



International Man Featured 40 Years After Oslo Summer School Launch..



Oslo, Norway - International businessman, singer, ambassador, photographer, Neal Golden, (aka, Neal Lekwa, his Norwegian family name) returns to his family's native Norway for an Ambassadorial concert with his daughter at the University of Oslo Summer School (OSS) on June 24th, 2007.

Over five hundred students from 100 nations will be arriving at Blindern on Sogn, home of the Oslo University's Summer School main building and dormitories. It is here, 44 years ago, that Golden lived and sang as a student (summer of '63) during the six-week cultural exchange session highlighting Norway. His daughter, Natasha Karin, now a sophomore at the University of Washington in Seattle, also a singer, is now approaching the age he was while he a student at OSS.

Together, Neal and Natasha will deliver an International program on behalf of their [Bounce Foundation](#), a 501 (c) 3 non-profit foundation dedicated to helping to create "a hurtless and helpful world." The program is designed to demonstrate how music is internationally and instantly understood as an immediate window into a culture. They will feature clips of folk and popular music from all over the world, including Norway, as

the OSS Students will then try and guess which country's music (sectors /composers/ performers) are being sampled.

The "Imagine" program is designed to kick off, highlight and feature a taste of the rich tapestry of international music, dance and costumes that OSS features each year, for and by OSS students, and by various Norwegian dance and musical groups, featured throughout the summer.

Neal and Natasha will then present their N. American Songbook of standards including movie & Broadway songs and music that is internationally known (Sinatra, Elton John, Eagles, Elvis, Dylan, etc.). Golden is trained in opera starting from his days in Oslo as a singer. He made his crossover into popular standards and ballads while collaborating with his daughter and twelve other 13-year old girlfriends to create a Cyber Café after-school safe haven for teens on their home island, Mercer Island, WA. Today, their Ambassadorial Program established in 2002 has expanded: [Bounce-sponsored concerts in Mexico](#) at five-star resorts have promoted Foundations in Vallarta, Mexico serving local needing children and families. Their musical program is now expanding to other venues.

While in Norway during his Oslo University years and as a businessman in Norway, Golden (Lekwa) worked with Thorleif Schjelderup, a prominent Norwegian Olympics ski-jumping champion and author/filmmaker, as his film partner. The two made ski films together (for SAS and others), and also collaborated on pre-RA I film footage for the late Thor Heyerdahl, a childhood friend of Schjelderup's. Schjelderup's surviving former wife, Anne Brown, 94, who still lives in Oslo. Ms. Anne Brown was the original "Bess" in Gershwin's "Porgy & Bess," and Golden hopes to meet with Ms. Brown, his late film-partner's former wife, to present a re-mastered CD version of the original soundtrack.

Among Golden's other accomplishments in Norway included helping to open and manage an American menswear store, "The New Yorker," in downtown Oslo. While managing the store, Golden noted that Norwegian down comforters, or "dyner," were being transported home from the nearby Stein & Strom department store. He decided to import these geese down comforters to the States selling them via his Worldwide Bedding Shop catalog and later Scandia Down Shops, a franchise chain. He has been formally recognized as being the "father" of the concept in the USA, introducing the European Down Comforter Ensemble to America.

Today, after developing the store chain and selling the firm to Pizza Hut's founder, et al, Scandia Down© www.ScandiaDown.com is today a highly touted internationally as the top recognized licensed brand name sold via catalogs online and specialty stores. The down comforter ensemble business in America itself has grown to over a billion-dollar business.

While in Norway Golden worked as a film and video producer at Norsk Rikskringkasting (NRK), then the only (State-owned) TV and radio station in Norway. He made a number of films, one utilizing fellow students from East and West living at Blindern. During the height of the Cold War and Vietnam, Golden thought it would be interesting to conduct a mock psychodrama where the students exchanged and acted out their stereotypical roles. Presenting the stereotypes of their counterparts, East-West students' portrayals of each

other were then commented upon by the Scandinavian students. The results were both humorous and revealing as the stereotypes broke down – and as commonalities were revealed.

A professional photographer, Golden began his exhibits in Norway at the American Embassy in Oslo. Sponsored by a local advertising firm, Alfsen & Becker, Golden's "The Being Alone" featured 21 photographic studies of solitude around Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard's words, "Only when Man is alone can he know the Eternal." The highly touted exhibit then toured a number of US universities and colleges.

Golden hopes that his Ambassadorship roles, both for him and his daughter and others connected to their Foundation, can expand in a "franchise-styled" manner.

Presently, Golden is working on a "[Golden NW Jazz Express](#)," now a dinner club show which he hopes to turn into a running "live" forum event in local regional malls. Rotating top jazz ensembles, young and old, and performing on Friday nights, the purpose of these events is to "culture Real Culture." It will be designed to regularly provide mall-goers high-quality, community-grown entertainment -- and to present a rotating group of Local 501 (c) 3 non-profit operational foundations and their civic and community work to the public. Golden has found this combination produces many volunteers and resources while assembled "giving-back" volunteers naturally merge with Foundations' causes.

The "[Golden Vegas!](#)" show is based on a similar premise: international celebrities touting their favorite (or own) foundations in a grand multi-media show will present their story and give a performance to Vegas fans to be captured on videotape and then utilized across the country and world: these celebrity cameo appearances can then be featured in Mall kiosks, locally and beyond, as the Jazz Express 'franchised' concept expands.

Finally, the "Golden Africa Radio Project" on behalf of the Bounce Foundation is an attempt to utilize music, again as the main bonding agent, to propagate AIDS prevention, condom usage, care and treatment of AIDS victims, 1:1 with potential spreaders of the disease. Golden and his partner hope to broadcast across Africa utilizing streaming internet radio connected to FM terrestrial re-broadcasters. Golden's 250-recorded songs' American Songbook will feature popular and country music, ballads already hugely popular throughout Northern and Southern Africa. Golden's college class re-election campaign manager, Menkir Esayas, is currently broadcasting distance learning to over 400,000 Africans daily. The two are teaming to make best use of radio and music to inform about AIDS and reverse the AIDS' devastating toll on Africans.

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