



THE JOURNEY TO THE DESTINATION

The background of the entire poster is a black and white photograph of a dance troupe. The dancers are wearing black, shiny, form-fitting outfits consisting of a crop top and shorts, along with black high-heeled shoes and black top hats. They are captured in a dynamic, low-to-the-ground dance pose. In the center of the image, there is a large graphic of the United States flag, with the stars and stripes clearly visible. The word 'DANCE' is written in a large, bold, black, cursive-style font across the middle of the flag graphic. Below 'DANCE', the word 'INTERNATIONAL' is written in a smaller, black, all-caps, sans-serif font.

DANCE

INTERNATIONAL

APRIL 25TH - JULY 18 2020



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"I FEEL THAT THE ESSENCE OF DANCE IS THE EXPRESSION OF MAN – THE LANDSCAPE OF HIS SOUL. I HOPE THAT EVERY DANCE I DO REVEALS SOMETHING OF MYSELF OR SOME WONDERFUL THING A HUMAN CAN BE."

MARTHA GRAHAM



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Dance International will be a highly educational program with LA's best educators, artists and working industry professionals in the states. This 3-month program will be a high-intensity training to push your bodies physically and give you the tools and knowledge you need to become an international professional. Whether your aim is to be professional dancer, choreographer, choreographer assistant, producer or own your own business or all of the above this program is for you.



With daily regular classes, you will also take on body conditioning, health & nutrition, yoga, detailed training in audition techniques, industry and immigration seminars, agent mentoring, PR & marketing, portfolios, choreography training, and concept video work. Dancers will also learn about all aspects of the Performing Arts Business including networking skills, building quality relationships with choreographers, agents and lawyers; production processes, contracts, online casting processes and more. Students will participate in a number of outside events including Live Studio Tapings, Self Defence Classes, Social Media Seminars and more. Each dancer will be personally mentored by Renee Ritchie, where you put together a five year business plan and be goal setting weekly. Voice & Acting classes will be implemented as well because in this industry your confidence in talking & connecting with others will be one of your most important assets, and because being versatile as a dancer helps ensure your ability to work.



Dance International is passionate about Australians with the burning desire to work internationally and achieve their dreams. Our coaches and mentors will work with you individually to push you and guide you into your future. Students will be offered a B1/B2 visa allowing dancers to live and train in the USA for 6 months every year for 5 years and upon completion of this course, you will be able to have direct contact with Renee Ritchie for further access to skype, in-person and phone sessions at an affordable price.



Dance International

"DO IT BIG; DO IT RIGHT; AND DO IT WITH STYLE." —FRED ASTAIRE

Jessica Orcsik AAFTA Director

Jessica Orcsik is an established actress, performer, choreographer and producer featuring in Stage, Film & Television productions for over 30 years. Her professional acting career began at age 4 on TV show Richmond Hill, since then worked on well known productions in Film, Television, Theatre, Music Video's and Documentaries.

Jessica has worked and trained with prestigious studios and coaches across the globe including Larry Moss, Lisa Robertson Studio, Matthew Barry, Lesley Kahn, Broadway Dance Center and Netherlands Dance Theatre. Performed with Australian dance companies, national television shows, choreographed for national tours and hosted public events across Australia.

Director of her own internationally acclaimed event/production company J.O. International Productions, she has also produced nation wide events and competitions including "On Broadway" and Don't Dis Disabilities Dance Extravaganza".

Jessica is a leading facilitator for international career mentoring for Australian performers and actors. Invited to speak at the Actors Symposium alongside Breakdown Services in Vancouver in 2014; as well as having articles produced in Dance Informa Magazine. Her continued success is demonstrated with "LA Experience" program established alongside TAFTA. Jessica has now relaunched her school in Los Angeles with American Arts, Film & TV Academy, LLC. Jessica continues to align herself with wonderful programs that are dedicated to developing talent and equal opportunities all over the world.



