

MIKE SULLIVAN

Creator. Connector. Teacher. Performer.



sullbox@gmail.com

Fyrrevænget 304

7190 Billund, Denmark

PLAY AGENT / CREATIVE LAB COORDINATOR [LEGO House](#) (8.17 – present)

- Engage hundreds of daily guests in Learning Through Play (LTP) activities at the world's only LEGO makerspace (with MIT and the Exploratorium)
- Serve as an educator for school groups and assist with R&D in LTP
- Trained in world class customer service for retail environment (T.H.R.I.L.L.)

FREELANCE EDUCATOR & PERFORMER (1.17 - present)

Educate and entertain a diverse range of young people and adults with a variety of established, community-based organizations and groups

- [Royal Jelling, National Museum of Denmark](#) (UNESCO) – Guiding & Events
- [The Steiner Skole](#) in Vejle, Denmark – English Teacher & Expedition Leader
- [Billund Culture School](#) – Music Teacher & Concert Leader w/ elementary schools
- [The Red Cross & Jelling Free School](#) – Music Teacher serving refugee students
- [Billund Youth School](#) – Experiential educator for local teenagers
- [Powersolo](#) – touring member (drums) of 21 year old vintage rock 'n roll band popular throughout Europe

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

TEACHER / CREATOR SPACE COORDINATOR [International School of Billund](#), Denmark (08.13 – 1.17)

Founding teacher at International Baccalaureate World School, backed by the LEGO Foundation and committed to being worldwide leaders in *learning through play*

- Coordinated ongoing development of school's makerspace with researchers from MIT, Tufts, Harvard and the LEGO Foundation. Study group leader in multi-year action research initiative with Project Zero (Harvard Graduate School of Education) called [Pedagogy of Play](#)
- Facilitated partnerships including First LEGO League, Billund Builds Music and the Culture School Network
- Created "[Regatta Rally](#)", a miniature boat race for kids; now the keystone event in the regional International Children's Culture Days festival
- Profiled in JydskeVestkysten regional newspaper as an international entrepreneur, natural networker, and passionate educator (November 2015, attached). Speaker at LEGO Ed.'s *Ignite Learning Conference* (2014)

EDUCATION DIRECTOR, [Finger Lakes Museum & Aquarium](#), Penn Yan, NY (08.12- 08.13)

Directed educational programming, local partnerships, grant writing and grassroots engagement at start-up institution committed to cultural history, natural science and environmental sustainability

- Created programming including 5-week summer camp with New York State Parks and Penn Yan Public Schools, kayaking workshop series for Mennonite youth and farm-to-fork curriculum in local schools
- Co-developed a successful crowdfunding campaign strategy along with event-based fundraising

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, [Cottonwood Gulch Foundation](#), Albuquerque/Thoreau, NM (06.07-06.12)

Led 90-year-old nonprofit wilderness and environmental education organization, providing innovative outdoor programs and expeditions for students and families during the summer and throughout the year

- Managed staff of 40 employees in programs exploring Southwestern art, ecology, and history
- Operated annual budget of \$1.5 million in fees, grants and endowment, overseen by national Board
- Expanded school group expeditions and created a new food program and paleontology expedition
- Planned extensive itineraries and procured permits from various state and national agencies
- Led overhaul of website including an online application process and new marketing video
- Partnered with the Navajo community and the City of Albuquerque to reach under-resourced youth

PROGRAM DIRECTOR, [Shaw Ecovillage Eco Design Corps](#), Washington, DC (04.06 – 05.07)

- Managed teams of adults, interns, and students in the conception and completion of green design projects as part of a hands-on service learning and job training program in downtown DC

FURTHER MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

RESEARCH ASSISTANT, [Smithsonian Center for Folklife](#), Washington, DC (09.05 – 03.06)

- Created digital content for teachers and public about international musical heritage for MA degree

