

FAR CORNERS COMMUNITY MUSICAL THEATRE SHOW BULLETIN

JULY 2009
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Musical Theatre Connections
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Uruakawa: The Musical
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Interschool Musical
Festival
Maputo, Mozambique

February, 2010

Interschool Music and Theatre
Workshop
Maputo, Mozambique

MAPUTO INTERSCHOOL MUSIC & THEATRE WORKSHOP

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF MOZAMBIQUE

Sounds of stomping, slapping and whistling mingled with singing in English and Portuguese during the last weekend of May as 150 students and teachers from seven different local and international schools shared in the first annual Maputo Interschool Music and Theatre Workshop.

Our workshop offered students a choice of a variety of different performing arts activities. Each student signed up for a specific ensemble and rehearsed intensely in preparation for a short public performance on Sunday. The workshops were directed by AISM teachers, community members and high school students from around the world.

The largest ensemble - filling and threatening to break the makeshift wooden stage in their final performance - was the Gumboot dance troupe. Gumboots is a hugely popular Southern African art form that originated in the mines of South Africa as an underground system of communication between immigrant mine workers from



neighboring countries, including Mozambique. Performed in a group, it involves intricate, rhythmic patterns of stomping and slapping one's boots.

Deaf students played a major part in the Multilingual Theatre Ensemble, which told the story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin in three different languages: English, Portuguese and sign language. Other ensembles practiced capoeira, musical theatre, body percussion, and instrumental music.

In collaboration with AISM, we plan to offer a similar workshop with more options and participants early in 2010, as well as a full-scale musical production, open to students from all of the schools in late 2009.

OUR MISSION

Far Corners Community Musical Theatre is committed to providing diverse youth populations from communities around the world with new opportunities to grow and succeed through committed participation in the art of musical theatre as collaborators, performers, thinkers, creators, change-makers, multilingual communicators and open-minded, responsible members of a global community.

Far Corners Community Musical Theatre is a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Hawaii.



TOP RIGHT: STUDENTS FROM FOUR SCHOOLS IN THE INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE COLLABORATED ON FAVORITE POP SONGS

BOTTOM LEFT: THE BODY PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE MAKES COMPLEX RHYTHMS WITH THEIR HANDS, FEET, CHEEKS AND MORE!

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ABOVE: THE GUMBOOTS DANCE ENSEMBLE

CYBER-COMMUTE!

Volunteers are greatly needed NOW for the following:

❖ Writing, editing, proofreading

❖ Translation (languages including Spanish, Portuguese, French and Mandarin Chinese - so far!)

❖ Administrative tasks - U.S. based (receiving mail, scanning documents, printing/copying and mailing)

❖ Visual arts/graphic design

❖ Web development

❖ Library research, if you have access to a strong library system, usually not available to us abroad

❖ Fundraising/grant-writing

We could also use volunteers to assist with: Financial planning
Internet-based research
Theatre (especially costumes & sets)

Music (especially transposition and/or keyboard skills, and ability to use music notation software)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

HELP MAKE OUR PROJECTS A REALITY - FROM WHEREVER IN THE WORLD YOU ARE!

Much of the assistance we need can be done over the internet (see sidebar). You can find more information on our website: www.farcornersmusicals.org

Interested in traveling to volunteer at one of our shows or other events? We often need individuals with abilities in stage direction, choreography, technical theatre and design; musicians for the pit orchestra,; and willing hands to help with backstage and administrative tasks.

FCCMT is growing and taking shape, and we are looking to build our volunteer base. If you are interested in helping out the organization in its formative stage, there are *many* opportunities to do so, regardless of where in the world you are and how much time you have to spare.

THINK “URINETOWN” IS A STRANGE TITLE?

“YOU’RE IN” GOOD COMPANY!

“I don’t think too many people are going to come see this musical, Officer Lockstock,” comments Little Sally in the final moments of the Tony- Award winning Broadway musical *Urinetown*.

“Why do you say that, Little Sally? Don’t you think people wanna be told that their way of life is unsustainable?”

“That, and the title’s *awful*.”

Monteverde, Costa Rica is a rural community perched on the Tilaran mountains at the continental divide and surrounded by one of the world’s few examples of the delicate cloud forest biome. A popular ecotourism destination, the misty, beautiful forest supports a vast number of species and is the subject of extensive research in both pure sciences and in resource management

Monteverde has a tradition of environmental consciousness. However, this mindset is continuously at odds with the demands of rapid economic development: recent issues involve water rights, waste management from

hotels and restaurants, and traffic on newly paved roads.

