



## PERFORM IN THE OPENING SEQUENCE IN THE 86TH THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE IN CHICAGO & THE HOLLYWOOD CHRISTMAS PARADE

### WHAT IS THIS OPPORTUNITY ABOUT?

The Thanksgiving and Christmas Parade (TACP) gives singers, dancers, and triple threats the opportunity to perform in the opening sequence and closing number of the **86th Thanksgiving Day Parade** in Chicago. They are also given the opportunity to perform in the opening sequence of the **88th Hollywood Christmas Parade** on Hollywood's legendary red carpet on Hollywood Blvd, outside the Dolby Theatre. Both renowned parades are televised to **over 300 million** people across the US and streamed worldwide to **millions more**. Live audience numbers exceed **300 thousand** in Chicago and **500 thousand** in Hollywood. These incredible performance opportunities give each performer two US performance credits and two television credits.



During the rehearsal process, dancers and vocalist will work closely with esteemed choreographer, **Shelly Nichols**, and US vocal coach and producer **Stevie Bensusen**. Shelly is celebrating 40 years of choreographing with Disney, and Stevie has written songs for J-Lo, Janet Jackson, Shakira and worked with musical icons Michael Jackson and Chris Brown, to name a few.

In addition to the parade performances and gala dinner, dancers and vocalists will have the opportunity to participate in intensive masterclasses.

**Dancers** will take masterclasses with agents from **MSA Agency** and **Clear Talent Group**, two prestigious and industry acclaimed US firms. They will also take a masterclass with a choreographer who works on major television shows.

**Vocalists** will workshop with a top LA vocal agent, masterclass with a US television vocal coach, and workshop with a top US vocal manager.

**Triple Threats** will be able to attend all sessions, as long as there are no scheduling clashes.

### PROJECT DETAILS

- Represent Australia in the opening sequence of the Chicago Thanksgiving Day Parade, televised to **over 300 million people worldwide**.
- Represent Australia in the opening sequence of the Hollywood Christmas Parade, televised to **over 350 million people worldwide**.
- Perform at the **Parade gala dinner** on Thanksgiving Eve, then attend the dinner.
- Take a **masterclass** with senior dance agent from **MSA (Triple Threats & dancers)** with individual feedback.
- Take a **masterclass** with senior dance agent from **Clear Talent Group (Triple Threats & dancers)** with individual feedback.
- Take a **masterclass** with a choreographer from major TV shows (**Triple Threats & dancers**).
- Take a **masterclass** with top US vocal manager (**Vocalists and Triple Threats**).
- Take a **masterclass** with top LA vocal agent (**Vocalists and Triple Threats**).
- Take a **masterclass** with US television vocal coach (**Vocalists and Triple Threats**).
- The option to **record a song at Paramount Studios**, which will provide attendants with a US recording credit. (**Everyone**)

### WHAT ARE THE DATES OF THE PROJECT?

Performers need to be in Los Angeles by **22nd November, 2019** to check into the group hotel. Check out is on **2nd December, 2019**.

The Australian rehearsals will be held at AIPA's studios in Sydney Unit 4, 2 George Place, Artarmon NSW 2064.

### THE REHEARSAL WEEKEND FOR EVERYONE

**Saturday 5th, Sunday 6th and Monday 7th October 9.30am - 5.30pm** (NSW Labour Day Long weekend). Vocalists will be required in addition to these hours to record over the weekend.



#### WHAT DOES IT COST TO BE INVOLVED AND WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?

**Accommodation:** Ten (10) nights in total.

- Six (6) nights at Days Inn by Wyndham, Hollywood.
- Four (4) nights at Sheraton Grand Chicago Downtown.

You can choose to Quad share (4 people sharing a room. 2 per bed).  
Twin share (2 people sharing a room. Own bed). Solo (Own Room)

**Quad Share:** US\$1853.00

**Twin Share:** US\$2546.00

**Solo:** US\$3554.00

**Rehearsals and masterclasses:** Rehearsals in Sydney and Los Angeles. Three masterclasses in Los Angeles (as listed). Performance fees.

**Meals:**

- Breakfast each day in Hollywood.
- Gala dinner at Sheraton Grand 27th November.
- Thanksgiving Lunch 28th November.
- Farewell dinner 1st December.

**Costumes:** Full costume will be provided for each parade. Shoes, underwear, tights etc are the performers responsibility.