PLAY EDUCATOR / ACTOR, [Smithsonian's Discovery Theater](#), Washington, DC (09.05 – 01.06)

- Performed in Seasons of Light, SI's most popular play, which presents international holiday traditions

EDUCATOR, [National Building Museum](#), Washington, DC (10.05 – 03.06)

- Led object-based Spanish/English programs on engineering and planning for local K-12 students

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ASSISTANT EXHIBIT DEVELOPER, [Brooklyn Children's Museum](#), Brooklyn, NY (10.00 – 6.02)

- Designed and led hands-on, object-based workshops in music, natural sciences and anthropology
- Extensive work on [Pattern Wizardry](#) exhibit, funded by the National Science Foundation and touring museums throughout North America. Conducted research, prototype design, activity evaluation
- Co-produced Harry Potter Day and other events

GUIDE / LAB ASSISTANT, [Beneski Museum Of Natural History](#), Amherst College, MA (09.97 – 05.00)

- Led public and school tours of the world's largest collection of dinosaur footprints
- Assisted with research in geology, paleontology and anthropology to create displays on museum floor

FURTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

MATH & SCIENCE TEACHER, [Henson Valley Academy](#), Temple Hills, MD (08.03 – 08.05)

- Designed and delivered hands-on math and science activities and various service-learning projects such as volunteering at a food bank and tracking box turtles with the National Park Service
- Planned and led student expeditions to Honduras, China and New Mexico

FOURTH GRADE TEACHER, [Escuela Mayatan](#), Copan Ruinas, Honduras (08.02 – 07.03)

- Used minimal resources to develop and teach sixteen bilingual Honduran children from three villages
- Created strong ties between school and local communities by organizing various activities and field trips

NATURALIST / EDUCATOR, [Clearpool Outdoor Education Center](#), Carmel, NY (08.00 – 05.01)

- Led grade school students from NYC in music, ecology and teambuilding activities

EDUCATION

M.A. in PUBLIC ANTHROPOLOGY, [American University](#), Washington, DC (05.07)

- Fieldwork in educational archeology and youth empowerment in Washington, DC and rural Honduras.

B.A. in ANTHROPOLOGY, [Amherst College](#), Amherst, MA (05.00)

- Research in physical/cultural anthropology, including museum education studies
- Six months in Copenhagen with Denmark's International Study program, while living with a host family

