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!"