



GLEE Club Australia Talent Development Project (GCA) Los Angeles & New York - December 2011 - FACT SHEET

WHAT IS THIS PROJECT ABOUT?

In 1978, Grease was the word, in 2011, GLEE is not just the word, but the way of life. The Australian Institute for Performing Arts (AIPA) is proud to offer passionate and talented triple threats the opportunity to study with some of LA's and NYC's best choreographers, composers, musical directors and vocal coaches and perform in a show specifically designed for the US market. In 2011, we are looking for Australian performers between the ages of 12 - 20 with demonstrated ability and determination to train in Australia (11th - 17th July & 28th - 30th Nov) and then travel to the US in December to train and perform. The members of GLEE Club Australia made a huge impact in 2010, impressing industry professionals in both Australia and Los Angeles, now in 2011, we are looking for a new group to show the US once again just how good young Australian talent is.

WHO IS THIS PROJECT SUITED TO?

This project is designed for performers 12 - 20 who are looking for more than a typical dance or singing school trip to LA. Any international training tour is an amazing opportunity, please don't think that we are saying that they aren't, we have been involved in several of these and will be in the future; at AIPA we just like to go that extra step and treat you as professionals from day one. If you are going to be a professional, why not train as one? We like to offer real industry opportunities so you have a real life, rather than a mock experience. With this comes an expected level of discipline and grooming which you need to consider before your audition. If you are not prepared to be "industry ready" at every rehearsal, class or masterclass, please do not apply. (This simply means wearing the correct attire, not wearing jewellery, having your hair done and being on time for each session).

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF PARTICIPATING?

AIPA has put this programme together to ensure that the course is a priceless experience for Australian performers, provides a unique and industry relevant experience and can help students grow and further their love of performing arts. Students will participate in class programmes designed specifically for the group. Students will experience a range of different teaching and directional styles and work with amazing industry relevant people who are casting, directing, composing for and choreographing the shows that you watch. Cast will perform at the industry standard spots including Disneyland, Universal Studios, Knott's and Hollywood Blvd. Students will be involved in the writing and recording of an original song (In 2010 the group recorded at Westlake Studios) and have the opportunity to perform individually for a music production team. Lots of fun!

Students who are serious about taking performing to a professional level need to train regularly both in their home countries and the US to build a solid training resume. Training overseas is one thing; training at recognised institutions with the decision makers of shows is something else. Building US training credits should assist students who wish to apply to US schools. Being known to people in the industry is an essential ingredient to success in the industry. Building a fan club of professionals and understanding how US auditions run (before you go in there and it counts) are skills that can only be learned by 'doing'.

Last years cast made friends for life and they loved working with other students who were as dedicated and passionate as they were. For many, they came home and took up extra classes to work on new skills they discovered on tour.

Parents of 2010's cast said that they had never seen their children undertake a project with such discipline, which has radiated to other aspects of their lives. Students were responsible for their progress and performances and took from the project what they put in. Some students read for casting directors for specific projects, (in addition to the master classes everyone took) two were cast in US productions and two were signed by 'top 10' US agents. We certainly do not promise that any of these successes will occur in 2011. We will give the 2011 cast the same opportunities and support them in every way possible.

WHEN IS THE TOUR RUNNING & WHAT IS THE DURATION?

There are three preparation days in Sydney before the group leave all together. These dates are Mon 28th - Wed 30th November. The duration of the tour is twenty-three days including the departure and arrival days.

The tour commences at SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL on Thursday 1st December 2011.

The tour returns to SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL on Friday 23rd December 2011.

For students who wish to meet us in LA to take advantage of special fares, this can be accommodated, please contact our office to make arrangements, although you MUST be booked on the same internal flights as the group. You MUST be at the three-day final rehearsal. If you choose a different flight to LA on 1st, you must arrive in LA by 7.00am to meet the group bus.

WHAT IS THE AGE RANGE THIS TOUR IS OPEN TO?

This project is open to teenagers 12-20. We will consider older performers as long as they are prepared to comply with all reasonable requests of the staff (both AIPA and guest staff).