Through her experience in all platforms she has developed a huge passion for supporting 'inclusion & diversity' within the performing arts and film & television community. She currently remains the International Marketing & Entertainment Coordinator for Focus On Ability International Film Festival, where she facilitates Australian Filmmakers and Actors on expansions of their careers on international levels.

Launching her new production company Diversity Pictures and producing her first short & feature length 2 part documentary series 'Stepping Into Focus' Jessica continues to challenge 'inclusion & diversity' with relation to disabilities across all arts sectors. In addition, Jessica is associate Producer on 2019 Australian feature film with Screen Australia "Unsound". Featuring leading roles with actors from the disability and trans community. Plus is in pre production for several new films. Jessica recently won Best Womens Short & Best Indi Short at the Independent Short Awards. She is also a finalist in Indifest & Global Short Awards.

Jessica is represented by Gilchrist Management & US Management Company Industry Entertainment and is currently living in the US with her Greencard.

"DANCE LIVES WITHIN YOU ALWAYS. IF YOU CAN CREATE, UNDERSTAND THE BUSINESS AND BUILD STRONG RELATIONSHIPS - SUCCESS IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE!"

JESSICA ORCSIK

Renee Ritchie Creative Director

Renee Ritchie career began at Jenina's Dance Workshop in Tasmania (Australia) at 17. After moving to Sydney NSW to study Full-Time at Brent Street Dance Studios, Renee continued to pursue her training and career all the way to Los Angeles in the USA. With hard work, persistence and continuing to put herself out there Renee made it onto television show SYTYCD Season 3 (Australia) Top 12 which catapulted her very successful career as dancer and choreographer.

Renee has worked with artists in Australia such as Kylie Minogue, Reedfo, Kelly Clarkson, Tina Arena, Jessica Mauboy, Ricki-Lee Coulter, Timomatic and more; and has performed on TV shows like X-Factor, Dance Academy, Australia's Next Top Model, Mardi Gras, Footy Show Australia and Young Talent Time. Just to name a few.

Renee's dedication and perseverance, along with applying her skills and talents has successfully led her to work for international artists such as J-LO, Paula Abdul, Chloe Flower, Major Lazer, MO, J-Balvin, Farruko, Wisin, Nicky Jam, Omi, Fitz and the Tantrums and more. Renee has been also featured on The Ellen Show, James Corden, Latin Grammy's and Peoples Choice Awards.



Renee's professional performance career also stems to being a renowned choreographer! Having choreographed on seasons 4 SYTYCD Australia, Music Video for Australia's pop star artist Dami Im "Fighting For Love", Paula Abdul's 2018 "Straight Up" Tour and LA pride performance.

Renee has also been an assistant choreographer on J-LO "All I Have" and Britney Spears "Domination" Las Vegas show. Travelling around the USA teaching and judging competitions for multiple companies, Renee continues to share her knowledge with the younger generation of today.

Renee has a passion for teaching and mentoring anyone with the driving desire of becoming a professional dancer. Not only Australian wide but also internationally. Renee has mentored and guided many dancers such as Michael Dameski, Tash Marconi, Bec Morris, Chris Tsattalios, Laura Spence and more. Renee offers the tools and skill set it takes to become a professional in this industry, and looks forward to guiding many more young performers on their international journey's.

"BEING A DANCER IS BEYOND THE MOVEMENT, BEING A DANCER YOU ARE THE ARTIST.
EMBODY YOUR TRUE-SELF AND WATCH THE MAGIC IN YOUR CAREER LIVE A LIFE"

RENEE RITCHIE

Core Curriculum

High Intensity Commercial Dance Training

Sessions will be provided by a range of experienced dancers and choreographers across Los Angeles. Schedules will be provided to dancers in advance. Dancers are also encouraged to take a minimum of 3 maximum of 5 additional classes each week. Styles include: Jazz, Hip-Hop, Heels, Latin, Ballroom, Voguing, Ballet, Contemporary & more.

