



USA Tour Update

3 April 2025

CONGRATULATIONS!

We were so excited to watch the performance on Sunday, all the students really rose to the occasion and were such troopers for doing the show two times in a row! We would like to extend a huge thank you to our supportive audience and to Miss Kate R and Miss Richelle for all their help in preparing the students to date.

We do encourage everyone to practice at home in the last days remaining. We believe that 10 minutes at home, a couple of times a week, can really improve each student's individual potential and confidence. The music has been shared via the What's App group and we encourage you to have it saved to a device so your child can access it even when we are in the US.

REHEARSALS

We have one final rehearsal this weekend (we can't believe it!) The details are:

2:00pm – 5:00pm, Sunday 6 April (reminder it is daylight savings)

Please wear full uniform with red USA T-shirt as we would like to take a group photo

We are aware that a couple of students have already commenced their holiday but we are relying on everyone else to prioritise attendance to this last rehearsal. Sunday's performance was the first time we had all the students together as there is always someone absent. When we have the full cast in attendance it helps so much with students rehearsing their entries/exits, formations, pattern-work and transitions.

USA FEES

Please ensure any outstanding USA fees (owing to Caper) are brought up to date this week. Please contact us directly if you would like to discuss anything further.

DISNEY WORKSHOP UPDATE

Beth had a phone call last week with the Disney Imagineer's Campus (who are hosting our workshop) and they advised that:

- **Mid-drift (crop tops) are not permitted** at the workshop. In order to err on the side of caution we are allowing students to wear the red USA T-shirt or the black Caper T-shirt instead of a crop top.
- Any dancer wearing "short" shorts, needs to wear tan matte tights underneath. Again, to err on the side of caution, **all students should wear tan matte tights to this workshop** so that we can be sure on the day that everyone will meet the standards (we are not sure where they draw the line about "short" shorts). If you are wearing the long Caper flare pants, you do not need tights underneath.
- We will update the "look book" to assist everyone and will share it shortly.

COSTUME

The dress rehearsal was a great opportunity to ensure everyone had all elements of their costume correct. We wanted to make the following reminders:

- The rhinestone hair accessory is available to collect from reception.
- If the pink straps are too long, please tighten/shorten them.
- If the pants are too long, please hem them (this is important for safety as well as ensuring the garment doesn't get dirty and ruined).

HAIRSTYLE

Please note that when putting your child's hair in a bun, you must use a lot of gel and hairspray (no wispy bit of hair). The students will need to wear their hair in a bun for a long period of time. During this time, they will be exercising considerably and the bun will fall out if not styled in place with a lot of gel.

We encourage you to watch the video below for instructions on doing a low bun with a centre part:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3dPpY9Qknc>

In short, tie the hair in a ponytail with a hair elastic. Then twist the hair around to secure in a bun with lots of bobby pins and bun pins. Every child should be wearing a hairnet ([example here](#)) to keep the bun in place. Attach the rhinestone elastic at the end and also secure it with pins.

PACKING FOR THE TRIP

It is important that all uniform and costume items are packed in your carry-on hand luggage (in the unfortunate event of lost luggage). Parents may want to consider purchasing an Apple Air Tag to attach to your child's bag whilst they are attending the workshops and performance days.

LABEL YOUR BELONGINGS

Please do not delay clearly labelling all your items. Anything your child will take on or off (so basically everything) needs labelling as there are many opportunities to lose your items. Please check your belongings each time your child comes home to see that they have not inadvertently taken anyone else's belongings. In particular, check all of your belongings after the Universal Studios show and again before you check out of the hotel in LA (in case you leave your costume behind in LA!)

WHATSAPP GROUP

We have added three new WhatsApp groups to the USA Tour Group; A chat where parents can post messages, a New York specific chat and the other is for sharing photos. We hope to take some photos of the students at the workshops and behind-the-scenes at the performances so will share photos there. There are some child-safety policies restricting photo taking backstage so we will do our best in keeping with these policies. Parents are also welcome to share their own photos here too.

