

MEXICO

GUATEMALA

EL SALVADOR



NICARAGUA

HONDURAS

COSTA RICA

PANAMA

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Puebla:

Our home town and work place.

The first of November is one day of 4 days when the Poblanos celebrate the Dia del Muerte. The Zocalo, what is the Center of social meetings, young kissing couples, selling balloons and celebrating any big or small holiday, is as well the perfect place to do street-shows. The Zokolo is only 600 Meters away from the bus, so Brady and me walked there with our wheel barrels and did two fire-shows.

The audience in these days is as colorful as the artists, we saw horrible masks of dead people, monsters and a lot of virgins with bloody eyes.

We did O.K.-----

Next day we got some sad news, a friend of us in Berlin committed suicide. We were shocked, confused, wondering and sad.

And we were in between people who celebrate the fact of being dead and hang out at the cemetery with their family, playing music having fun, thinking of their relatives six feed under the earth, including them in their live. We did not do shows this night. But the next day we did two. In

the daytime we have always visitor, they see the bus and become curious and want to know why, what, where, when... all in spanish.

One of them is Rafael, he worked with Maria Theresa in Calcutta now he has a place for kids without parents here in Puebla, he had a lot of stories to tell and came back with a bag full of food.

Dal is the Lavanderia Lady... she has a catching happy voice. She starts talking and you feel like the most loved person at this moment. We bring her our dirty close, she brings us tamales (typical mexican food) and the next sunday un rico strawberry cake and her big smile.

Miguel and his brothers and sisters, they a stationed at the Church of....., we park right in front. Every morning they sell fresh pressed juice,,,,,, and when ever they have left overs, they land in the bus.

On the 3rd of December, Sara arrived from Berlin.

She is the one who will paint the bus, because she can.

As well she can do the Hoopa Hoop and start her carrier as a contortionist, so she can paint in funny positions.

James is filming any special event and there is every day at least one, because the religion of the big underwear sent constantly special people to us.

We have radio interviews, communication students who make fotos, Radio hours, Local TV Stations want to know what is going on.

And in between all this we are preparing and fixing things.

For example having a sanding party. But nobody came to help us to sand the bus down so Sara can start to change the the out-fit of the " casa rodante". We had two bottles of wine and crackers just for ourself.

On the 11th Anaelle, Agnieszka and Nico arrived and moved into the bus.

One third of the Tour is complete.

The next day, we all went to a "presentation"????

Roberto said dress nice.





Roberto also packed the structure for the tissue artists and a lot of fire equipment.

Our fresh arrived Artist got their first spontaneous engagement and were right into the „now or never“ We arrived at a high building, we went up the stairway 7 or 8 floors with all the stuff carrying and arrived at european looking high society event.

A big magazine was celebrating its 100 anniversary and Rodara presented the B.U.S.Tour and the Festival de pantomime to get some promotion going.

It was cold, so not many from this well dressed Poblanos came outside to watch. But we got nice drinks and rico food and a had a wonderful time on top of a big building with the top managers of newspapers and Nico, Aga and Anaelle had a nice welcome party.

Than the next weekend.

Show-time at the Zocalo!

With our wheel Barrow load of fire-stuff we watched for 1 hour kids playing soccer at the spot.

When they left we started to set up..... and this was it.

An official mexican person came and asked for a permit.

We did not have one.

More time to relax and have a beer or two or three.

The beer-bottles are pretty big here..... so you share every bottle with everybody.

They also have a chido (cool) system here, you only get a fresh bottle of beer when you bring an empty one back.

So here comes again the question!

What was first, the empty bottle or the full one?

With Nico and Aga the first tissue artist arrived so the Rodara Team started to think to build a new structure for them. You have to know, that Roberto has collected a lot of stuff over the years..... I can not tell what exactly, the easiest way is to say, he has everything somewhere you just have to find it. So the welding begins.

In between this kind of handy work there is also the brainy work. Cesar one of the Rodara team found a paint company who would provide the color for the bus, when we put there logo on the bus..... during negotiating they came to the next sponsoring idea, T-Shirts. They give us 200 T-Shirts, in pink, blue, black and white with our design on it in spanish and a little advertisement from PINTUMEX on the side. We go there to talk to them: Brady, me, Cesar, Gato (another wonderful person from the Rodara Team), and James behind his camera. A wild bus-ride through the town.

And back.

One week later we had the color, 2 weeks later just the t-shirts one more week and they will be printed.

14th Isabel from Guadalajara arrives, our first mexican member of the Big Underwear Social Tour. Three hours later Nick and Paul from England and Val from Scotland. All late in the night.