Audition Technique & Etiquette

Though auditions can be nerve-wracking, the good news is that all dancers can learn etiquette and preparation techniques that set them up for success. Dance International will expand on all US and Universal Dance Audition Industry practices including:

- Tips prior to the Audition
- Tips during the Audition
- Typical Audition Structures eg. "Cattle call" vs "agent only" auditions, uncontrollable factors for being cut, how material can be taught, call-backs and knowing your limitations.

On Camera Skills & Training

Foundational experience in commercial dance includes understanding a range of dance production practices; including but not limited to lighting design, set design, costume design, and stage management. Students receive practical training combined with theoretical ideas put into practice and opportunities for performers to reflect on their own work and that of others. A completion of production project required. Performers gain introduction to making dance for camera and acquire and apply basic video production skills for creation of movement-based projects. Tools include film, frame, set up shots, storyboard, design shot lists, and set-up lists, log and capture, edit, and export footage--students create their own dance for camera video projects. Students gain deeper understanding of conceptualization, practice, theory, history, and current state of dance for camera.



Choreography skills & development

Dancers will learn important skills for choreographic practises including: Responsibilities to your dancers; Active Listening; Coordination; Time Management - Managing one's own time and the time of others; Social Perceptiveness - Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do. Students will also learn Decision Making Skills; Critical Thinking - Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problem; Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action. Dancers will also cover the specificities of choreography including keeping th audience engaged, contrasts, musicality, emotions, relationships, natural movements and more.

Partnering

First-time partnering can be as nerve-wracking for dancers especially in modern commercial dance where we require daredevil feats to complete impressive tricks and lifts. Partnering can also test boundaries with intimacy or choreographic content of a sexual nature. Dance International will explore assessing readiness, prep work, structuring rehearsal processes, being performance perfect and the lasting benefits.

"I DO NOT TRY TO DANCE BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE. I ONLY TRY TO TO DANCE BETTER THAN MYSELF."

MIKHAIL BARYSHNIKOV

Core Curriculum

One on One mentoring & Personal Development

AAFTA Director Jessica Orcsik and Creative Director Renee Ritchie will offer one on one mentoring throughout the entire duration of your program. Renee's extensive dance background, and Jessica's understanding of the Entertainment "business" will prepare you with the tools for a long yet exciting road ahead in the development of your international career. Creatives will be pushed beyond their limitations, yet have the opportunity to thrive in a new, competitive, supportive and inspiring location. Students will have regular meetings to expand on their business plans, personal goals and overall career map. This will see students set up achievable structures, objectives and include realistic expectations.

Health & Nutrition

It takes discipline and hard work, along with proper instruction and training to be a great dancer. Other factors, such as adequate sleep and proper nutrition, are often overlooked, but also essential for achieving your best performance. In this program we will cover important structures for dancers to gain overall nutritional knowledge of relationship of nutrition to dancing. Understand the associations of nutrition with body image, injuries and hydration and how it impacts performance. Learn how to put together a quick and healthy snack. Learn the importance of planning ahead for fueling and performance success

Body Conditioning

It's absolutely imperative that dancers are strong, physically fit, and able to endure the rigors of dance performance. A conditioning regime allows dancers to opportunity to strengthen their bodies to compliment their technical and stylistic dance training and prevent injuries.

Conditioning typically includes: Cardiovascular Exercises, Flexibility Exercises, Strength Exercises, Core/Abdominal Work, Arm/ Back/Leg Work.

Voice & Acting Skills

With the ever growing hybrids in the Entertainment Industry dancers must be prepared for any/all commercial jobs. In some circumstances dancers may be required to do both On Camera & Stage Acting, as well as background vocals. Developing confidence in these areas is essential to being a versatile and professional performer. Dancers are encouraged to let go of their ego's and explore all ranges and degrees of their talent.

"NOBODY CARES IF YOU CAN'T DANCE WELL. JUST GET UP AND DANCE. GREAT DANCERS ARE GREAT BECAUSE OF THEIR PASSION."

