OUR 2010 SCOTLAND-FRINGE ADVENTURE TRAVELOG!!!

Photo Highlights from our Adventures - <http://www.youtube.com/user/frank206206>

**Tuesday and Wednesday, August 3 & 4** -Flew to Charlotte and
met students from Florida and South Carolina, made new friends and
played theatre games in the airport.

Flew into London Gatewick, were met by a Blue Badge Guide and visited
by Tour Coach:

* The O2 (Formerly the Millennium Dome) –
where we stood in 2 hemispheres
* The Site of the 2012 Olympics
* St. Paul's Cathedral
* Covent Garden – ate lunch and watched
street performers
* Drove by Big Ben and Parliament
* Visited Buckingham Palace
* Checked in at Bankside
* Took Black taxi to and rode the London
Eye

**Thursday, August 5**

* Rode a London city bus
* Crossed Tower Bridge by bus
* Toured the Tower of London
* Toured the Globe
* Took a workshop at the Globe with a
company member
* Visited the Tate Modern
* Took the Tube to Soho for dinner at
Melanie
* Saw the West End production of *Blood
Brothers*
* Rode the Tube back

**Friday, August 6**

* Awoke at 4 AM to pack to leave Bankside
* Ate quick breakfast and rode a coach
tour bus to King's Cross
* Left on a Charter Train full of over
700 AHSTF students from Platform 1 to Edinburgh
* Six hour train ride – beautiful
scenery, slept, ate, made plans and new friends
* Got off at Preston Pans Railway Station
* Bus and Walking tour of Edinburgh
* Visited Edinburgh Castle
* Walked the Royal Mile
* Were very entertained by bizarre street
performers and buskers
* Checked in at Pollock Halls
* Put scenery for *Almost, Maine* together
* Got a well-deserved rest

**Saturday, August 7**

* Rode Edinburgh city bus to The Spaces
on The Mile – Stage 3
* Enjoyed production of *Godspell* by the
Campion School (a British International School from
Athens, Greece) – taught by a Columbus native with ties to
Davidson! Great songs, stories and spirit - funny, touching and
unpretentious.  These students from the Netherlands, Germany, England,
Greece and other countries used pantomime, puppetry and charades to
convey this uplifting musical written by Steven Schwartz.
* Kids met and networked – LOTS of new
friends
* Bought props for *Almost, Maine* at “The
Pound Stretcher”
* Returned to Pollock Halls for Lunch and
preparation for only tech rehearsal
* Ordered Papa John's pizza and had a full rehearsal in a rehearsal
room at Pollock Halls

**Sunday, August 8**

* Took the bus to and toured Hollyrood Palace
* Queued up with all the other participants and marched in the
Cavalcade parade in front of over 75,000 people around Arthur's Seat.
* Dinner at Pollock Halls
* Attended *The Improvised Musical* by No Shoes Theatre- a
completely improvised musical - Michelle's travel brush was the key prop
used in what was titled "Where's my Artificial Heart?" Six actors.  A
live band. Audience suggestions.  All provided a unique theatrical
experience entirely improvised before our eyes!
* Attended the Ceilidh - were taught traditional Scottish dances and
had a blast.

**Monday, August 9**

* Saw  *Sturm and Durang*, performed by Clearwater Central
Catholic High School from FL.  This was three short plays by Christopher
Curange:  *Medea* (a disco musical tragedy), *Naomi in the
Living Room,*and*For Whom the Southern Bell Tolls.*
* Lunch at Pollock
* Made our overseas debut!  Fantastic performance in front of a packed
house - a really special moment for us all.  Many local residents were
in attendance as well as schools from AHSTF and our new friends from
Greece.
* Ate at a wonderful local restaurant - the owner loves performers and
gave us a deal!
* Saw *Track of the Cat* performed by bear plate- a very stylized
dream play performed by an all female cast with original music by an
Iclandic composer.  This was a world premiere adaptation of Clark's
Western novel, written by Chris Fittock.
* Attended *The Dream of Sancho* presented by Creative VaQi- an
amazing outdoor multimedia/mime/physical theatre performance.  Fantastic
outdoor summer night spectacle of Cervantes' work retold through mime,
movement, music and whole building projection. The main character in
this piece tried to share his waffle with Mrs. Vance and kept coming
back to sit by her.  This troupe was from South Korea.

**Tuesday, August 10**

* Played catch-up and did laundry!
* Attended *The Real Inspector Hound* presented by an AHSTF
school.  Tom Stoppard's comedy of satire involved two theatre critics
reviewing a play who got caught up in a murder mystery with the onstage
actors.
* The Second performance of *Almost, Maine*!  Great audience -
large for the Fringe.

