



FAR CORNERS COMMUNITY MUSICAL THEATRE SHOW BULLETIN

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

APRIL 2010

2ND ANNUAL INTERSCHOOL MUSIC & THEATRE WORKSHOP IN MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

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Recent and Upcoming Events

February 20 - 21, 2010

Interschool Music and
Theatre Workshop
Maputo, Mozambique

**June 27 - August 9,
2010**

Musical Theatre
Connections: Monteverde
Program

August 5 - 7, 2010

Show To Be Announced
Monteverde, Costa Rica

With a deep, resounding voice, a playful facial expression, and a powerful physical presence, eighteen year-old Sessie Agbley filled the cafeteria with excitement as he led his dance troupe onto the wooden stage. The spindly eleven-year-olds in giant boots kept pace with the muscular older teens. They sang, chanted, and yelled in English, Portuguese, Changana, and Zulu. Many of the dancers are from Maputo; others come from all over the world.

Agbley is a senior at the American International School of Mozambique (AISM), busy with school, sports and drama. But after his experience at last year's Interschool Music & Theatre Workshop, he says he would spend any amount of time dancing with the energetic local teenagers.

The gumboots and cultural dance group Agbley directed was certainly the show-stopper, but was only one of six dynamic workshop ensembles at this event, held at AISM in February. Over one hundred and fifty students from eight different private and public schools



in Maputo participated. The ensembles were formed at the start of the event, with the school delegations divided up to ensure a diverse mixture in each ensemble.

(Continued on Page 2)

FCCMT RECEIVES 501(c)(3) DESIGNATION

It's official: in February, we received our letter of designation from the Internal Revenue Service. FCCMT has been granted 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status as a charitable organization. Since its inception, FCCMT has been a registered non-profit organization in the State of Hawaii. We are pleased to add this prized federal designation, the result of tackling an infamously long IRS application.

FCCMT has been deemed a "public charity," the highest possible designation. Individuals can make tax-deductible contributions directly to FCCMT (previously we worked through the

fiscal sponsor Fractured Atlas) and can also make donations in their wills and trusts. The IRS designation also applies retroactively, rendering tax-deductible any donations that have already been made to the organization.

FCCMT is now eligible to apply for a wide range of grants and funding opportunities in the U.S. We look forward to using the variety of fund-raising options available to a 501(c)(3) non-profit to greatly extend the reach of our programs in the coming years. A big "thank you" to Mitch Burns, Esq. for the pro bono legal assistance!

INTERSCHOOL MUSIC & THEATRE WORKSHOP

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Below: Capoeira workshop



second annual event. An exciting addition this year was a youth dance group from the *bairro* immediately bordering AISM. This was an important part of the school's ongoing attempt to build a relationship with the neighboring community through a variety of student-led projects.

Students from all of the schools were excited to meet peers from different parts of the community. "[I liked] the exchange and the fact that each student felt included and had fun," said one student, a seventeen-year-old attending Polana High School, in Portuguese. "I had a chance to learn from those I didn't know and to show them a little that I do know."



On Sunday, the groups came together to present an afternoon of multicultural performances: a play based on an Angolan story performed in Portuguese, English, French and Mozambican sign language, with a brief musical clip from Michael Jackson; dances from Mozambique, South Africa, Israel, Canada, Germany, and Romania; choral pieces from Zambia, Swaziland, South Africa and the U.S; and a demonstration of the Afro-Brazilian martial art of Capoeira.

Local students from two large, public high schools and the special school for the deaf were eager to return for the



Check out video footage from the event on our facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/farcornersmusicals>

Above: Cultural dance

Below: Theatre rehearsal

A CHILD'S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ARTS



Programs like the Interschool Music & Theatre Workshop confirm to everyone involved the deep importance of opportunities for youth to participate in the arts - even in a country as poor as Mozambique where so many other childhood needs are also unmet.

The United Nations recognizes that importance in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most widely ratified international treaty.

Article 31 of the CRC mandates that: "States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity."

ALUMNI UPDATE: ON TO BIGGER STAGES

LUIS DARIO VILLALOBOS CASTRO

When Luis Dario Villalobos Castro made his musical theatre debut as Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls* at the age of 12, his mother said the family was amazed to find out he could sing. In two subsequent FCCMT productions, Dario played Marcellus Washburn in *The Music Man* and Bobby Strong in *Urinetown*. Dario has also been seen in his hometown of Monteverde, Costa Rica, in other shows and numerous musical gigs, both singing and accompanying others on the piano.

A student at the Centro de Educacion Creativa, Dario is currently spending his 10th grade year studying abroad at Oregon High School in Wisconsin.



Top: Luis Dario (left) as Amos in *Chicago*



Left: Luis Dario (right) as Rev. Parris in *The Crucible*

Upon his arrival in Wisconsin, Dario wasted no time getting involved in the music & theatre scene. He auditioned for his high school's fall musical, *Chicago*, and was cast as the comedic character Amos, the sweet naïve husband best known for his solo song "Mr. Cellophane."

Second semester found Dario in the classic Arthur Miller tragedy *The Crucible*. Dario portrayed Puritan minister Reverend Samuel Parris.

Below: Luis Dario as Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*

While not on stage, Dario keeps busy with a variety of other musical pursuits: in addition to playing the piano, he has taken up the cello as a member of the school orchestra. Dario is taking the Advanced Placement Music Theory course (along with several other AP courses) and started writing his own musical, *Swine Flu: The Musical*.

Living in the United States has also given Dario the opportunity to experience music & theatre from the audience of concerts and shows, including a reunion tour performance of *Rent* with original cast members.

What's next for Dario? He's not sure yet. But musical opportunities certainly await Dario when he returns home, however, as he has already been offered a scholarship to study music at the University of Costa Rica.





COSTA RICA 2010

We're gearing up for Musical Theatre Connections: Costa Rica 2010 **Want to come to Costa Rica** and join us for the show?

- Teens ages 13 - 18 can still sign up for the Musical Theatre Connections program, which runs June 27 - August 9, and includes theatre, service, ecology, Spanish classes, adventure tours, and a homestay with a local family. **If you know any teens who might be interested, please spread the word!**

More information on our website: farcornersmusicals.org/monteverde-2010

- Friends and supporters are extremely welcome to join us as a volunteer, or to simply enjoy beautiful Costa Rica and attend the show! Monteverde, Costa Rica is a world-class tourist destination. Contact us for tips and information.

- We are also looking for musicians to join the pit orchestra.

SPONSOR OUR SHOW - \$25 MAKES A DIFFERENCE

We need to raise \$1000 for our production in Costa Rica this year, supplementing the ticket sales, sponsorships and other fundraising we undertake in Monteverde.

Can you chip in \$25 (or more)?

Can you recommend us to a friend or relative?

Donations can be made by credit card online through our website, <http://farcornersmusicals.org>

Or, mail a check to:
Far Corners Community Musical Theatre,
1108 Fort Street Mall Suite 9B
Honolulu, HI, 96813

Your donation is fully tax-deductible.



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.



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