MARTHA GRAHAM



Business of Dance

Goal Setting & Business Planning

Dancers will learn how to set up business plans including long term & short term goals, practicalities for business structure, striving for balance, career objectives, career mapping, areas of improvement and finding your "dance Calling" or "Unique Voice".

Contracts & Legalities

The business side of dance can often fall second to the art. Contracts usually appear after you've done the hard work of securing a job. You might decide to simply sign without even reading the terms—or be understandably confused by all the legalities. Ultimately, though, contracts can play an important part in setting the expectations for your job. A basic understanding of the legal terms you might see can go a long way in making sure that signing is a positive step toward growing your career including: Credit, Non-Compete Clauses, Copyright Ownership, Contractor, Representations and Warranties, Mandatory Arbitration & Mediation and Indemnification.

Concept Dance Videos

Concept Dance Videos should factor into your business plans via way of marketing and PR. All dancers must consider a range of important tools before completing their videos to ensure 100% traction virally. These include but not limited to crafting messages with your audience in mind, making quality products, consistency and continually engaging and building your audience.

Industry Seminars & Workshops

Throughout Dance International performers will receive specialised Industry Seminars & Workshops to help advance skills in multiple other areas of business. These include but not limited to: TSMA (Social Media Marketing), Health & Nutrition, Visa's & Immigration, Networking and Screen Actors Guild and more.

Production Processes

The production process refers to the stages (phases) required to complete a media product, from the idea to the final master copy. The process can apply to any type of media production including film, video, television and audio recording. The three main stages of production are: Pre-production: Planning, scripting & storyboarding, etc. Production: The actual shooting/recording. Post-production: Everything between production and creating the final master copy. Dancers should educate themselves with as much of the production processes as possible to help them prepare for what to expect on professional productions. The more prepared dancers are for production of all types, the more opportunity there is to be hired for additional work.

Self Promotion and Marketing

As an artist quite often we are reluctant to promote ourselves and our talents. Being able to confidently network and self promote and market your skills is an essential part to building a career here in LA. Dance International performers will learn these how to build these skills confidently, professionally and proudly.

"NOBODY CARES IF YOU CAN'T DANCE WELL. JUST GET UP AND DANCE. GREAT DANCERS ARE GREAT BECAUSE OF THEIR PASSION."

MARTHA GRAHAM



Business of Dance



Management and Talent Agent Representation

Dance International will provide its performers with the opportunity to meet with and audition for Talent Agents & Management here in LA. Dance International will provide these platforms for dancers to understand where they are at this stage of their career, and what may need to be done to further opportunities to obtain representation here in LA.

Resumes

Understanding a US Resume layout is an important tool for dancers. Especially those that have multiple skill sets including Acting, Singing or Musical Theatre. Dance International will ensure that all performers are equipped with these important business skills.

Headshots & Portfolios

All dancers will receive a headshot & photoshoot as part of their program with Dance International. These photoshoots will be planned out to suit the dancers unique voice and branding.

Visa's and Immigration

Dancers will receive Visa & Immigration seminars to educate them on the steps that they need to take in order to obtain either an O1 Visa or Greencard. Dancers should be prepared to be collecting information and documents throughout their program that will assist them in making the next steps towards obtaining a visa.

Online Casting Processes

Once dancers relocate to the US, they will need to keep the work flowing in order to sustain the expenses involved with living in LA. As well as the benefits to having an agent to help you audition, Dance International will provide its performers with the tools to better understand and navigate online casting processes so that they can also seek work themselves through independent, commercial, non-union or outside projects.

Industry Showcase & Networking Event

Dance International will have the opportunity to perform in an Industry Showcase & there will be an evening Networking Event to follow. The showcase will include choreographed numbers from teachers, students and special guest choreographers in a compilation of solo, duo and groups. Dancers will have the opportunity to audition for these pieces towards the end of their program. The Networking Event will allow the dancers to use their skills they have accumulated throughout the program to Network with the Industry guests who attend the Showcase.