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WHO OR WHAT IS THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR PERFORMING ARTS?

The Australian Institute for Performing Arts is a company that provides training, productions, talent development, performance opportunities and touring to talented individuals in all performing arts disciplines. We are a proprietary limited company in Australia and an incorporated company in the United States. We have a dedicated touring division (Performing Arts Tours) and have been taking groups of students on tour domestically since 1997 and internationally since 2002. We have hundreds of testimonials that you would be more than welcome to look at and check. We are located at 40 Merrenburn Ave, Naremburn, NSW. Ph :02 9966 5013 (Admin) 02 9966 4473 (Tours) Our ABN (AIPA Pty Ltd) is 55 093 235 057. The touring ABN (Performing Arts Tours Pty Ltd) is 92 122 280 111. The side of the company that will be processing payments is Performing Arts Tours P/L.

HOW DO YOU CHOOSE YOUR STAFF?

Our supervision staff are a mix of school teachers, nurses, physios, choreographers, performers, police officers, AIPA staff and adult AIPA students (who we use as assistants). All staff are first aid trained and screened for child protection. We have ground staff who live in LA and Canada and are great fun, have a wealth of knowledge and are experienced in working with young performers. We also listen carefully to feedback from students and their parents and adjust the team when and if we need to.

WHAT IS THE STAFF/STUDENT RATIO FOR THE TOUR?

The staff/student ratio is 1:12.

MY CHILD IS YOUNG, CAN I GO TOO?

If you feel that your child is too young to travel without you, then they should not audition and wait for a year or two.

We run these tours as closed events, ie everything that your child will need is provided and they are adequately supervised. Adding extra adults into the equation confuses students as they don't know who to listen to. (Parents or AIPA staff). Parents and families are welcome to attend the public performances, however all classes, workshops, masterclasses and organised activities are closed sessions.

I AM A QUALIFIED HIGH SCHOOL DANCE, DRAMA OR MUSIC TEACHER. ARE THERE ANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ME?

Yes. We have a component each year where we encourage professional development and are happy to speak with teachers about the possibility of you being involved in both Australia and on the trip. Your school will need to support you financially, however, we have a scheme to assist further education and are happy to speak to you about this. There is no 'cost' to be involved, apart from the hard costs of airfares and living expenses.

WHAT SORTS OF PERFORMERS ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

In 2011 we are specifically looking for strong triple threats. Applicants will need determination, ambition, stamina, a high level of fitness and a love for life and the performing arts. We are looking for performers who have solid training in musical theatre. Performers seeking instant fame without the dedication it takes need not apply. Performers carrying injuries will not be able to sustain the demands of the itinerary and we suggest that you look at applying when you are at full strength. We travel with a nurse and a physio, however, they are there to assist, not treat ongoing injuries.

HOW DO I AUDITION? / HOW DO I BOOK AN AUDITION TIME?

Auditions will be held in Sydney, Perth, Gold Coast and our regional centre this year is Ballarat. Audition dates are on the front page of the website. **Please call 02 9966 4473.** All auditions are strictly by appointment only. You must register your interest by calling 02 9966 4473 and go online to register your interest. www.performingartstours.com.au

DOES IT COST ANYTHING TO AUDITION?

No, it doesn't, however, we take an audition as a firm commitment to the programme. Audition tapes will be viewed by the creative team in Australia and the US, so please do not audition if you do not have the means to travel to LA and the commitment and time to be part of the project. Auditioning for experience for a project of this level is truly unprofessional. **Performers who audition for this project, are selected but then do not follow through with it will be invoiced a US\$250.00 processing fee.** As you can appreciate, the creative team will be paid to run auditions and select the cast. If you are not selected, there is no cost to you. AUDITIONING FOR THIS PROJECT REQUIRES THE SIGNATURE OF THE ADULT WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR GIVING YOU PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE AND TRAVEL AND THE INDIVIDUAL FUNDING YOUR INVOLVEMENT.



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WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO FOR THE AUDITION?

