

Northern HORIZONS

SPRING/SUMMER 2001

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



LIVING THE
DREAM



Takin' it to the City

New York City moves. It has a pulse you can feel. It doesn't slow down, and it doesn't skip a beat. If you've never been there before, you discover quickly that you can either get out there and keep up the pace or be summarily swept off to the side.

For this issue of *Horizons*, NMU News Director Kristi Evans and I took to the streets of New York City. We tagged along with NMU theater professor Jim Panowski and his group of theater field studies students and had the opportunity to interview six theater alumni who have various careers in the entertainment industry in New York City.

The range of occupations in the entertainment industry is really quite astounding. In this city of constant motion, one of the more surprising vocations perhaps is the entertainer who makes his living by standing completely still. Call him a street performer or even theatrical art, he is at once the essence and the antithesis of New York City.

Dressed and spray painted from head to toe entirely in gold, he stands slightly elevated on a black platform and clutches a small paper cup tightly to his chest. He doesn't move, twitch, or even blink. If you cross the street and walk a few blocks farther, you might even see his counterpart — perfectly still, and perfectly silver. I can't help but wonder how these performers got into this strangely still profession. Is it part of a dream come true or a dream gone awry?

Perhaps their dreams are similar to the dreams of each of the NMU alumni we talked with. They all left Marquette and ended up in New York by following their dreams. They left a city that is perhaps more well known for its relaxed pace, lush forests, and casual charm for a fast-paced city of sidewalks, street performers, and neon lights. And while Marquette and New York City might vary in landscape and atmosphere, the two are tied by the dreams of these alumni. Marquette gave these former NMU students the gift of possibility. They, in turn, took that possibility, combined it with their dreams, and made it their reality in New York.

Even though the pace of New York might be a bit overwhelming, there's also a palpable sense that anything is possible. New York isn't a city you live in; it's a city you first survive and then become a part of. Our alumni who have found success there seem to inherently understand this and have thrived because of it.

—KW

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FEATURES

I dreamed a dream...

You could say that **Paul Truckey '87** is leading a charmed life. For the last three years, he has been living his dream of performing on Broadway in one of the most successful musicals of all time.



Three's company

Dan Hicks '82, **Leah Hocking '80-'83**, and **John Ogle '82** call themselves the Three Musketeers. Even after leaving Northern's Theatre Department, they have maintained a strong friendship. Here's how they went their separate ways and still ended up living and working in the same city.



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