"DANCING'S PART OF MY SOUL. I ENJOY IT, IT MAKES PEOPLE HAPPY, AND IT MAKES ME HAPPY."

— JOHN TRAVOLTA

Outside Events

Live Studio Tapings

Performers are encouraged to attend Live Studio Audience tapings of performance based shows shot here in Los Angeles. These include but not limited to: Awards Shows, So You Think You Can Dance, Dancing With The Stars, America's Got Talent. The purpose is to expose dancers to the production expectations, demands and standards.

Self Defence Classes

Performers must understand that living in the USA comes with a different set of rules and lifestyle. Safety is extremely important to the AAFTA team. Dancers will undergo a Self Defence Class with trained professionals to understand how to stay safe and use their surroundings to protect themselves against predators or unwanted danger.

Creating Your Own Content with Ryde Entertainment

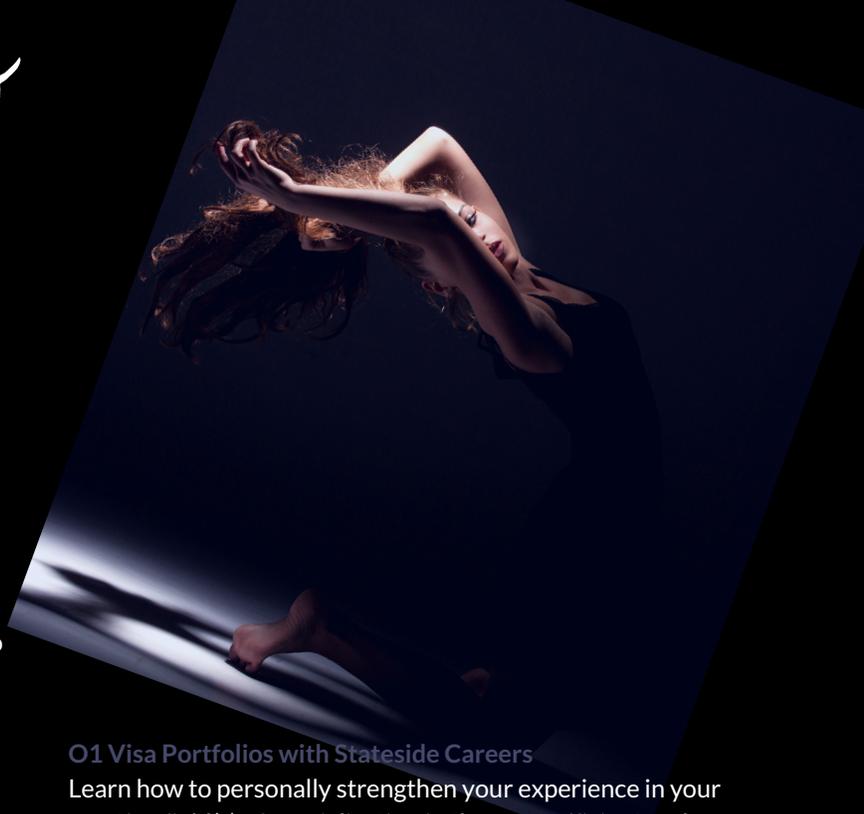
A program designed to teach you everything you need to know about how to get yourself shooting professional quality footage from your smart phone. Lets face it Camera Equipment is expensive, big and bulky and can take years to understand all the camera jargon. This course is catered to those with no budget to low budget actors and dancers, new filmmakers and small business owners looking to shoot the footage themselves, This includes self tapes, showreels, skits, short films and maybe even a feature films, Product shots, social media, advertising and even short commercials.

