

To Friends of the Academy,

I write this letter to thank you for giving me a Friends Grant that allowed me to travel to Melbourne and complete my secondment with Melbourne City Ballet for a week.

This was a great experience which opened up my eyes to see what is out there in the dance industry and see how I am placed amongst other professional dancers. From this week, I have an even greater sense of appreciation for WAAPA, I have been able to see the standard of other dancers and see how my training at WAAPA has placed me amongst the highest standard. The time with the Company allowed me to be seen by the Artistic Director of Melbourne City Ballet, therefore a way of putting myself out there and making connections.

A week amongst company dancers is a way of seeing how I can grow and what skills I can adapt from new people and can add to my existing technique. From this I now want to take back to my training a greater focus on my artistry as now at the time of graduation, this artistry is what makes you stand at a company level. It is important to be in a new environment and see how you can push yourself, from going from training to a company environment. I have now developed more self-confidence within myself and have the motivation to start planning opportunities as I graduate at the end of the year.

This week in specifically in Melbourne presented the opportunity to fully immerse myself into the arts industry, as I was able to watch the Australian Ballet's sold out season of *Alice In Wonderland* and *Aladdin* the musical.

Thank you again.

Jessica

Bachelor of Arts (Dance)