The audition will be in three parts.

- A. There will be an open dance call in each centre, which will last approximately ninety minutes. One of the choreographers will take you for a warm up, technique work and will then teach a quick routine. This audition will be filmed and each applicant will be given a number. Please bring jazz shoes with you and come correctly attired to comply with safe dance practice. (hair back, proper fitting clothing). You must have shoes on for the audition.
- B. There will be a vocal audition. We would like to hear UP TO two minutes of a musical theatre or pop song. Please have a second choice ready, in case we would like to see more. Performance is an essential component of the audition.
- C. There will be an interview. If the applicant is under 18 years a parent or guardian MUST attend this interview. Applicants should bring a photo or headshot (name on the back) and a resume. Please make sure that your list references of school dance or music teachers or private dance and vocal teachers, as we will be checking references and current training.

HOW DO I AUDITION IF I LIVE OVERSEAS OR IN A STATE WHERE AUDITIONS ARE NOT RUNNING?

You will need to attend an audition at one of the audition venues. As this is an Australian based project, you will have to travel to the nearest centre. We try and change the audition venues every couple of years to make it fair.

WHEN & HOW DO I FIND OUT IF I WAS SUCCESSFUL?

After your audition session we will shortlist those we are interested in working with. We will check references and then our creative team will make a decision. You will be notified either way so keep an eye out for a response from us. If you have not received an email from us seven days after your audition and you have checked your spam, please call the office on 02 9966 4473 for an answer. You must accept your place within three days of the offer being made or your place will be given to someone else.

IF I WAS IN THE CAST IN 2010, DO I HAVE TO AUDITION AGAIN THIS YEAR?

Yes, you do. We expect that you will have improved since last years project and we will be excited to see how you have grown.

WILL THERE BE AN INFORMATION SESSION?

Yes. You are welcome to call us at anytime and ask questions and we suggest that you do this PRIOR to auditioning. You are also more than welcome to make an appointment and come in to see us in Sydney or have a Skype conversation if you aren't local. We are all about transparency and happy to help you.

GENERAL UPDATE: Sunday 17th July at 12noon at Point Wolstoncroft Sport & Recreational Centre. This will be at the end of the training week and last for approx one hour. Parents, friends and dance teachers with students involved in the project are welcome to attend. It is a great opportunity for the parents to get to know one another before the tour.

WHAT IS THE REHEARSAL/TRAINING COMMITMENT?

* The commitment is a seven-day intensive RESIDENTIAL training programme in July. This is compulsory and no exceptions can be made, as we need the group to bond and train together. The course commences on Monday 11th July at 8.45am at Pt Wolstoncroft and concludes at 4.00pm on Sunday 17th July. The week will be a series of classes, workshops, rehearsals, writing the original song, grading, bonding and house-keeping (headshots taken, uniform sizing, meeting the tour manager and team etc) <http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/pointwolstoncroft/location.asp>

* The cost of the workshop is A\$817.70. The price includes Six (6) nights accommodation, Six (6) breakfasts, Seven (7) morning teas, Seven (7) lunches, Six (6) afternoon teas, Six (6) dinners, tuition, supervision and evening activities.

* **Payment is due by 1st July 2011.** The workshop, whether students stay overnight or return home and don't stay over, is the same price.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I WANT TO DO THE AATDP OR SONGWRITING PROJECT IN SEP/OCT AS WELL? THE REHEARSAL WEEK IS THE SAME DATES.

During the bootcamp week, classes and rehearsals will be timetabled around casts. If we have students who have been selected for both projects, your timetable will be managed for you. You will be tired and won't have much free time, but if you live to train and perform, you really won't mind. The staff will assist you wherever they can.



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WHAT DO STUDENTS FROM INTERSTATE DO? HOW DO THEY GET TO AND FROM POINT WOLSTONCROFT?