They all took a bus from the airport to the Puebla Bus-Station and than James and Brady went there with the Mini Winny to get them.

James always filming.

Brady always more and more realizing that his dream becomes reality.

Me always going to bed and enjoying a glass of Whiskey and a book and sleep.

Nick an Paul are performers and engineers or the other way around. It depends what is more important at the moment.

And at the moment the engineering was first.

Is and Val work on the silk and dance and do acrobatic, these both hooked up for working together on a number.

Alfredo our second mexican big underwear member arrived, he is a puppet-player.

A few hours later Arnoud arrives, tambien. He worked with Anaelle and Alfredo before and was quickly accepted in the group with his three different, or four? instruments. Accordion, Guitar, Clarinet..... there is maybe more.





From the next day on we started our daily meetings at 10.00 am in the morning. Priorities got set; work distribute; finding a trailer, cooking, cleaning, making costumes and underwear.... and with Paul, Nick and Nicos knowledge a new trapeze structure went into production. These boys were now busy for three days.

Anaëlle, the french contortionist (you know her from older newsletters) is also a creative dressmaker. She started right away to make funny individual underwear. Sara got with the help from Paul and Brady the compressor with the color spray gun going and started to paint the bus in pink and blue. Our neighbor keep going giving us fruit drinks (jugos) Roberto give us more work around the city. Meanwhile two more visitors arrive in Puebla, Merlin and Lukas, Duo Desolat. They came to support us with the germanbeelings and studied pantomimes. On Saturday 19. November we, Bobarino and I and the Duo Desolat and a support team from Rodara, drove to a little city, lets say on the border to Puebla. It was only an hour and 15 minutes car ride. (4000 Pesos Trailer money)

The audience and we had a fun time also with some beautiful mexican traditional dance performing.

Nico and Agnieszka went around the corner from the Rodara office to give workshops for juggling and acrobatic in a school. (1500 Pesos Trailer money).

In the evening an ordered fire show in another place with Agnieszka, Nico, Sara and Arnoud for some extra Trailer money.

Brady and me arrived later than we thought and went to the Zocalo for a late fire-show. 951 Pesos (food money).

Sunday, comedy Shows with Nico Aga Sara Anaëlle and with Bobarino and Fräulein Döpp and in the night fire-shows.

Monday.

Good News: the work from Nick and Paul and Nico blossomed the trapeze structure was ready to use.

Bad News: Cesar our supporter from the Rodara office, for helping us to get the t-shirts done, was in the hospital. He got hit by the side mirror from a bus and got a bad head ache.

More Good News: Sara got one side of the bus done and we have a show in the afternoon. For 800 Pesos we present a little mix from our artists.

Why? A jung man had the idea to surprise his girlfriend for her birthday with a show.

It was a very bad show.... slow.... unsure.... sound-problems.... to much live music.... and and and.

Next day we were invited from Theresa Celin, an artist from around the corner, really around the corner. Just 500 meter away from the bus.

One day she saw the bus and came in, asked all the questions, got all the answers and in about 10 days she organized a supporter party for us in her wonderful back-yard.

Through the internet and flyers she invited friends and colleges and prepared a nice dinner for everybody.

So this special event was know our next challenge to prove the potential of the group.

This time Brady took over with the organizing, what when and where happens and he did a good job.

We build up the trapeze structure in the back yard. Nick and Paul put all the energy into setting up lights and sounds.

Between 7.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. the guest arrived like to do when people are open to listen.

Nick transformed himself from an engineering character into Vernon... a guy who get attacked by air-planes or dogs or bee -----or he pisses in a corner..... very funny. Brady and me farted around what we like to do when people are open to listen. Alfredo let his puppets talk to the audience and Arnoud was playing accordion.

Paul was our sound-man for the evening and the rest of the grew was waiting and warming up.

The show started with Aga and Nico's Akro Rock'n Roll act applause followed by the Duo Desolat, Applause, Bobarino ; applause, Marie Claire Döp Pression, applause,

Anaëlle contortion on a high table between fire, applause.

With the torches we lead the audience into another part of the backyard, where the aerial artists where waiting to show there artistic skills.

Val and Iza put in the afternoon a choreography together what brought tears in our eyes. Sara was next with her fire- Hoola Hoop and than Aga and Nico on the Trapeze together another highlight.

Back in the first part of the yard right into the fire-show. The audience was amazed and so we. The show was the opposite from the night before.

Full of surprises and magic moments in stupid situations.

