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Name: Adrian Alita
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Proposal title: Acting Intensive in Lima, Peru
Country/ies visited: Peru
Institution(s) visited: Pontifical Catholic University of Peru
Dates of travel: May 16th-May 28th
Number of SDSU student participants: 10
Number of non-student participants: 0
Proposal Abstract (75 word maximum)
Students scheduled to participate in two separate workshops while staying in Lima, Peru. The two workshops, taught by SDSU Assistant Professor, Adrian Alita, consist of an estimated 28 work hours. These workshops offer content and intensity not currently available at SDSU. In addition, these workshops offer SDSU students the opportunity to train alongside Peruvian actors, broadening both their artistic and cultural outlooks.

Travel report:

I. Overview of intentions/activity
Workshops were pre-arranged through coordination with Peruvian contact. No activity outside of acting workshops was planned by SDSU instructor. All students were free to design their own schedules.
II. **In preparation for the trip abroad**
Students were given an orientation concerning travel safety and our communication while in Peru. Students were required to purchase travel insurance.

III. **Upon arrival/specific activities**
Acting workshops, cultural outings, adventures. SDSU students spent time with each other as well as with Peruvian students. Activities extended beyond the classroom as daily travels took them to numerous districts beyond Lima. Students were exposed to multiple socioeconomic environments and were free to choose different groupings of people for different outings. The university, the touristy beach area, the historical downtown as well as a less developed district (which lacked indoor plumbing) were all visited. Activities chosen by some of the students included paragliding, Machu Picchu, local markets, the chocolate museum and live theatre performances.

IV. **Conclusion, recommendation, and next steps**
The academic and cultural experiences were beyond my expectations. Many of my acting students were struck by the warmth and physical nature of greeting others in Peru (such as hugs for men and kisses on the cheeks for women). This “superior” comfort with physicality they saw in the Peruvian people inspired the students to let go of previous judgments concerning social appropriateness. Also, for many this was their first exposure to intense poverty. Many noticed the poverty level in comparison to Southern California, but also the disparity of wealth within the city of Lima itself. Some had strong emotional reactions and left the country transformed, having experienced paradigm shifts toward further empathy and compassion.

I have high hopes to return with a new set of SDSU students. I hope to schedule a trip during Spring Break of 2014 that will offer similar academic and cultural opportunities.

V. **Additional Information**
Theatre Arts students with a performance emphasis are required to have an international experience. This trip was designed to be the least expensive option available to them. While offering no academic credit, the experience did in fact fulfill the international experience requirement. Some students were able to cover their total expenses (travel, lodging, basic food and workshops) for just about $2,000. Those students who chose to participate in any activities beyond the acting workshops, or chose to eat and drink luxuriously, spent varying amounts more than $2,000.