**Wednesday, August 11**

* Attended *Shakespeare for Breakfast* performed by Bardic
Breakfasters and enjoyed a truly irreverent version of *King Lear*.
Bouncy, boisterous, a new take on Willie's work.  We snacked on coffee
and croissants during the performance.
* Ate lunch at Gregg's - our new favorite and affordable place to chow
down.
* The third performance of *Almost, Maine*!  Great audience - but
more the par size-wise for a Fringe audience.
* Enjoyed another AHSTF show - *Revenge of the Space Panda* presented by Richland HS from Washington state.  In David Mamet's
children's play, Binky and his friend Viv and almost human sheep Bob
tinker with a 2-speed clock that takes them to the 4th world in the
Goolajong System ruled by Topax and guarded by space pandas.
* Partook in a HUGE feast at Jolly Restoirante - Italian Pizzaria and
Trattoria

**Thursday, August 12**

* Attended another AHSTF production at Church Hill Studio Theatre - *Life
Is Full of...,*an original piece that included 30 irreverent, edgy,
funny, personal, abstract, political and poignant plays in 60 minutes.
The audience determined the order of the scenes so no two performances
were alike.
* Shopped in and around Princes Stree - the major business area of
Edinburgh
* Enjoyed an AHSTF production at Pilrig - *After Juliet* presented by John C. Connally HS of Texas.  Ever wondered what happened
after Romeo and Juliet's deaths?  The Prince has ordered a truce, but
that may not be enough to keep the peace.  Does romance or revenge
emerge victorious??!  It featured some really impressive stage combat
including swords!
* Experiences a physical theatre piece called *Continent* by
CAVA.  This mime based Japanese physical theatre piece fused
contemporary dance, cinema, cartoon, and comedy.  The story:  A deadline
approaches as a novelist drifts from reality to absurdity.  This was
highly impressive.
* Hurried to see *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* by Beroldt
Breacht, presented by Braindead Theatre.  A 1930s Chicago gangster
bribes and murders his way to the top.  One of the characters used Mrs.
Vance's head as a hat rack.  This dark comic satire where evil comes to
power as good men do nothing really intrigued all of us.

**Friday, August 13**

* Presented our last performance of *Almost, Maine* to a packed
house.  Afterwards we loaded out the scenery, hauled it back to the
dorms, disassembled it, then packed it.  We donated some of our props to
a charity resale shop.
* Met with our new friends from the north of England.  They came to
see our last show and we met them later on the Royal Mile.  They adopted
our largest tree from our set to take home with them and named it
Pilrig. So some of our scenery will be recycled and well-traveled.  They
brought us presents - candy, brochures from their area of England,
scenic note cards, and more.  We have had a wonderful time meeting people
from all over the world.  Our students now have international Facebook
friends.
* Attend the world famous Edinburgh *Tattoo*.  Words fail to
describe this event.  We saw instrumental bands from Poland (their
ambassador was there) and The Citadel in the US.  We saw groups from New
Zealand, Jordan, and portions of the UK.  There were bagpipes massed,
highland dancers, and the Imps (precision motorcycle riding team ages
5-16 from UK). Wow!

**Saturday, August 14**

* Full day of sightseeing and some shopping.  We visited Stirling
Castle (awesome!), Aberdene, Collindar, Hamis the Highland steer, and
the Trossachs.  A relaxing day.
* Next, *La Cafe Arret* by Heads In Theatre.  This was adapted
from *La Rue Pumet*.  This sounded really cool in the Fringe
program - a cabaret style pices with a focus on freedom and revolution.
It started late (a sin at the Fringe), but had a fun first 45 minutes.
Mr. Crawford played the prophet on stage to Mike Lockman's King in a
scene, while Carl Burgason played the King in another scene.  The
singers were great, the skits were fun, but the last 45 minutes were
awful - self-indulgent theatre about which none of us cared.  The
performance ran long and only stopped when Mrs. Vance started putting on
her jacket to leave, one of the performers looked at her watch and
realized they'd run at least 20 minutes long (a bigger sin at the
Fringe), and the cast improvised a police raid to clear the house.  It
was an experience.
* We scurried to arrive at *Call Me!* by Swish Theatre on time
and just made it.  It was a short but really interesting and fun
physical theatre piece about lonely hearts hopeful Arthur who finds an
abandoned call phone and what happens when two technologically
dependent loners are brought together.

**Sunday, August 15**

* Ten intrepid individuals climbed to the top of Arthur's Seat (a
volcanic outcropping near our dorms) with Mr. Crawford.  Mike and Corey
had a duel with their wooden swords on the top of the "mountain."  We
have it captured on video.  Incredibly gorgeous, but a healthy
walk/climb.
* Closing ceremony for AHSTF at the John McIntyre Conference Center.
Recognition for all involved.
* Saw *Tabu* by the Nofit State tonight.  Kids were really
excited about this.  It's the UK's leading contemporary circus (sort of
like Cirque de Soliel but different).  This was trapeze-tightrope
walking-aerial work-and so much more up close and personal.  Totally
amazing!
* Saw our last show in Edinburgh :(  But...it was the world premiere
of  Ray Bradbury's one and only musical called *2116*. Opinions
were split.  Some like it; some like the first act; some didn't like the
"story", but appreciated the talent.  We met Mr. Marionette after and
chatted.

**Sunday, August 16**

* Loaded suitcases on bus to Glasgow airport at 5:15 a.m. Arg.  Left
no about 5:45 a.m.  Flight departed UK late for home - around 10:35
a.m.  So, we had to say goodbye to our new friends, but we'll have tons
of fond memories!
* Had to really hustle to clear customs and immigration, recheck our
bags, run the security gauntlet again, and board our flight from
Philadelphia to Columbus.
* Arrived home about 6 p.m. to find our friends and families waiting
for us.  We miss Scotland, but "there's no place like home!"