



## THIS MONTH'S PROFILE

December 2006

Adventurer and change agent. Therapist and motorbike racerdriver. Seminar leader of aboriginal communities, Fortune 500 companies, state agencies and educational institutions on diversity issues, leadership training, conflict management and resolution, group work and extensive leadership trainings. Woman and definitely living at the frontier. Read about Jytte Vikkelsoe, the new principal.

*Why did you apply for the position?*

I love that the school asks what do you want to create? What turns you on? What makes you excited? Then, once you have figured that out, how do we do it? Rather than, what is possible? It asks you what kind of world you want to see, and then to be a change agent for that world.

I love the spirit of the school. I have always been interested in what motivates people to learn, to create, to live life to their fullest, to live at the frontier of their own becoming. I believe that the more we live our visions and dreams, the more generous and supportive we are of the dreams, visions, and needs of others.

I love the creative, potent, and tension filled space between dreams and reality. I can't think of any one more important life-skill than to learn to navigate in that space; to create your life from this space. Not only is this the space where life becomes really exciting and interesting. It is the space where you feel most alive. Closest and most intimate with yourself, and who you have the capacity to become. It is the threshold of 'becoming'. Poet David Whyte calls it 'Living at the frontier'. Arnold Mindell calls it 'Your growing edge'. I call it 'wrestling with your core tension': that potent and uncomfortable space that finally will set you free as a creator, to create first yourself, and ultimately the life you have the capacity to live. The life that is bigger than your current identity.

*What are you going to do as the new principal of KaosPilots?*



My first task is to get to know and understand the internal structure of the organization intimately. But of course the big picture is around going international, and to figure out what that means and how that should happen. Is it creating new schools throughout the world? Is it getting the school in Aarhus to truly reflect the answer to some of the burning questions in the world? Be a school of innovation attracting people from all over the world. Going out from there as students, as consultants, as change agents to inspire, to be a new kind of global role models.. innovative, global warriors ? Is it a mixture of both?

*What did you do before?*

Overall, everything I have ever done has been following the creative drive of my spirit. For a while I expressed it as a fashion designer. That led to wanting to understand the fascinating dynamic behind putting on an outer costume in an attempt to express an inner and much more creative and complex reality. So I started to study psychology, and the human psyche. And received a diploma in Process-oriented Psychology, and a Ph.D. in social psychology. My ex-husband and I travelled and taught for 10 years all over the world, giving workshops in how to dance this tantric, chaotic, and Zorba-like dance of life: to have fun as life picks you up, and spits you out again some times in fun ways, and sometimes in painful ways. We also worked in huge groups with all kinds of social tension and inequality. We worked in prisons. We worked with aboriginal groups in Australia. we worked with fortune 500 companies. We worked in hospitals with kids dying of cancer. We worked in all kinds of diverse settings, but always following the same idea... What is the edge of the frontier here. What wants to happen... to emerge, and how do we help it into being? Sometimes i get close to that space by painting. Sometimes by riding my Ducati at the International raceway in Portland. Sometimes it occurs in moments, when human hearts meet without judgment, as it happened i.e. while working with a group of serial killers in a maximum security prison. It's really a curiosity towards unearthing the beating heart of life in any moment and situation. So I have been a fashion designer, a seminar leader, a



lecturer, a consultant, a psychologist, a writer, a researcher, a mother, a painter, a lover... But basically I am an adventurer and a philosopher.

*Mention one thing you burn for in relation to the KaosPilots?*

Teaching, inspiring, encouraging people in this creative space is what turns me on. If I should wish to leave one mark on the world, it would be to inspire the 'average person in the street' to understand that they are powerful beings beyond comprehension, especially their own imagination; that they have the capacity to impact the world, leave a dent or a mark; be part of creating the kind of world, they would want to live in. Our main drive is to create; joy, rather than fear. I would like to inspire people to stay, not run away, from the discomfort that necessarily belongs to the threshold of the new and exciting. To be really curious in this space of creation and discomfort. This is where innovation takes place. But unfortunately also where people give up, doubt themselves and their vision.

*How do you look upon the mixture of an educational program with a consultancy business?*

I think it is such a great idea. The two areas will continue to innovate and re-invent each other. Through consulting you face problems and complex situations. As you work with them, you create new tools and concepts, which you teach, and educate the students to go and practice!

*Looking 5 years ahead from now: what fingerprint do you hope to put on the KaosPilots? What do you hope to achieve?*

I would like to see the school be a buzzing and living example that diversity in all its forms, when understood right creates synergy and therefore richness and creativity. There is so much creativity and optimism present at the school, that KP of all places has the capacity to pull through on that one.



And I would like it to be a powerful reminder to the world that everything is possible, if you/ we really put your/ ourselves one hundred % behind your/our dreams. Be they local or global. We, as a humanity, have the know-how to solve any problem on this planet if we wanted to. If we put our focus on it. We finally face one of the biggest ones right now: Global warming. This problem finally have the magnitude that might force us as a humanity to co-operate across borders because our own extinction might finally loom large enough and depend on our co-operation rather than separation. I think the school has a potential as a micro-organism to reflect to the world what creative minds, followed by the strong intention to act is capable of... That everybody has the capacity to make a difference.