

To Friends of the Academy,

I would like to thank you for presenting me with a Friends grant to offset my costs and allow me to complete my one week secondment with Sydney Dance Company.

This experience was a life changing opportunity for me to connect with active members of the professional dance community. I have been so grateful for the encouragement and constant inspiration I have received from WAAPA. This support has made me even more determined to work hard to achieve my dreams of performing for a company like Sydney Dance Company. This week has given me the chance to further my career by dancing before Rafael Bonachela, the company's Artistic Director.

The time spent in class with the company dancers gave me insight to what parts of my technique I can improve and where my artistic strengths lie. I have learned to emphasize my athleticism and artistry in class and rehearsal because the featured dancers of this company have been chosen for these qualities. The nature of a secondment is an unparalleled experience of envisioning what professional life is like and what I need to get there. After this week, I am now more than ever excited to plan for the beginning of my professional career. I feel confident that this time has shown me that I am capable of dancing professionally.

In Sydney, I was able to fully engage in the city's art culture. I was fortunate enough to see Sydney Dance Company perform their newest piece *Cinco*, choreographed by Rafael Bonachela, before its world premier.

My deepest thanks.
Symone
Bachelor of Arts (Dance)