NOTES FROM THE 1 APRIL MEETING

If you did not attend the meeting, please ensure you collect your backpack (one per person) and the printed documentation from Global (ie. tickets, lanyards, etc).

Before Leaving:

- Put the Global bag tag on your checked in bag so we can identify our bags easily.
- The lanyards can be used for your Disney and Universal tickets (and even pin collecting!)
- Take a photo of any valuable documents such as your passport, plane tickets and (when we receive them in LA, your Disneyland tickets). Store the photos on your phone as this makes replacing the items easier if you lose them. For instance, if you lose your Disneyland ticket, you can get it replaced if you have a photo. If you don't have a photo, you may need to purchase a new ticket. Disneyland tickets will be distributed in LA.
- Please organise an ESTA by this weekend and make sure you do this via the official site <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/>. There are a lot websites that provide an ESTA but add extra charges (it should only cost approx. \$25 not \$80). When filling out your details, you are welcome to put the Global Dance Tours representatives as your USA contact (you will find the information in the Itinerary e.g. Sigrid Bell). When complete, take a photo of the authorisation number to store on your phone.
- Pack Easter Eggs as the US does not embrace Easter Eggs the way we do in Australia. If you are hoping to purchase chocolate eggs in the US, they may be hard to find.

On arrival to LAX on the group flight:

- It might help to wear the USA T-shirt and jacket to easily spot others in the group (and for others to spot you!)
- When you get off the flight, keep moving through customs (there is no need to wait for everyone in the group).
- The group should then congregate at the baggage carousel and make your way out the exit ramp where you will see Global Dance Tours Representatives (Christine Gillett and Stephen Craft) who will be escorting us on the bus.

Families not on the group flight:

- If you organised your own flights, send the flight details to Maria. Depending on your arrival time to LAX, you may be able to join the group bus transfer to the hotel.
- If you are joining the group bus transfer, after collecting your luggage, make your way to the America Airlines Arrivals Hall. Look for the group and Global Dance Tours Representatives (Christine Gillett and Stephen Craft) who will be escorting us on the bus.
- It might help to wear the USA T-shirt and jacket to easily spot others in the group (and for others to spot you!)

On the bus transfer:

- The first stop will be a local shop, such as Target, to purchase grocery items. It is suggested to buy food, drinks and breakfast items to lower your food spending at expensive places such as Universal Studios.
- The group will proceed on to the Loews Hotel. Check-in is officially 4pm but Global Dance Tours (Global) will aim to get early check in. Early check-in is dependent on the hotel on the day and it is

likely some families' rooms may be ready and others won't be ready until check in time (just the luck of the draw).

Checking in to Loews Hotel Hollywood:

- Christine and Liane Bowes will hand out the Universal Studios and Disney Parks tickets when we arrive to LA.
- If you are not arriving with the group on the bus and are making your own way to the hotel, you can check in independently and do not have to wait for the group.
- If you are arriving to LA earlier than the group and are commencing your accommodation at Loews Hotel before 13 April (via a separate/independent booking), please email Maria Lamotta (maria@globaldancetours.com.au) Maria will then notify the hotel and ensure that you do not have to check out and check back in again on the 13th or change rooms.
- There is a laundry facility located across the road from the Loews Hotel [Paradise Cleaners Google Map Pin](#)
- Breakfast not included.

Sunday 13 April:

A walking tour of the local area is provided by Global however it is optional. If you prefer to rest after the flight or have places you would like to visit that are not covered by the itinerary you can also opt to do this instead, e.g. La Brea Tar Pits, the museum/planetarium at Griffith Observatory, shopping malls or an additional day at Universal Studios.

