

Brooklyn People

IN PROFILE

DAVID CORTER

Musician

IT'S A LONG, WOODEN INSTRUMENT that often drags on the ground and that women are forbidden to touch. It's formed when a bunch of ravenous termites eat out its core. It's a didgeridoo, and Fort Greene's David Corter is becoming one of its biggest proponents.

"The didgeridoo is the most unique and spiritual instrument in the world," said Corter, 23.

"It has a very dark, haunting tone, and playing it takes you out of this world and connects you with your savage nature."

The didgeridoo, which has been part of Australian Aboriginal culture for centuries, is a far cry from the guitar training Corter had in college.

"I heard a recording of the didgeridoo on the radio four years ago and just had to go out and find one," said Corter.

Since then, he has collected 13 and practices about 20 hours a week.

His unusual musical prowess also helped land him a gig playing the zither — another unusual instrument that's half harp, half pedal steel guitar — in the Off-Broadway smash "Blue Man Group" at the Astor Place Theater in Manhattan.

The play is a perfect complement to Corter's unique musical tastes, he said.

"Blue Man" is such a multi-sensory experience," he said. "It's not just the music and the acting, but also the reaction of the audience that makes it so special."

JOB TITLE: Band member in Off-Broadway play "Blue Man Group" and didgeridoo player.

BEST PART OF JOB: Performing the music.

BIGGEST HEADACHE: People who are too quiet in the audience.

BIO BITS: Born and reared in Buffalo. Attended Hartt School of Music in Hartford for two years. Moved to Brooklyn five years ago. Single.

HOME: Fort Greene.

AFTER-WORK ACTIVITIES

Favorite food: Chicken panang, a Thai dish.

Favorite Place in the Brooklyn: Fort Greene Park.

Favorite vacation spot: Darwin, Australia.

Favorite musician: Bill Harney, a didgeridoo player.

Favorite leisure activity: Listening to music.

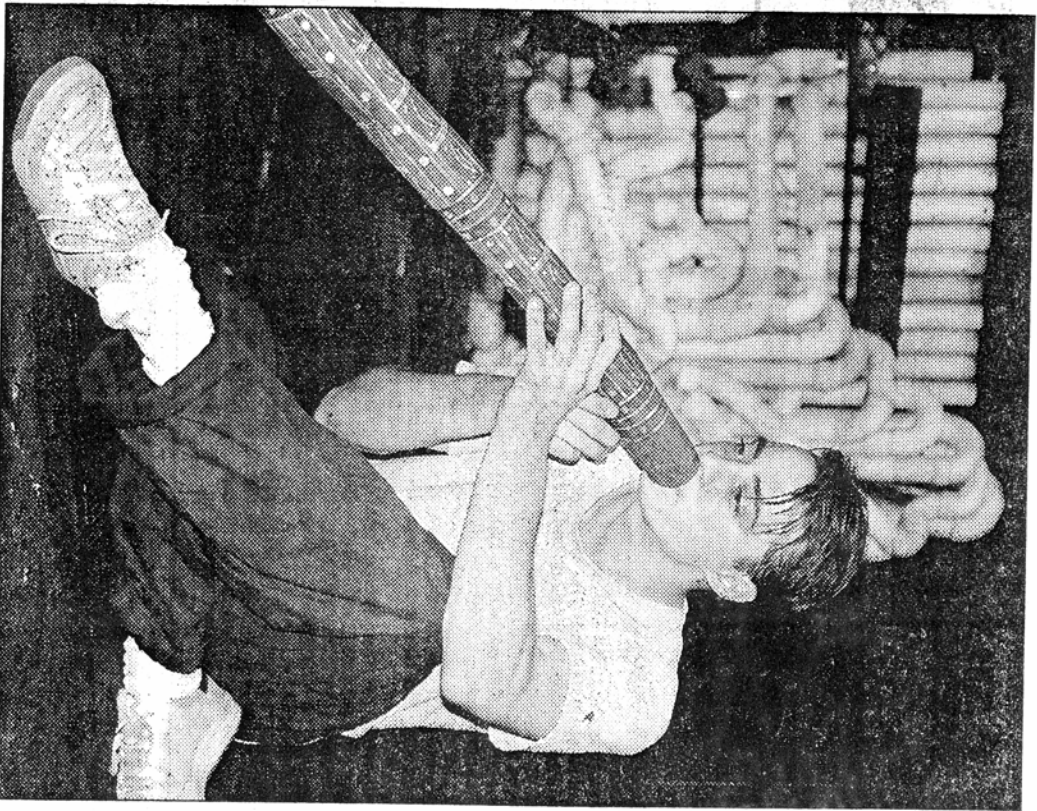
Favorite movie: "Where the Green Ants Dream."

Last book read: "Portable Emerson,"

Biggest secret talent: Building musical instruments.

Biggest life influence: William Raat, history professor in college.

Raphael Sugarman



DAVID ALLEN LANGS DAILY NEWS

New York Daily News Aug 12, 1996