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New York Theatre Tour is learning and collaborative experience

Summary: Nineteen UMM students, Siobhan and Peter Bremer and Morris resident, Mary Ann Scharf, enjoyed a variety of theatre-related experiences during this year's Spring Break Theatre Tour of New York.

(April 10, 2007)-Nineteen University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM) students, along with a UMM faculty, professional and academic staff member and a Morris community resident, traveled together recently to see Broadway. Siobhan Bremer, assistant professor of theatre, and her husband, Peter Bremer, Rodney A. Briggs Library reference librarian, traveled with a student group comprised of primarily theatre majors, and Mary Ann Scharf of Morris, to New York City during UMM's weeklong Spring Break.

"The shows we saw had such variety of styles which was a great learning experience for the students," shared Siobhan Bremer. "The workshops from New York professionals was a priceless experience for UMM students."

The group attended a number of on and off Broadway shows, including “Alter Boyz,” “Wicked,” Talk Radio!" “Journey's End" and “Avenue Q.” They also participated in “talkbacks,” where the students interacted with professional actors after the show. One of the talkbacks was with Liev Schreiber, a Tony Award-winning actor who has starred in such films as the "Manchurian Candidate."

Students attended an improvisation workshop with Kim Schultz, who has been featured on the television show “Saturday Night Live,” and a workshop where students performed "cold readings" in front of casting director, Alan Fox. Tours of NBC Studio, Lincoln and Rockefeller Centers, Chinatown, the Empire State Building and the Radio City Music Hall were also enjoyed. The group stayed in a hotel about a half a block away from Broadway right in bustling Times Square. Though the travelers got stuck in the airport on their way back to Minnesota, it did not affect the fun they had in New York City.

Morris community member, Mary Ann Scharf, was happy for the opportunity to go on the trip, which is open to anyone. Scharf, who learned about the trip through the UMM Retirees Association and after talking with the Bremers, has always enjoyed theatre and has attended many UMM theatre productions. "I wondered how I would relate to a bunch of students. But somehow I did. They were a great and comfortable group," said Scharf. "I was particularly impressed with this group because they were attentive to me. If they saw I was tired they would try to find me somewhere to sit."

Lauren Paulson, a non-theatre major who went along, said that the trip "was really fun and I was glad that I got the opportunity to go to New York City." Paulson also said that the trip gave her a "deeper appreciation for theatre and a better understanding of what theatre involves."

For more information about the New York Theatre Tour call Siobhan Bremer at (320) 589-6245 or e-mail Siobhan Bremer.
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