Monday 14 April / Universal Studios:

- The itinerary plans for the group to meet at the hotel lobby at 9:30am (it is likely we will request the dancers arrive a little earlier for a rehearsal in the hotel). From here we will go straight to the stage and prepare for the performance at 11am. The dancers can expect to be finished and in the park by 12:30pm (this includes changing out of their costume and into regular clothes).
- Parents can consider taking any non-dancer children to Universal Studios earlier in the morning. The park opens at 9am but there is also early entry available to Super Mario World at 8am for an additional cost (if interested, book directly through the Universal Studios website). However, all dancers need to join the group at the hotel that morning and cannot go to the park before the performance.
- Dancers are to wear full costume (jacket/T-shirt over the top) and pack a change of clothes for after the performance.
- Global will show our group to the locker area (cost approx \$6-\$7.00) for families preferring not to carry the costume around the park all day.
- The stage is at City Walk which is a promenade of shops and restaurants leading up to the entrance of Universal Studios.
- If purchasing an Express Pass feature for your Universal Studios tickets, please ensure you get an "add-on" as you already have ticket entry included in the tour package.
- Universal Studios closes at 8pm. The bus will pick us up at 9:30pm so that families can enjoy dinner at City Walk. If you want to check out the dining options in advance, please refer to this link: [City Walk Dining](#)
- If there are enough families who would want to leave earlier than 9:30pm, Global have agreed to arrange an earlier bus leaving at approximately 8pm. We will be in touch about arranging this. Alternatively you can catch your own Uber back to the hotel if you want to leave earlier than 9:30pm.

Tuesday 15 April / Workshop Day and Baseball:

- Workshop at Debbie Allen Dance Academy. To get the students prepped, you can let them know more about Debbie Allen
 - <https://www.debbieallendanceacademy.com/>
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Debbie_Allen
 - If you have Netflix, this is a great show to watch; "Dance Dreams; Hot Chocolate Nutcracker" <https://www.netflix.com/au/title/80217229> This documentary spotlights Debbie Allen's career and follows her group of dance students as they prepare for Allen's annual "Hot Chocolate Nutcracker".
- During the workshop, parents and siblings will be transferred to The Grove Shopping Centre. The students will meet you there after they have finished the workshop (meet at the Clock Tower as per the itinerary).
- After The Grove, the students will have a second workshop at Millennium Dance Complex (MDC). Students who follow Instagram will know the famous red wall!
 - <https://www.millenniumdancecomplex.com/>
 - <https://www.instagram.com/mdcdance/>

- Whilst the students are at MDC, there are options for parents listed in the itinerary (additional costs apply). After the MDC workshop, dancers and families will reunite again at the Warner Bros' Studio Tour which is included in your tour package.
- Dodgers' tickets will be handed out on this day.
- After the Warner Bros Studios tour, families will be taken by the bus back to the Loews Hotel or taken to the Dodgers Game if they have booked tickets for this.

Wednesday 16 April / LA City Tour and Transfers to Anaheim:

- LA City tour with time to explore areas listed in the itinerary. We suggest researching areas in advance if you want to see specific places.
- Expected to arrive into Anaheim approx. 6pm.
- Global will arrange a pizza party around the pool area for those interested in a relaxed evening.
- The hotel at Anaheim (Sheraton Park Anaheim) has a self-serve laundry facility.
- Breakfast is not included but there is a breakfast restaurant on site. No toasters, kettles or microwaves in the room.

Thursday 17 April:

- Our tickets are Disney Hopper Passes which means you can go back and forth between the two parks (Disneyland and DCA) and are not restricted to one park only. The only requisite is that one of the two parks has to be nominated as the first park you enter for the day, and you cannot go to the other park until after 11am. So, everyone needs to start this day at Disneyland.
- Email Maria Lamotta (maria@globaldancetours.com.au) if you have booked a Character Dining (be sure to include your reservation time). Global will try to get the group seated at the same time and near to each other.
- Families can choose their own schedule for the day. For those who are keen for an early start, you can enter through ticketing and security checkpoints from 7am and make your way through Main Street. The rides/rope drop opens at 8am.

Friday 18 April:

- All families need to start their day in Disneyland but can visit DCA from 11am.
- There are churches nearby if families want to observe Good Friday and other Easter vigils or masses.
- Good Friday is not a public holiday in the US.

