

## NSW State Schools Dance Company Tour Newsletter - 12th April 2003



Dear Member Families,

I am overwhelmed with the response to the NSW State Schools Dance Company Tour. At this time we have 110 members who are confirmed by deposits and a further 6 reservations are held on a waitlist or pending payment. Our maximum tour capacity is 114 members (limited to 2 x 57 passenger Charter Coaches).

In documenting each members inclusion in the tour group, it has come to notice that a number of families and tour members have not included all of the stipulated documents under signature, in particular the "Indemnity Form" and in a few cases, a signed copy of the Code of Conduct. These documents are mandatory for inclusion in this tour. I trust that there is no misperception that the terms and conditions of the tour are negotiable.

### *No Airfare Increase*

Well not yet anyway! Airlines are a law to themselves and totally dictate all aspects of international travel. Current airfare increases by Air New Zealand and Star Alliance carriers do not apply to our category of reservation. In some categories the increase was \$400.00 AUD. I need to advise you also that airline carriers are reducing, downgrading, changing and also cancelling flights and schedules. Flights that once were, are no longer scheduled. Some of our flight sectors have been affected a number of times already. Limited flight availability, particularly for a group of our size is the main factor affecting us. Additional ground transport options are either being investigated or are in place already.

### *Around The World Fares & Mileage Limitations*

The cost of our airfare limits our Around The World Travel to 26,000 miles. Mileage over this limit will add about \$400.00 per person to the cost of the airfare. I was informed recently that our Charter Coach mileage (one way) is also calculated as air mileage. With this being the case, our itinerary was well over the air mileage limit. Some restructuring of tour sectors and components was necessary. I have had to turn the tour on its ear to come under 26,000 miles and maintain the same tour sectors so that no major tour sector was lost from our original itinerary. Some charter sectors are cancelled and additional charter sectors from destination back to same destination needed to be in place to avoid this air mileage factor.

Our revised itinerary is calculated at 25,988 miles (Go to Whoa) and will be available to you very soon.

The impact/benefit of a revised itinerary for our large tour group is

- A revised departure date-3<sup>rd</sup> January to accommodate original sectors itinerary.
- Departure 3<sup>rd</sup> January is Sydney/Auckland/Los Angeles/Miami. Additional Day in Miami.
- A long wait for connecting flight to Miami from Los Angeles. I have included a 4-5 Hour Tour of Hollywood/Beverly Hills Area.
- Late inclusions to the tour are confirmed to travel 4<sup>th</sup> January but "waitlisted" for 3<sup>rd</sup> January departure if seats become available. This number of passengers currently stands at 14 members.
- Cruise is now 5<sup>th</sup> January - otherwise unchanged.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sector -Miami to Orlando/DisneyWorld etc. Additional day also, to allow better performance options (in Paris also).
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Orlando- NY via D.C. NY components unlikely to be changed. We arrive earlier in NY. Flight Transfers to Washington D.C. 17<sup>th</sup> January are from Newark, NJ and La Guardia, NY AP.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sector Host Stay- Jefferson County High School, East Tennessee. We can only be hosted in Canada prior to January 15<sup>th</sup>. Rescheduling makes this impossible now. We will need to Charter Coach from Washington D.C. to JCHS and return to Washington D.C.

- Host stay dates and program are not fully compatible with our ongoing itinerary and JCHS internal programs on some days.
- To ensure that we make our connecting flight from D.C. to Paris, we may need to leave JCHS a day earlier, stay overnight in the D.C. Area and do some D.C. sightseeing the following day, up to a late afternoon departure. Snow and road closures are a possibility not to be ignored.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sector- D.C. to Paris with United Airlines. Lufthansa is no longer a carrier for this tour as it connects with Paris from Frankfurt adding air mileage above our limit.
- Return to Sydney 26<sup>th</sup> January via Bangkok with Thai Airlines (as for Lufthansa).

### *Jefferson County High School – East Tennessee*

This school is in Davey Crockett and Dolly Parton Country but rates as the most generous and hospitable community that has hosted CATW P/L groups since 1993. They have visited Australia on reciprocal CATW P/L visits 5 times. The last time was for the Bankstown Buzz as performers in 2000. They also were placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the National Dance Championships a few years back and their organisers are trying to get a “School Spec” going in their State. They certainly have a tradition in dance and the performing arts.

I have a preference for this community and I know this community and the production and staging that they are capable of arranging if we were to do a show. Our performance and possibly a joint performance has been set for Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2004 but Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January is logistically the best date for our show. This is a non-school day at JCHS and will serve well as a rehearsal day also. Ongoing discussions with JCHS will work towards the best options.

Jefferson CHS may have a “Retreat” on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January, which may enforce an additional night of accommodation for some or all of us in the Jefferson County Area.

JCHS have indicated that our tour group numbers have more than doubled since our initial approach for a host stay/performance. They will host the Dance Company members with Tennessee families and do their best to accommodate family groups. Some of our tour group may prefer a hotel stay nearby in any case. Some families have already indicated this option. This cost will \$39.95 USD, 1-2 per room/night or \$44.95, 3-4 per room/night (supplied by JCHS, but not sure if taxes are included).