- a) We hope that you have friends or family who can pick up your child and transport them to and from the rehearsal venue.
- b) If not, students should arrive into Sydney airport by 6pm on Sunday 10th July. They will be met by an AIPA staff member (if flights arrive after 2.00pm and before 6.05pm) and transferred to an airport hotel (details will be provided to parents privately for child protection reasons). They will be supervised and then transported to the venue early Monday morning. There will be a charge for this to cover the accommodation, supervision and coach transfers.
- c) As the facility is near the hunter valley, families may wish to come across and have a week's holiday in the region or in Sydney.
- d) There are no provisions for parents or sundry guests to stay and requests will be declined. If your child cannot be away for seven days, they will not cope with being overseas for three weeks.

I AM FINAL YEAR HIGH SCHOOL. WILL I HAVE TIME TO STUDY AT THE JULY BOOTCAMP?

You will have free-time and how you to choose to spend it is up to you. We will provide a quiet place, away from the noise for you to study if you would like this.

THERE IS A THREE-DAY INTENSIVE REHEARSAL IN NOVEMBER. WHERE DO OUT OF AREA STUDENTS STAY?

We are hoping that students will make great friends in July and that Sydney based cast members and their families will be able to billet out-of-area students. We can recommend hotels and apartments near AIPA for those who wish to be independent. AIPA will not be providing accommodation or supervision before or after the rehearsal period each day.

WHERE DO YOU STAY IN LOS ANGELES AND NEW YORK?

We use chain hotels and serviced apartments for all our projects. Naturally parents are given the name and location before students leave, along with full staff contact details. For child protection, we do not list addresses online. All rooms have private bathrooms and are properties we have used before with success and without fuss.

I HAVE HEARD THAT HOTEL ROOMS IN NYC ARE TINY, IS THIS CORRECT?

Yes they are. The rooms in Hollywood and Anaheim are roomy, so it is up to you which accommodation option you choose. We offer three levels to make the project more affordable, but quad share does mean four performers sharing a room with two double beds (2 to a bed). Students in these rooms will be limited to one suitcase and one backpack for the trip. There isn't space in NY for anything more.

HOW MUCH DOES THIS TOUR COST AND WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?

The cost of the trip for Dec 2011 is US\$6401.78pp (Quad share), US\$6815.24pp (Twin share) or US\$7867.4383pp (Own room)
Accommodation: Twenty (20) nights total. Eight (8) nights in Hollywood, Five (5) nights in Anaheim, Seven (7) nights in New York.
Internet: Wireless is provided at each hotel.
Meals: Breakfast (20), Lunch (13) & Dinner (19).
Supervision & staff component.
Professional Headshot (Taken in July).
Professional photos of the tour. Complete CD of 800+ photos. (Professional photographer travelling with the group)
Professional DVD. Complete performances as well as 'behind the scenes' & memories. (Professional company travelling with us)
Tour Uniform: Hoodie, t-shirt & backpack.
Transfers: Hotel to LA, LA to Anaheim, Anaheim to LAX, JFK to Hotel, Hotel to JFK. (5 coach transfers)
Transfers: To and from classes each day. (Walking, buses and trains)
Tickets: Two-day ticket to Universal Studios
Three-day ticket to Disneyland & California Adventure Park
One-day ticket to Knott's Berry Farm
Tuition: All professional development masterclasses and sessions with industry professionals in LA & NYC. (See itinerary)

THE PRICE IS VERY REASONABLE FOR ALL INCLUSIONS, HOW DO YOU DO IT?

The cost is kept at a minimum to make it accessible to talented, rather than just wealthy students. As we operate in LA as well as Australia, we use our LA based staff where we can, saving on airfares and other expenses. We have great relationships with the suppliers we use and we pass all these savings on to you without skimping on quality.



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WHAT IS YOUR CANCELLATION POLICY?

Once the student has auditioned and accepted their place and a parent or guardian has signed the agreement, you are legally committed to 50% of the cost of the trip. As you can appreciate, once we start to build a cast with confirmed and signed agreements, we book and prepay hotels, coaches, teachers, professionals, caterers etc. If you withdraw after 18th July, you are responsible for the full cost. It is essential that you purchase travel insurance that will cover you in the unfortunate circumstance that you have to withdraw from the project. Please ensure that your policy covers cancellation prior to leaving Australia. You will need to make your payment to AIPA, you will be issued a receipt and then able to make the claim if appropriate. Please research travel insurance prior to auditioning.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

Flights/Airfares: For details on flights, see below.