Career Development Programs

Each month students are encouraged to receive 1 hour private sessions with both Director Jessica Orcsik and Creative Director Renee Ritchie regarding overall career goals and mentoring. A complimentary session with Renee Ritchie is offered in the first month of the program and any additional sessions will be \$70 per hour per student. These sessions will cover a range of business and career coaching elements including Goals, Objectives, Business Plans, References, O1 Visa & Immigration Policies, Mindset and Manifestations and overall confidence and presence in the industry.

TSMA (Social Media Marketing)

TSMA are known for managing and growing Instagram accounts for individuals and businesses in the entertainment industry. Whether you have zero followers or 100,000, our team of experts take the stress and complications of social media off your plate. TSMA Offer: Total Account Management, Grow Your Audience, Content Creation, Education



O1 Visa Portfolios with Stateside Careers

Learn how to personally strengthen your experience in your creative field(s) of specialization in the most efficient and effective way in order to be ready to apply for your O-1B visa ASAP. Stateside Careers is highly experienced with assisting artists of all backgrounds with steering their careers towards the US. Learn how to source talent representation, build the credits that matter most, and more. Carefully navigate the US market to source the right US immigration law firm for YOU. Rapidly steer your career towards the US as per the intricate requirements of the US visa most relevant to YOU. Let Stateside Careers experienced business managers guide you through your US goals and help YOU to adapt in to the US market

Intimacy in Dance - respecting your rights and boundaries as an artist

A workshop focusing upon what it means to experience intimacy within one to one performance. Participants will be asked to consider: What is intimacy? How does the form and content of one to one performance create a sense of intimacy? In the one to one experience, who carries the intimacy? Where is it located? We will explore the transgression of boundaries between performer and audience within one to one performance, looking at how some works blur notions of the 'real' with gender performativity. We also look at how one to one performance can create heightened sensorial pleasure, or a heightened awareness of 'self', and ideas through which the audience member becomes implicit in the performance. These ideas will be explored through a variety of methods: discussion, practical tasks and activities, and through encountering the experience of intimacy within a variety of different contexts. Participants will also be asked to devise a one to one performance encounter as part of the workshop.

"HAND IN HAND, ON THE EDGE OF THE SAND, THEY DANCED BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON."

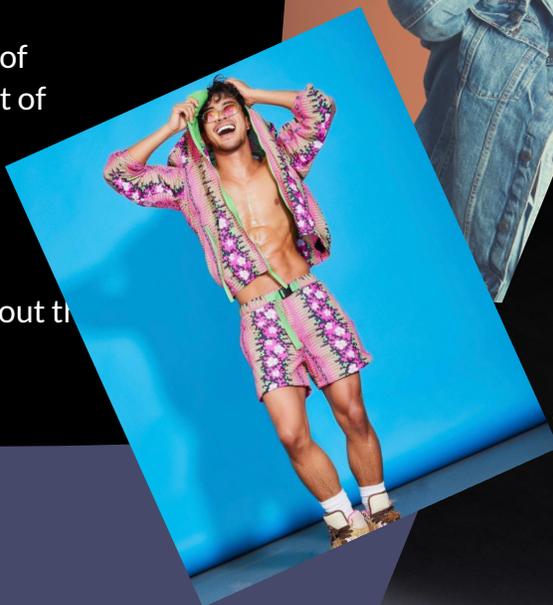
EDWARD LEAR



Staff & Mentors

Dance International has an incredible array of coaches and choreographers. For a full list of teachers please visit our website at www.aafta.us/dance-international-staff

Please note Guest Teachers and Guest Choreographers will be announced throughout the program.



"DANCERS ARE THE ATHLETES OF GOD." —
ALBERT EINSTEIN

Accommodation & Locations



UP(ST)ART CREATIVE LIVING

UP(st)ART is a shared space where artists, actors, musicians, DJs, models, comedians, writers, directors and dancers live, play, collaborate, and create together.

Live month to month with other creatives. Focus on your art, not waiting tables in order to cover rent on a \$1,500 studio apartment that will trap you in a 12-month lease.

After all, you may book a role in New York next month!

