80+ host families, 500 meal servings, and 1000+ audience members in an average city in only 18-20 days or so, still amazes me. We started out as amateurs, but were forced to think and act as professionals. We gradually became professionals.

Later, when I was a tour manager and responsible for the largest fully sponsored concert tour of any group in Denmark – the Toyota tour in 1988 – I found myself, on behalf of Up with People, leaping into – or rather, being a leader in – the still young and inexperienced professional live event sponsorship industry in my home country. I saw UWP’s potential as a business from a new perspective and learned accounting and several legal matters from establishing the organisation as a legal entity in Denmark.

For the next 6 years, while scheduling almost 180 shows and working with at least as many different sponsors – plus sending off loads of Danes to join the program – I was hurled into numerous fun, rewarding, and challenging situations. Before finally leaving UWP in 1995, I had a 6-month stint in Denver in 1990 as Event Program Manager for 5000+ delegates to UWP’s Silver Celebration, and spent two years in the Oslo office as Director of Admission & Corporate Services.

Learning by doing. Keeping an eye on the ball. Being flexible. Always ready to eventually sleep the following year.

In 1996, I worked for a while as marketing and front-of-house manager for the Danish National Symphony Orchestra. This experience, in addition to my many years with UWP, made me fascinated by the multitude of ways in which venues welcome and handle their guest performers and audiences, not to mention how they treated their own staff.

When I was given the opportunity to become CEO and Artistic Director of a brand new 1,100-seat performing arts centre in Esbjerg, Denmark, my ambition was to create a venue that would be highly respected not only for its programming, but also for its services and welcoming atmosphere. Hiring three other UWP alumni to work in leading technical roles was what made the difference. The four of us shared a positive approach and a “go-getter” attitude that spread to the rest of the staff.

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Thank you to everyone who participated in the SOS Alumni Challenge!

With your help, we were able to raise $57,043.78 - equal to the full program fee for 4 students. Congratulations to Cast 1974A, who raised $10,245.00, making them a Silver Partner Cast!

Total Casts Participating: 87
Total Raised: $57,043.78
Total Donors: 254

Honorable mention for highest participation goes to Cast 1993D with 47 donors.

The Era with the most funds raised was 1976-1980 with $13,742.09, closely followed by 1971-1975 with $13,665.00.

The Era with the highest participation was 1991-1995 with 68 donors.
I am proud to say that we succeeded in creating one of Denmark’s best regarded venues.

Seven years and some 2000 events later, I left the position to change awkward procedures, negative attitudes, and horrible services in the framework of the Danish Broadcasting Corporation in preparation for the opening of the organisation’s new concert hall in Copenhagen. I later became lead consultant to the new Icelandic National Concert & Conference Centre in Reykjavik while being involved with several international networks in the arts management industry.

When people ask me nowadays what I am doing, my answer really depends on the day of the week. For the most part, I make my living as a consultant sharing my knowledge on arts marketing, branding and organisation with up-and-coming concert hall managers and festival organisers, and I act as chairman of the International Festival & Events Association in Europe (whose sister organisation in the U.S. includes several UWP alumni). At other times, I take international shows and groups on tour in Europe as promoter/organiser.

But probably what I enjoy most is teaching Arts & Culture Management and Event Management to students at two colleges in Denmark. They are eager to conquer the world just as I was back in 1983. And actually, in spite of my years as a venue professional, most of what I teach relates to the things I learned doing event management for Up with People in my student year.

Above all, my life still evolves around things that serve one purpose: To celebrate humanity. Up with People.

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UWP MUSIC

Up with People classics and new hits available online!

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the moon landing, please also consider celebrating the UWP classic song *Moon Rider*, based on the recollections of astronaut Eugene Cernan, Commander of Apollo 17. Also, for a new spin on this UWP classic, check out *Moon Rider Revisited*, a cover version of the song by alumnus Angel Cortes (81D) and his production company, 62 Music Group. Get your limited free download of this new track at www.62musicgroup.com.

When asked about the new song, Angel remarked “We at 62 music felt the timing was never more important than now based on current world affairs. Our version, *Moon Rider Revisited* was written to appeal to today’s youth and we worked extremely hard from a production standpoint to ensure the integrity of the original.”

Angel and his team have also worked with the UWP creative team on the new UWP hits *Arm Yourself*, *With One Heart*, *Let’s Work It Out* and the latest hit, *Sing Your Song* (anticipated release date late August of 2009).

Go to your favorite online music provider to download UWP music today!

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You could entertain them...

- or -

you could inspire them, motivate them, rock the house and knock their socks off.

Discover the power of *Up with People to move your group.*

The Professional Cast, consisting of UWP alumni, is not tied to a cast tour schedule and is available for events large and small.

For information on availability, rates and booking, call +1 303 460 7100 ext. 118.

Or email our Producer, Eric Lentz, at elentz@upwithpeople.org.

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