Spending Money: For obvious reasons, this is a personal choice. We suggest US\$100 a week for incidentals (snacks, postcards, stamps) and then money for gifts, extra classes, Broadway shows and souvenirs.

Travel Insurance: Please ensure that as soon as you have booked your flight you book travel insurance. You will need to enter the policy number online when you fill in the acceptance form. All students MUST be covered at top level and protected for cancellation, health and accident, baggage etc.. It is easy to purchase this online.

Meals on days out: Everyone has personal tastes and from past experience group members like to eat at different times, so we let them do this! Please see the itinerary as it lists which meals are not provided. If students decide to take part in evening activities that mean missing the catered meal, students will need to buy their own. We will avoid this wherever possible, however, some Broadway shows will have early start times and it won't be practical to return to the hotel for dinner.

Optional Classes & shows: Students will have the option of taking additional dance classes at Broadway Dance Centre, STEPS on Broadway, IDA etc. The average class costs US\$15.00 - \$20.00. Broadway shows range in price from US\$55.00 – US\$200.00. Students will be buying 'same day' tickets, which are generally heavily discounted.

Residential workshop in July: The workshop, whether students stay overnight or return home and don't stay over, is the same price. The cost of the workshop is A\$817.70. Payment is due on 1st July 2011.

WHAT FLIGHTS SHOULD I BOOK MY CHILD ON?

As airfares are also moving around a lot and students are coming from multiple destinations, we are encouraging parents to go to their travel agent or online and book a ticket for their child. When you receive an acceptance letter, we will send you flight combinations. You can choose to book with our travel agent or your own. We are using Qantas for this trip.

QF11 to LA QF107 to JFK. QF108 from NYC to SYD.

If you are going to be in LA PRIOR to the group arriving from Australia, you will need to meet the group at LAX on 1st December.

WHEN IS PAYMENT DUE & HOW DO I PAY?

1st July, 2011: Payment for the rehearsal week is due. The total is A\$817.70. This can be paid by cash, cheque or direct credit. Payment by master card or visa are also accepted, however a 2.5% surcharge will be added. (In Aust dollars)

17th September, 2011: 50% payment is due. (In US dollars)

17th November, 2011: 50% remaining balance due. (In US dollars)

Please note payments are due BY the date listed. Late payments will result in an increase in the amount due as we are charged late fees by suppliers. The simplest way to pay is to go to your bank and get a bank cheque in US dollars made out to The Australian Institute for Performing Arts Inc. Alternatively, payments can be US cash (by arrangement), MasterCard or Visa (A fee of 2.5% applies for credit cards). You are welcome to pay the full amount on 17th September in one bank cheque to avoid two bank fees.

DOES AIPA HAVE A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME?

Yes, we certainly do. Scholarship applications open on 1st November each year and are open for fourteen days. The "Blair Milan Memorial Scholarship" is an all expenses paid (with the exception of travel insurance and spending money) scholarship and has set criteria. All applicants must be known to AIPA, either through touring, productions, classes or talent development. The scholarship for 2011 has been awarded and was renamed in April to pay tribute to Blair.



The Australian Institute For Performing Arts

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ARE THERE ANY PARENTS I CAN SPEAK TO WHO HAVE SENT THEIR CHILDREN TO THE US WITH AIPA BEFORE?

Absolutely. We have a huge parent fan base and have hundreds who have offered to speak to parents who do not us. All you need to do is contact us and give us your permission to pass on your details. We will give you a few options for parents who have children the same age as your child. (Wherever possible)

IF I HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS THAT AREN'T ADDRESSED HERE, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Please call us. You can call the Sydney office on 02 9966 4473 or 02 9966 4030. You can email us sydneyoffice@aipa.com.au