**Transport:**

- 25/11 Coach from hotel to LAX. Coach from ORD to hotel
- 28/11 Coach from hotel to parade and back to hotel.
- 29/11 Coach from hotel to ORD.
- Coach from LAX to hotel

**Payments:** US\$500 deposit is due by Saturday 28th September. Balance is due by Monday 4th November

#### WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

**FLIGHTS:**

You can choose your own airline and take advantage of sales. See suggested flights if you want to be on the same flights as staff.

**SPENDING MONEY:**

We recommend bringing your own, however the amount is up to personal choice.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:**

You must purchase this to participate in the parades. You will need top cover for the US.

**INCIDENTAL MEALS:**

You will need to cover meals not listed above.

**COSTUMING:**

You will need underwear, shoes, tights and makeup/hair products.

**TRANSPORT:**

Initial transfer from LAX to Hollywood. If you need to be at the airport earlier than the group transfer or your flights arrive in after the designated times (see update one), then you will need to cover your transfers.

#### WHAT SORTS OF PERFORMERS ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for performers who light up the stage and who will be able to work with cameras.

*Performance quality is essential.*



**Vocalists:**

We are specifically looking for sixteen (16) vocalists, both male and female, to carry the solos in the two pieces. Singers will have a solo in one song and perform backing vocals in the other. All vocalists will record on both tracks. Vocalists must be able to move. Singers who are strong dancers can elect to dance in the alternate song.



**Dancers:**

We are looking for professional dancers, cruise ship/theme park performers, dance teachers, full-timers and graduates, and those who danced right through high school. If you dance professionally and want to enhance your career experience or miss dancing and want an opportunity to reignite your passion, this experience is for you!

You must be able to pick and execute choreography quickly and correctly. You must be able to maintain a three-minute high-energy routine.



## THE AUDITION PROCESS

All auditions are via tape, as our choreographer and musical director are both based in the US. Applications are now open and decisions will be made within 72 hours of receiving an application. The creative team know exactly what they are looking for.

### Vocalists:

Vocalists should send a link of you singing a song - taken no more than six (6) months ago. As this is a parade project, think 'big' numbers. You can do a medley if you'd like. Please make sure your choice is up tempo and shows your vocal range and ability.

### Dancers:

Dancers **you need to download and watch the routines listed below, learn one or both, tape yourself, and send the link to us.** The video can be uploaded on Youtube, Vimeo, or a similar platform. The link must be private or password protected. A well placed iPhone is fine, it doesn't need to be professionally shot. Please make sure that you are the only dancer in the shot. If you can do 'tricks', please loop the music and show us what you can do!

### AUDITION MATERIAL:

Click on the links below to view the audition material.

**NEWSIES choreography** <https://vimeo.com/356318627/fb0f7e1d71>

**NEWSIES audition music** <https://vimeo.com/356326839/2ed6af3536>

**FOOTLOOSE choreography** <https://vimeo.com/356325726/db7dd2d5d9>

**FOOTLOOSE audition music** <https://vimeo.com/356326205/1f76184ca69>

If you need assistance call 02 9966 5425, email [talent@aipa.com.au](mailto:talent@aipa.com.au), or text 0404 965 686.

## WHO OR WHAT IS THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR PERFORMING ARTS?

The Australian Institute for Performing Arts (AIPA) provides training, productions, talent development, performance opportunities and touring to talented individuals in all performing arts disciplines. We are a proprietary limited company in Australia and a corporation in the United States. We have hundreds of testimonials that you would be more than welcome to look at and check.

We are located at **Unit 4, 2 George Place, Artarmon NSW 2064. Ph: 02 9966 5425.** We are bonded and incorporated in California, giving you consumer peace of mind. Your agreement for this project is between yourself and AIPA Inc (California). The Sydney office will assist purely to pass on information but has no legal or contractual involvement.

## HAS AIPA COMPLETED A PROJECT LIKE THIS BEFORE?

Yes. In 2017 AIPA performed in both the Chicago Thanksgiving Day Parade and The Hollywood Christmas Parade. We have run US training projects since 2001. We encourage you to take a look at the testimonials section on [www.aipatdp.com.au](http://www.aipatdp.com.au). You can also view photos in the gallery and footage in the past projects tab.

The industry acclaim and success of students who have worked with AIPA in the US is testament to the quality of our projects. We were the first Australians to perform at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York (2005, 2006), the first Australians to perform at the Hollywood Christmas Parade (2013, 2017), the first Australians to perform at The Chicago Thanksgiving Day Parade (2017) and the first Australians to perform at December Nights, San Diego (2013, 2014).