Our low monthly cost includes access to all facilities (WiFi, office spaces, recording studios, musical instruments, hot tub, sauna, big screen TVs, HBO, etc.), admittance to all our activities (family dinners, workshops, guest speakers), and a bunk bed or pod bed in one of our guest rooms.

As a private club, we have a thorough application process, admitting a diverse group of people based on their art and ambition rather than their credit score or income.

For applications for membership to UP(st)ART creative please contact assistant@aafta.us

AAFTA has a preferred partnership with UP(st)ART and can ensure students gets preferential placement. More houses are also available.

<https://www.liveatupstart.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/upstartcreativeliving/>

Air BnB

AirBnB has great options at affordable prices. You can choose to search for accommodation with friends or by yourself. Please send AAFTA any option your find on AirBnB for approval before booking.

Link: <https://www.airbnb.com.au>

Facebook

Facebook groups are a great option when searching for long-term or short-term accommodation. We recommend joining Aussies in LA or Australian in LA.

Aussies in LA:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AussiesInLA/>

Australian's in LA:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AussiesInLA/>

Finder

Finder also has affordable options, particularly for long-term stays.

Link: <https://www.finder.com.au/>



"THE PROBLEM IS NOT MAKING UP THE STEPS, BUT DECIDING WHICH ONES TO KEEP."