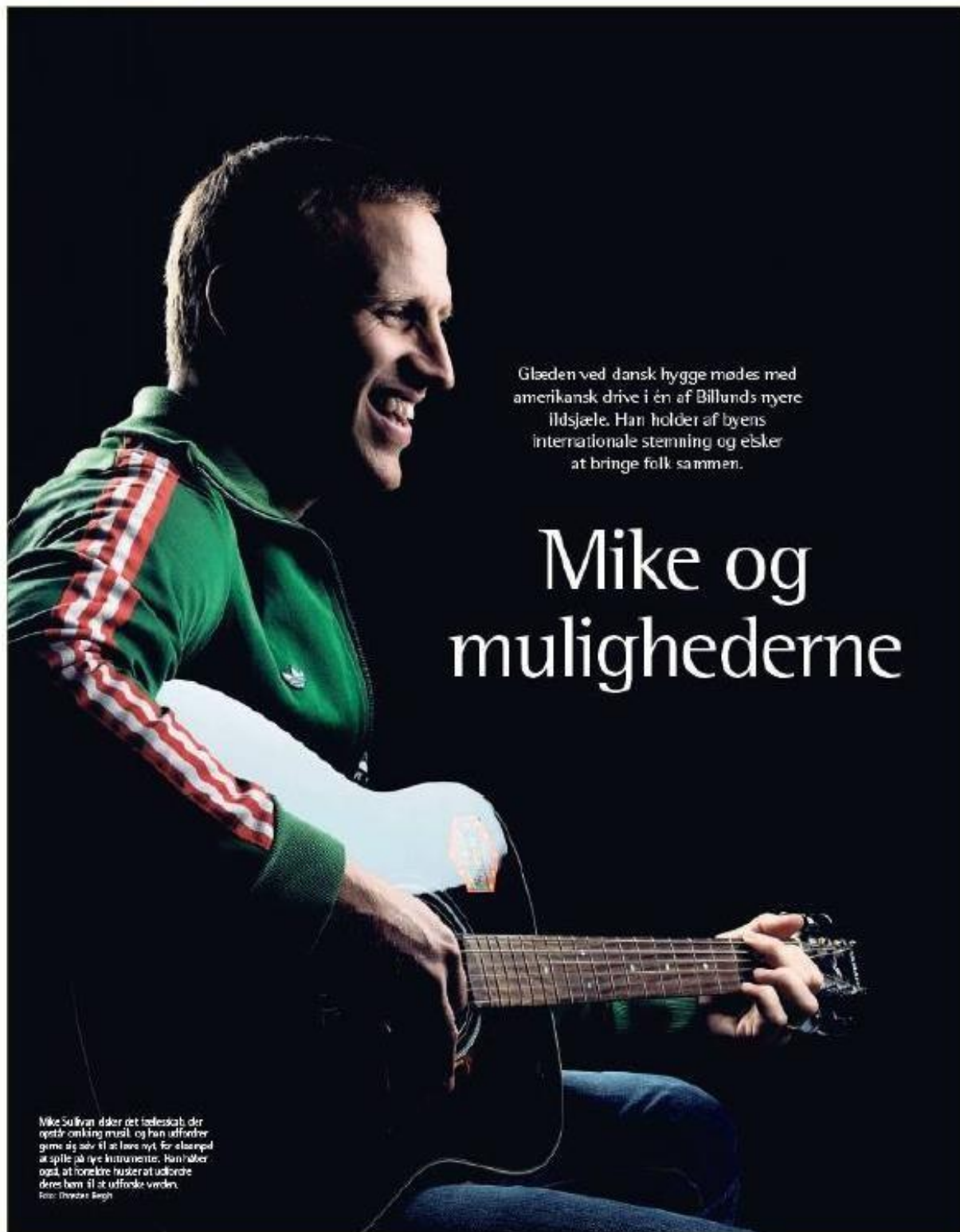
SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- Proficient in Spanish and Danish
- Drummer for Aarhus-based rock 'n roll band [Powersolo](#) with performances all over Europe (2011-present)
- Accepted to highly selective [Blue Man Group](#) training camp after intense audition process (2003, 2004)
- Creator and host of [Burque Bop](#), a family concert series in downtown Albuquerque (2010-2013)
- Conceived and created [sports rink](#) in DC. Extensive fundraising and negotiation with city agencies (2006)
- Trained in First Aid, Wilderness First Aid, Swimming Pool Management, and AED devices
- Experience as player and coach for soccer and ice hockey teams from the elementary to university level
- Enjoy family time with wife and daughters (ages 6 and 8), as well as surfing, sailing, hiking, and raising backyard chickens

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12 TÆT PÅ BILLUND ●



Glæden ved dansk hygge mødes med amerikansk drive i én af Billunds nyere ildsjæle. Han holder af byens internationale stemning og elsker at bringe folk sammen.

Mike og mulighederne

Mike Sullivan elsker det tætskib, der opstår omkring musik, og han udforsker gerne sig selv til at lære nyt, for eksempel at spille på nye instrumenter. Han håber også, at fremtidige huse vil udforske deres hem til at udforske verden.
Foto: Ørnulf Røge

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Han er rejst langt for at dyrke det nære.

Mike Sullivan stammer fra New York-området, og han er ikke amerikaner for ingenting.

