

# Students get a taste of Broadway

*Utah Conservatory students travel to Juilliard School*

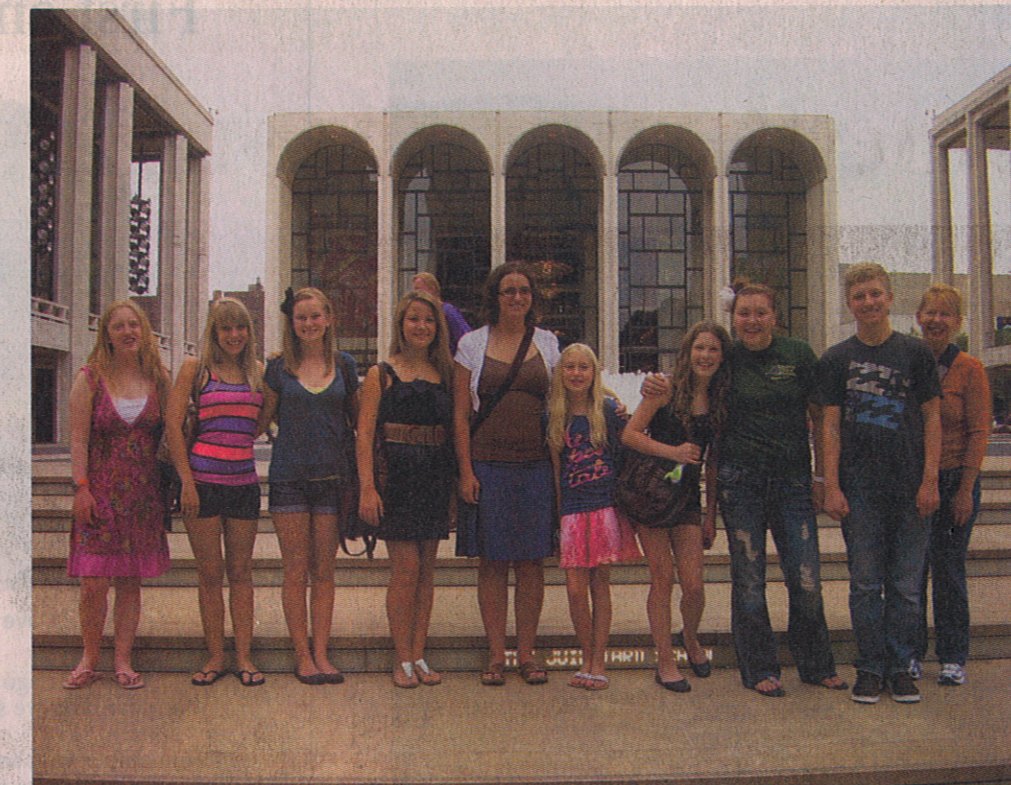
*Submitted by  
the Utah Conservatory*

Nine Utah Conservatory acting and singing students, aged 10 to 22, recently spent eight days in New York City. From July 31 to Aug. 9, the students stayed at the Lincoln Center in the Juilliard School dorms, studied with Broadway coaches, and presented two showcases at the Studio Theatre on 42nd Street.

This is the second year of the "NYC Juilliard Broadway Showcase Camp," organized by Utah Conservatory staff Debra Cook, Aaron Mitchell, Sheraye Mitchell and Dr. Fredric Cook.

"Dr. Cook prepared the students with acting workshops for four days in advance of the trip," Sheraye Mitchell said. "He and Debra organized the showcases after students had prepared throughout the summer with their private teachers on four-to-five memorized solos or ensembles."

Upon arriving in New York City, students spent the week working with veteran Broadway and opera coaches. Students learned about the skills, protocols, and standards of professional work in the city. Among the coaches was Judith Fredericks. Fredericks is a director and international performer of opera, musical theatre and dance; a co-founder of Opera New York and produces workshops, concerts, competitions, and shows throughout the metropoli-



COURTESY OF THE UTAH CONSERVATORY

Nine students from the Utah Conservatory attended the New York City Juilliard Showcase from July 31 to Aug. 9. Pictured from left to right: Eloise Johnson, Lexi Dorrity, Amelia Wright, Gracie Brletic, Eryn Townsend, Avery Lutter, Emma Fox, Elise Trejo, Cody Carlson and group leader Debra Cook.

tan area. "I learned that singing is so much more than just singing," 15-year-old soprano Elise Trejo said about Judith's work.

The students also interacted with Alissa Grimaldi, the co-founder of the Singers Studio for Opera and a soprano who has performed major musical theatre and operatic roles.

"I observed her teaching at a master class in the spring at the Classical Singer convention in New York earlier this year," said Debra Cook, managing director of Utah Conservatory.

"Her work with the emerging professional singers was stellar, and she made changes in their singing so quickly and effortlessly," Grimaldi made an impact on the stu-

dents and they requested additional sessions with her, Cook said. "We had a great win when she accepted our senior from Smith College on the trip, Eloise Johnson, as one of her private students."

Jeff Pew, a cast member of Pioneer Memorial Theater's recent 42nd Street, and busy Broadway accompanist, worked for three afternoons with the students. "It was great to have an actual Broadway accompanist work with the students," Debra Cook said. Cook usually plays for the students but was recovering from a broken wrist. "He added a great dimension to their work."

The group enjoyed views of the Hudson and beyond as they stayed on the 18th floor of the Juilliard School

Lincoln Center housing. Students visited with admissions and faculty from NYU's drama program and The American Music and Dramatic Academy. They spent an afternoon rehearsing at the AMDA facility, only a few blocks from Lincoln Center, and were evaluated by three faculty recruiters. "What I really loved was learning about the future college opportunities. I'd love to go to AMDA," Cody Carlson, 16, said.

"I learned so many amazing techniques from the teachers we had," said Lexi Dorrity, a student at Utah Valley University. "I loved the mix of seeing New York and working on our performance. It really helped me to have a feel for what working in New York would be like."