—MIKHAIL BARYSHNIKOV

Location Guide

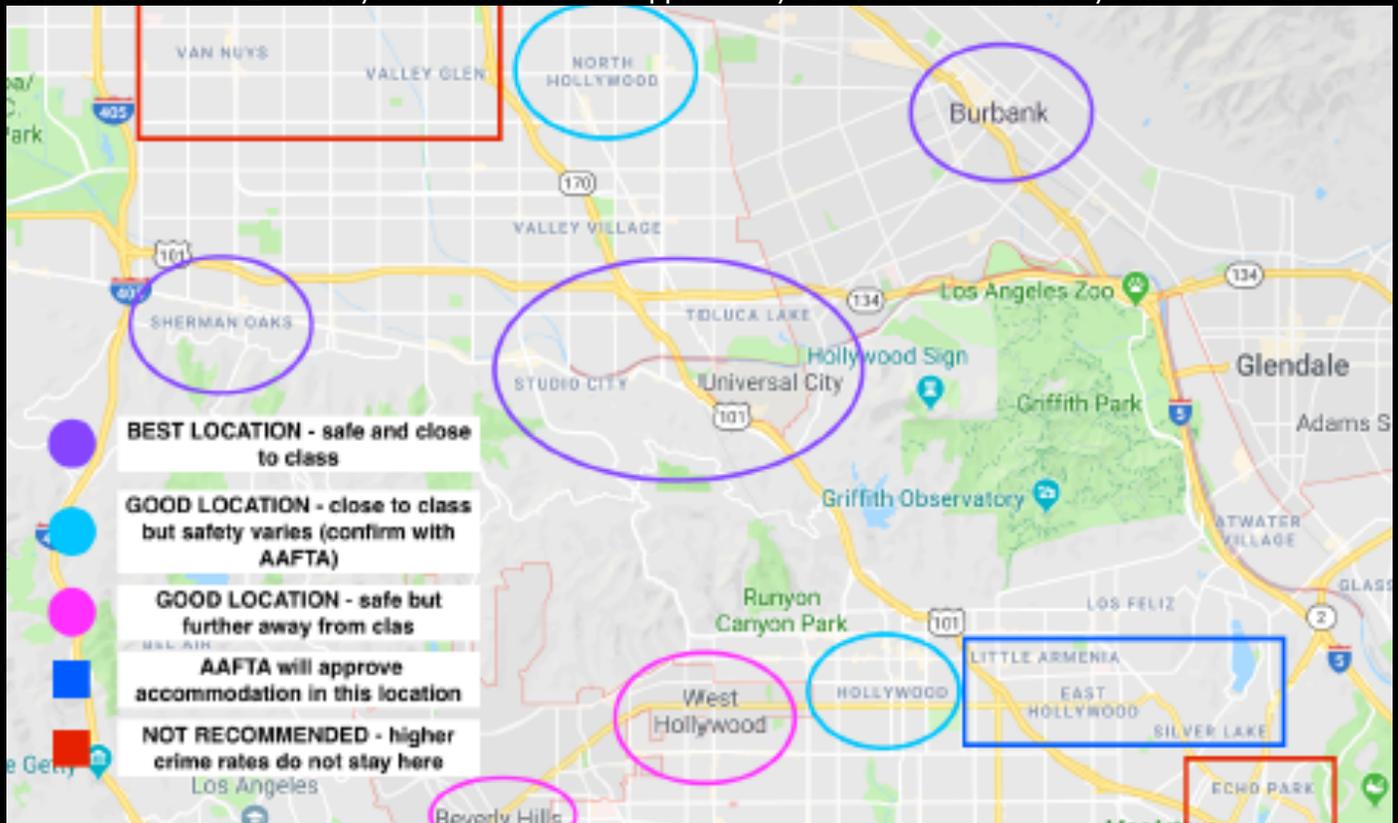
Tips When Searching for Accommodation

Locations

Suggested areas to look for airbnb's would be Studio City, Sherman Oaks, Toluca Lake and Burbank. These are the safest areas and are close to class as well.

North Hollywood is also great, but be sure to stay on the Studio City side or in the NoHo Arts District as heading further north (into Valley Glen) can be unsafe. Hollywood is a good location depending on the part your staying in. AAFTA will approve the location of any airbnb's booked in this area, as certain parts are safer than others.

West Hollywood and Beverly Hills are both good location too, however they will be further away from classes. Accommodation in East Hollywood will need to be approved by AAFTA as this isn't always the safest area!



"YOU HAVE TO LOVE DANCING TO STICK TO IT. IT GIVES YOU NOTHING BACK, NO MANUSCRIPTS TO STORE AWAY, NO PAINTINGS TO SHOW ON WALLS AND MAYBE HANG IN MUSEUMS, NO POEMS TO BE PRINTED AND SOLD, NOTHING BUT THAT SINGLE FLEETING MOMENT WHEN YOU FEEL ALIVE." —MERCE CUNNINGHAM

Course Auditions & Costs



COURSE FEES

Individual Course \$5100.00 USD
10% Discount for Full Time Students (PARTNERS TBC)

Half Year Program \$8100.00 USD 20% Discount for
Half Year Semester Students.

**Accommodation (if required is varied costs depending on
time of year)*

**Accommodation is a separate cost and options can be
provided to students based on budget.*

**Accommodation Guide will be included upon acceptance.*

DEPOSITS

HOLDING DEPOSIT \$500 USD

(Payment must be made to hold a place in ANY
program)

**Holding Deposits are for temporary holds and pending
waiting lists and/or acceptance into programs.*

PLACEMENT DEPOSIT \$2000 USD

(Payment must be made to secure your place in ANY
program)

**Placement Deposits secure your position in the program*

**Further Payment Plans for balance can be made after
deposits are made.*

**Placement Deposits are NON-REFUNDABLE.*

UPCOMING COURSE DATES

April 25th - July 18th 2020
(SPRING 2020 - 18 PLACES)

April 24th - July 17th 2021
(SPRING SEMESTER - 18 PLACES)

August 7th - October 16th 2021
(FALL SEMESTER - 18 PLACES)

**Half Yearly Program starts April 24th and finished
October 24th 2021*

UPCOMING AUDITION DATES

14/01/2020 Gold Coast

16/01/2020 Melbourne

20/01/2020 Sydney

30/1/2020 Perth

TO REGISTER YOUR PLACE OR FOR QUESTIONS

Email: danceinternational@aafta.us

Sponsorships & Partnerships

