

Thank you very much for choosing me as a recipient of The Friends of the Academy Grant. I feel truly honoured to have been considered for a grant.

As a third year student completing a Bachelor of Arts (Dance) at WAAPA, this year I had the opportunity to second with companies to gain first-hand experience in the profession.

I was fortunate to be one of three students to be chosen for the secondment with Sydney Dance Company. The experience with Sydney Dance Company was amazing and rewarding, and one that I will never forget. I spent five working days with the company and had the opportunity to observe how the company dancers contributed to the creative process and how the director works with the dancers.

The company was developing Rafael Bonachela's upcoming work *Anima* as well as rehearsing Gabrielle Nankivell's *Wildebeest* as part of the *Untamed* season. It was interesting to see how the dancers created movement from the tasks given by the director. I found the creative process particularly fascinating as I learned how to develop movement, a skill I wanted to improve further.

I also had the opportunity to learn some material from *Anima* and perform it for the rehearsal director Chris Aubrey. I was provided with constructive feedback that really assisted my understanding of how to integrate my whole body in movement as well as learning how to achieve the movement quality of the particular phrase.

The secondment has inspired me to keep working hard and refine my skills as a performer to ultimately gain a job as a professional dancer in a company after graduation.

The grant helped me with the cost of accommodation and food which were one of the biggest expenses for the secondment. Without the great assistance of the Friends I may not have had this chance with Sydney Dance Company. I cannot express how grateful I am to have had the secondment and receive the grant. I truly appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Kind regards,

Karen