Saturday 19 April / Disney's Imagination Campus Workshop:

- All families need to start their day in DCA but can visit Disneyland from 11am.
- Christine and Liane will meet families in the lobby at 9am to escort the group to DCA to show us the Hollywood Backlot Stage (optional). They are providing this service as there may be families who want to know exactly where to drop off their child for the workshop later in the day. However, if families want to enter the park earlier and are confident that they can find the Hollywood Backlot Stage without assistance, you do not need to attend this service.
- Caper will distribute a workshop list as we need to split into two groups, Junior and Senior. We will add this list to the Team App this week. The itinerary lists the workshops drop off and pick up times for each group.
- Disney host many groups from all over the world at these workshops (they run to a tight schedule) so everyone must arrive on time.

Sunday 20 April / Performance Day at DCA

- All families need to start their day in DCA but can visit Disneyland from 11am.
- The itinerary requests the students meet in the lobby at 7:45am for escorting to the Hollywood Backlot Stage. We are likely to offer a quick rehearsal at the hotel beforehand... so the meeting time might end up being a little earlier than 7:45am.
- Parents are welcome to walk over to DCA with the dancers when we meet at the hotel lobby at approx. 7:45am. Alternatively, parents can also meet at the later time listed in the itinerary (currently listed as 9:30am but this will be changed to 8:30am as the performance is at 10am). However parents can also make their own way over to the Hollywood Backlot Stage anytime and do not have to travel with the group.
- Disney host many groups from all over the world to perform on this stage (they run to a tight schedule) so everyone must arrive on time.
- After the performance, families can continue to spend the rest of the day at the parks at their leisure.
- There is a group dinner at Naples restaurant (included in the tour package) at 6pm. You will find this restaurant in Downtown Disney.
- Please email any dietary requirements to Maria Lamotta (maria@globaldancetours.com.au)

Monday 21 April

Families all continue with their journeys either to NYC, home or other locations. If you have significant time to spend in Anaheim before you leave you could consider adding an extra day to Disneyland (if you still have it in you!) or see representatives from Global about other suggestions such as the outlet shops or visiting the Laguna area.

On arrival in New York

- Rose will meet us in New York and will hand out room keys on our arrival to the Hotel.
- You have the evening at leisure for dinner and exploring the local area.

Tuesday 22 April / NYC City Tour

- We have a private bus tour (should conclude by 4pm so there is time to see a Broadway Show if you want to book your own).
- The locations visited are listed in the itinerary with a focus on Mid-Town to Uptown (SOHO will be the southern-most area visited). We might consider flipping the locations around so we end near Central Park and the Museums (Metropolitan and Natural History). Families who want to spend time visiting the Museums can leave the tour at this point and make their own way back to the hotels.

Wednesday 23 April / Workshops

- Workshops in the morning at Broadway Dance Centre (an instructor will be from the cast of Hell's Kitchen and teach some choreography from the show).
- Families should research "Top of the Rock" as this would be convenient to visit after the Radio City tour which is included in your package. Additional charges apply to visit Top of the Rock and families should book directly with the US operator. This is just a suggestion as after the Radio City Tour you have time to enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at your leisure.
- Group excursion to Hell's Kitchen Broadway Show (included). It is a musical by Alicia Keys inspired by her upbringing in "Hell's Kitchen" New York. For more information:
 - <https://hellskitchen.com/>
 - [Link to Album on Spotify](#) (suggest listening beforehand).

Thursday 24 April & Friday 25 April

These dates offer fairly relaxed itineraries where you can enjoy included items such as a Hudson River Cruise (24th) and a group lunch at Grimaldi's in Brooklyn (25th). We suggest looking at the areas suggested in the itinerary and researching into nearby activities and places of interest to your family. There are no evening activities planned so it is also a good opportunity to book additional show tickets to make restaurant reservations (or hit the shops!).