In other words, issues of sustainability are front and center in Monteverde - making it an especially appropriate location for a youth production of *Urinetown: The Musical*, a fast-paced satire about a fictitious town where extreme drought has caused the government to outlaw private toilets. And the cast - drawn primarily from schools that place environmental awareness at the center of their curricula - are bright, creative teenagers; kids who have great potential to make a difference in their home town and country.

One of FCCMT’s core values is the social relevance of musical theatre - the belief that an excellent musical not only tells a story but also explores issues relevant to the audience and cast. *Urinetown*’s story takes place at the intersection between issues of socio-economic disparity and severely diminished natural resources - certainly a point of fundamental relevance in the developing world.

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MEET THE CAST OF *URINETOWN!*



Tourists were drawn to the sound of singing emanating from Flor de Vida restaurant in Monteverde, Costa Rica. They were hearing the 19 students, drawn from 3 local schools and including one from Michigan, who make up the cast of FCCMT's latest production, *Urinetown*.

It's the first musical for Karen, 12 and Jose Daniel, 13, both in 7th grade. Jose Daniel is excited to be in the show because "there's not a lot else to do" when school is out. When not acting, he enjoys

playing Ultimate Frisbee with his friends, while Karen enjoys listening to music and playing with her two brothers.

Antonio, 15, who plays Officer Lockstock, has been in two of our previous productions, playing Harold Hill in *The Music Man*. He enjoys participating in musicals because he "like[s] to sing, and do activities with other teenagers." His other hobbies are playing guitar and soccer. He says that his soccer friends think "it's cool" and will be coming to see him in the show!

Beatriz, playing Little Sally, has also been in two previous shows, and said "I thought [*Music Man*] was going to be my last chance to do a show, but then I heard you were coming back!" She says that she loves acting because "it is like putting yourself in another person's shoes, and it helps you see another point of view."

Luis Dario, 15, plays Bobby, the hero of the show. He says that "Musicals are great; a way to meet new people, make new friends, and keep yourself busy in a way that is good for the world."

To learn more about our cast, visit our website: <http://www.arcornersmusicals.org>

SUPPORT OUR SHOW

Contributions of any size are needed now to fund our production of *Urinetown: the Musical*. As our organization is just getting started, your donation **will** make an immediate difference in our show and our ability to offer future programs.

Donations can be made online by credit card through our fiscal sponsor, Fractured Atlas. Follow the link on our website at: www.farcornersmusicals.org

Or, mail a check (payable to Fractured Atlas, in behalf of FCCMT) to:

Far Corners Community Musical Theatre
1108 Fort Street Mall Suite 9B
Honolulu, HI 96813, United States.

Your donation is tax deductible.



We are very grateful for your support at one of the following levels, or at another amount of your choice.

Porta-Potty Level - \$5

Donation will cover the cost of a taxi-busto send the kidshome after a late rehearsal. Receive a ticket to the show, and unlimited use of the facilities!

Public Amenity Level - \$25

Your donation will cover the cost of renting our performance venue for one evening. Receive two tickets to the show plus a signed cast photograph.

Composting Toilet Level - \$50

Your donation will cover rental chairs for the performance. Receive four tickets to the show, a signed cast photograph, and a DVD.

Porcelain Patty Level - \$100

Your donation will cover our entire budget for costumes. Receive all of the above, plus a cast t-shirt.

Super Sauna Level - \$250+

Make your donation online now via our website: www.farcornersmusicals.org

FCCMT is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a non-profit arts service organization. Contributions in behalf of FCCMT may be made payable to Fractured Atlas and are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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We're on the web!
See us at
www.farcornersmusicals.org



MUSICAL THEATRE CONNECTIONS

One of Far Corners Community Musical Theatre's goals is to bring together in music & theatre diverse groups of youth, helping them to overcome barriers of nationality, culture, socioeconomic status, language, religion and gender. All of our projects so far have pulled from multiple communities within the towns or cities we worked in and resulted in new friendships and increased understanding.

Reaching further, we are working to establish an international musical theatre camp for teens, called Musical Theatre Connections,

as one of our core programs.

Having discovered that musical theatre can generate immense enthusiasm, energy and dedication in students from vastly different backgrounds, we hope to bring some of these students together to learn from one another while sharing in this passion. The program brings together local youth and visiting participants to form the cast of the show. Visiting students also participate in a related service project and local activities, social events with the local students, language classes and a home-stay.