Needing to dispel a litany of woes, these problems are nothing unfamiliar in this industry, particularly where airlines are concerned, and working with contingencies is our best solution.

### *Extended Tours*

In the light of the tour changes that need to be affected, please refrain from confirming your arrangements with external agents until I can advise you of the CATW P/L revised itinerary. This should be available over the Easter period. Copies will be distributed at the next Dance Company rehearsal. Extended tours should be arranged without obligation but with consultation through Flight Centre - MacQuarie Spirit. Phone: Vivian Allen @ 029878 6011.

### *Immediate Priority*

Please pass on to Mr. Gannon, your room share requests as Twin/Double, Triple, Quad. Cost of upgrades will be advised through Mr. Gannon. French law prohibits persons under the age of 17 years sharing a bed. I do not think that this affects family groups. Hence, triple share may be the only option for some groups at Disneyland – Paris. Don’t forget those Passports. 6 months validity is required. Royal Caribbean Cruise lines will need Passport information shortly.

### *SHOPPING!!!*

This, no doubt is a big thing on everyone’s tour agenda. I have deliberately not listed shopping options up to this time so not to have tour members lose focus of the main aims of the tour. BUT, there is lots of shopping for those who cannot help themselves. In the revised itinerary, I have listed shopping schedules and venues in

Miami, Orlando, D.C. , New York & Paris. Not mentioned that they also have shops in Tennessee, shipboard and in ports of call.

### *Theme Parks and Disneyland-Paris.*

You will be “Theme Parked Out” by tours end. There are 4-5 continuous days in Orlando 2-3 days Disneyland-Paris. Adults and families, in particular, may want to do more shopping etc.

With a large group a special bus can be scheduled for this option to get away from Mickey Mouse and roller coasters.

No reservations or costs for our Disneyland Hotel are available until 6 months prior to arrival. Costs for this sector are still based on 2002 costs.

Our schedule in Paris will be jumpacked. Our package here includes a 2 day pass to the Disneyland-Paris Theme Park. The new theme park at Disneyland-Paris is Disney Studios. The admission passes are transferable between parks. You may need a 3<sup>rd</sup> day admission pass to see both of the Disneyland-Paris Parks fully.

To get in some quality Paris sightseeing, visits to the Park will most likely be in the afternoon or evening. It is a 10 minute stroll from Hotel to the Park and Downtown Disney, so you will be able to organise your own visit times away from set schedules, up to closing time. You will have to save a 1 day pass for your performance day.

For those that will be “theme parked out”, there is also the popular La Vallee Outlet Village 5 minutes (drive) from Disneyland-Paris, up to 7.00.p.m.

Last Night in Paris.

I intend to make a bus available for those who would like to, after the performances, to do some independent sightseeing and shopping up to 9.00.p.m.

### *Included Meals*

Through convenience and necessity, I will have to add some meals to the tour cost per person.  
Miccosukee Indian Resort (Miami) - Breakfast & Dinner Buffets. \$7.95 USD & \$10.95 USD incl./pers.  
Holiday Inn-DisneyWorld Area- Breakfast Buffet. \$5.00 USD incl./pers.

Meals already included are

- “Majesty of the Seas” 4 Day Cruise.
- Holiday Inn-D.C. Area- Comp. Breakfast.
- Disneyland-Paris. Breakfast.

There will be recommendations and set venues for meals not included.

### *Cruise Cabins*

Check the cabin list and cabin share configuration. Is this correct? Changes after reservations are made will incur an additional cost.

### *Tour Options*

I hope to have a printable options form available on the CATW P/L, NSW SS Dance Co. website soon. Some of these options are intended to be “Adult Friendly” options on a student priority tour.

The “User Pays” options will include

- Shore Excursions (Cruise). They do not represent value and independent small group walking tours are more viable.
- Additional Orlando Sightseeing/Shopping.

- Broadway Theatre.
- New York Museums.
- Non-Host Stay in Jefferson County.
- JCHS Sightseeing & Tours (Adults & Families). This may include a day trip to Cades Cove-Smoky Mountains, Chattanooga or Asheville-North Carolina or local Knoxville and Area attractions. Pending tour group numbers.
- 3 Day Disneyland- Paris Pass/Paris Art Galleries or Museums/ Eiffel Tower Observation Decks.
- Last Night in Paris-Additional Sightseeing/Shopping.

### *Tour Closure*

The tour will close on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2003 or at maximum capacity. After this date reservations held without deposit will be cancelled. Performers will have priority over Adults and Siblings. A waitlist for tour inclusion will be drawn after 17<sup>th</sup> April 2003 pending reservation availability, including Charter Coach Seating.

Please contact me up to 7.00.p.m. if you require further information.

Sincerely

Jim Bennett



### **Example Only**

**All monetary values listed in this SAMPLE newsletter are for example only and are NOT to be used as actual or estimated costs for any future tour.**

**ClassRooms Around The World Pty Ltd  
7/7-9 Brunton Place,  
Marsfield  
NSW 2122  
(Australia)**

**E-Mail:** [contact@classroomsaroundtheworld.com.au](mailto:contact@classroomsaroundtheworld.com.au)  
**Phone:** (02) 9876 5174  
**Fax:** (02) 9876 5174  
**Mobile:** 0412 389 323