## IF I HAVE QUESTIONS, WHAT DO I DO?

Ask us! We strongly encourage you to call our office in Sydney on **(02) 9966 5425** and ask any questions that you may have. You can arrange a time to meet members of our team.

## WILL THERE BE AN INFORMATION SESSION?

You are welcome to call us at any time and ask questions. You are also more than welcome to make an appointment and come in to see us in Sydney.

There will be an informal information session on **Saturday 5th October at 5.00pm** to hear about the project and ask questions. It will run for approximately 60 mins. It is **NOT compulsory, just an option.**

*We look forward to hearing from you!*

## THE CREATIVE TEAM



### Shelly Nichols – US Choreographer

If you have ever taken a workshop at Disneyland, chances are you have taken a class with the inspiring and legendary Shelly Nichols. Shelly is the definitive "triple threat". Her non-stop energy has motivated performers and brought audiences to their feet across the country and around the world. She is proudly celebrating her 40th year at the Disneyland Resort! She developed the Show Choir program with Magic Music Days 29 years ago and is currently a teaching artist with Disney Performing Arts. Shelly's Disney performing career has been vast and diverse. It includes such traditional shows as: Disney Medley, The Golden Horseshoe Jamboree, Show Biz Is, Magic Kingdom Kabaret, Hunchback of Notre Dame, "Calling All Space Scouts" a Buzz Lightyear Adventure, Pecos Bill's Wildwest Revue, and Fantasy Follies. In 1983

she was a member of the opening cast of Tokyo Disneyland's "Kid's of the Kingdom" as well as the original "Diamond Horseshoe Revue", where she played "Slue Foot Sue". She continues to perform for Disney in various shows & special events.

Shelly is the owner and creative director of "Overture Productions" which provides atmosphere talent for corporate and holiday special events. Some of her Overture clients include: Sony Studios, Paramount Studios, the Queen Mary & Disney Special Events. Her passion is contagious, as she strives to pass along the "etiquette of the arts!" Her motto is, and always will be:

**FULL OUT! First time, every time, all the time....no matter what!**



### Stevie Bensusen – Vocal Coach & Producer

Stevie is a Multi-platinum producer. With three #1 records and four top ten records in the UK. Three top forty albums in the U.S. and 20 million records sold worldwide, Stevie has written and produced for multi-platinum recording artists including Jordan Knight (NKOTB), O Town, No Mercy, top UK artists Shola Ama, (best new artist), A1 and many more, STEVIE BENSUSEN continues to make his mark in the record business.

Stevie has written songs for J-Lo, Janet Jackson, Shikira, Paula Abdul and numerous others. He has worked with music icons including Michael Jackson, Chris Brown and Justin Bieber to name a few, but his passion is developing unknown talent from around the world and launching them into the music industry through his company Artist Vocal Development. Stevie has a full roster of young artists he is developing vocally and preparing them to make records and tour.

Stevie can take even the most accomplished vocalist to the next level. If you think you have nothing more to learn, wait until you meet Stevie.



### Brooke Lipton – Forward Motion Choreographer & Masterclass Tutor

Originally from Phoenix, AZ, Brooke Lipton's hunger for artistic expression guided her eventual pursuits into the Los Angeles dance industry. Spending countless summers teaching in Los Angeles at both local studios as well as dance conventions, Brooke quickly became highly sought after by the industry's top choreographers. After moving to Los Angeles, Brooke began to work with artists such as Madonna, Janet Jackson, Beyonce, and Paula Abdul. Brooke has toured the world with Britney Spears for over eight years, including the "Dream Within A Dream" Tour, "The Onyx Hotel" Tour, and "Circus" promo tour. Brooke went on to co-choreograph for six seasons on FOX's hit TV show GLEE, eventually helping to generate over 750 musical performances. Glee's phenomenal success has also included two

world tours, The Glee Project (Season 1 and 2), and Glee Live 3D The Movie. While working on Glee, Brooke had the opportunity to choreograph for iconic stars such as Shirley Maclaine, Carol Burnett, Kate Hudson, Gwyneth Paltrow, Kristen Chenoweth and Ricky Martin. In addition to Glee, Brooke has continued choreographing on such shows as shows such as "Bones", "The Goldbergs", "Chasing Life", "American Horror Story", and "The New Normal". Allowing for her passion to influence creativity, Brooke continues to develop a unique platform for dance within the industry today. She can't wait to work with the Aussies again!