Just how we are!

This night Ralf and Susanne and Fenja arrived at 1.20 at the bus-station.



Next day everybody was tired and only Aga and Nico as team and Brady and Irmi as a team went out for shows.

Monday, work goes on more "Arbeitsteilung" we have to get ready to leave. Costumes had to be made, the Bus and Minni Winny have to be fixed, the T-shirt have to be printed, the dishes have to be done, more interviews in the radio have to be given, more food have to be bought and the left over beer at Theresa place have to be drunken. And our last member arrived, Mantega from Brazil who flew in from Bruessel..... tired but happy to see his flexible girlfriend Anaelle. Time goes fast and nearly every night is a kind of a party ambience... music and dance and acrobatic.

I stop now here with writing about our schedule. We have fun, we went through some crises, sure. Communication forms have to be developed through understanding and misunderstanding. Perfectionist meet weekend-craftsman. Early birds get together with night enthusiast..... The tower-build from Babel starts again.



Dear Friends, we are all here now,, the artists and the filmmakers. The Bus is full, and everyday the whole group is working on some kind of projekt relating to the tour. The artists have done radio and tv interviews,, as well,, newspapers ask us for interviews, and we give them nice pictures of our Projekt.

The Big Underwear Social Tour is nearly ready to hit the road. The first festival is here in puebla at the center cultural universidad. We took the freshly painted pink and blue bus around the Zocalo yesterday to do some publicity and everyone was very interested and excited for this projekt. The artists and the filmmakers are a family now,, and we cook very nice meals together,, and we clean up together,, we play music together, we make fires and relax together and everyone is very supportive. Rodara has given us so many things,, Roberto and Isabel and Gato and Cesar and Raul have helped us with many things, and continue to do so, and we are very grateful. The Projekt has made many new friends and it will be a little sad to say goodbye. We have also made some new contacts in Guatemala and El Salvador. This thing just keeps growing and the participants become more and more focused on what we are doing. anaelle has focused on the making of special underwear for all the artists, and Nick and Paul and Nico built a very Great trapeze structure. Today we will buy the trailer that will haul the equipment. all the artists went out on the streets for the last 2-3 weeks to earn money for said "Remolque" (trailer) as well for the day to day living expenses and food.

Friends out there, we are here,,, and we are living, and so are you, each of us imagines our friends and we wonder about the world,,, and we play for the people and we express ourselves and we are shown many wonderful things.

and we hope you enjoy a part of this Big Underwear Social Tour newsletter.

we want to share our experiences with you, and we would love to hear your encouragement,,,, sort of like parents with children,,,children want to hear your encouragement. We are children. why don't people feel more free to express they're love for each other?

nowadays people show their love with money. we received some love money from friends, it was very nice.

sometimes when I speak about my social frustrations, people get angry with me, maybe cause I don't communicate well with friends. I wish we all felt better. I don't just care that I feel better. I want everyone to feel good.

How is it that we folks just accept the status quo,,, how is it that we as a collective just don't do any real thing about social problems,,, I just don't get it. how can capitolizm pacify us into such a state of mind as to more or less only care about ourselves. how did this work out.

cry and the world doesn't necessarily cry with you.
Laugh and the world sometimes gets angry with you.
make enough money, and the rest can fuck off.

Hello readers,
hopefully you've made it this far in the newsletter. There is a lot of info in here, but that's only because so much has been going on.
I wanted to mention all the behind the scenes work that has been going on:

Everyday there are tasks that are getting accomplished by various members of the tour as well as those involved with Rodara. Whether it is getting supplies, organizing interviews, finding contacts, building trapeez structures from scratch with an welder pulling power directly from powerlines, cutting wood, fixing one of two 30 year old vehicles, finding trailers, or any one of the numerous other tasks: a big thank you goes out to those people.

As Irmi mentioned, I've been getting some great footage, some boring footage, and some typical footage over the past month. As would be expected when being around a bunch of performers, the egos sail on high water, and the performances continue on into the night.

The group as a whole seems to be melding well. At first it appeared that the group was only able to party together, as the first couple shows were disorganized and in obvious need of some direction. It was great to see the group pull together and perform at Taresa's party. As a performance troupe they figured out how to work together.

It is important to me that the people who have contributed to this project know that they are appreciated. In the excitement of this big adventure, many people's contributions get ignored, and that is unfortunate. To mention a few of those people: Isabel, Gato, Ceasar, Adam, Roberto, Arron, Liz, Raul, all the student interns, and Paulina: thank you.
-James