Hvis han får en idé, er han ikke sen til at føre den ud i livet. Derfor ser man den 37-årige underviser fra Billunds International skole i alle mulige sammenhænge. Mange af dem handler om at bringe folk sammen, så de kan få nogle gode oplevelser og få en større indsigt i hinandens vilkår.

— Jeg elsker at møde nye mennesker og få ting til at ske. Og jeg synes, verden ville være bedre, hvis vi alle forstod hinanden bedre og respekterede hinandens kultur mere, siger han.

Manden, hvis fulde navn er Michael John Sullivan, har læst antropologi og omsætter nu sin viden om mennesker i praksis ved trommerne eller med et solidt greb om guitareren. Hans "felthæjdede" foregår også på den lokale amatørteaterscene, i forbindelse med Regatta Rally eller ved events, hvor folk mødes til musik og mad.

Han engagerer sig desuden i 'Hallej! i Hallen', Trekantområdets Festuge og velgørenhed, og til tider anvender hans kone, Sidsel Overgaard, at det hele måske er lidt rigeligt, når nu familien også tæller to døtre.

— Jeg kan godt lide at komme ud af skoleboksen, og det er rart, at man bumper ind i hinanden i SuperBrugsen. Men jeg siger ja til for meget og



Siv om hans dansk er ret så glimrende, er han hurtig til at unøskeligt. Der hvor hans sporg stikker lidt af er det nemt at gennemsøge hvad der menes og hvor læremåden stammer fra. For eksempel når han forklarer, at han har lidt plads i køledøren sidst på ugen og udfryser det sådan: "Jeg har en fri vindue om fredagen".

Foto: Øresten Bergh

prøver at få en bedre balance, erkender han, da han har sluppet guitareren og tonerne til "By the Rivers of Babylon".

Hustruen, der er kommunikationsansvarlig på International School of Billund, er halvt dansk, døtrene har dobbelt statsborgerskab, og pigerenes bedsteforældre bor i USA.

De store linjer

For Mike Sullivan har Danmark altid været noget særligt. Han har studeret på universitet i København og boet hos en dansk værtfamilie. Til Billund kom han for to et halvt år siden.

— Det er nemt at bo her. Her er meget internationalt. God hygge. God stemning. God mulighed for at gøre noget, fordi det er tæt på. Men selvfølgelig er der ikke så mange restauranter og så meget live-musik. Det ligger i hans natur at se de store linjer i stedet for at bekymre sig om de små ting. At fokusere på det gode. Og han nyder at komme ud i mange miljøer og udveksle erfaringer.

— Mennesker er mennesker alle vegne, men det er altid sjovt at finde forskelle.

For skolebørn skabte det debat, da den Internationale skole rejste et hegn, fortæller manden, der har undervist i alt fra engelsk og naturvidenskab til idræt, drama og musik.

— I Danmark er det ikke normalt at hegne sig ind. I Danmark har man

den der vidunderlige tillid til hinanden.

Det hemmelige Utopia

Mike Sullivan ved godt, at danskere har en tendens til at glemme, hvor stort og varmt USA er og betragte alle amerikanere som cowboys med en ubændig trang til frihed. I hvert fald er det et land, som i kraft af sin magtfulde position er vant til at være meget synligt og få en del anerkendelse, men også tale megen kritik. Her har Danmark måske noget at lære, mener han.

— Meget af tiden flyver danskerne under radaren i en slags hemmeligt Utopia. Men det kan blive udfordret, når der dukker provokerende ting op eller en død giral' eller en flygningekrise.

For en amerikaner i Billund bekræfter det, at det er vigtigt at vi mennesker lærer hinanden godt at kende, for det er så nemt at blive bange for det, man ikke kender.

Mike Sullivan

Mike Sullivan, der primært spiller trommer, optræder i en lang række bands: Powersolo, Los Fuegos, Advana, Let it Be, JD Haring, Taglewood, Nive Nielsen og JP McDermott and Western Bop.

Tekst: Annedore Westergaard, awc@jydsk