



The Australian Institute for Performing Arts presents "The Improv Intensive". (TII)  
Los Angeles California ~ Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.  
**FACT SHEET**

**Description, dates & ages.**

**WHAT IS THIS PROJECT ABOUT?**

The Australian Institute for Performing Arts (AIPA) has teamed up with *The Second City – Hollywood* to offer dedicated and passionate teen improvisers the opportunity to study at the largest school of improvisation and sketch comedy in the world. This is the first time that teenagers have been permitted to take Level One and Level Two of Second City's five step **adult** training programme. To top it off, students will begin to explore curriculum from Level Three and take part on the Second City stage. Drawing upon the groundbreaking work of The Second City and the many legendary performers who have played on its stages, The Second City Training Center is the place to be.

**WHAT WILL I TAKE AWAY FROM THIS COURSE?**

Parents say that their children generally return home with a better understanding of improv, team skills, life skills (living away from home), time management and a sense of achievement.

You will get out of TII what you put into it. Measured items include:

- Ten days of intensive tuition at the Second City Hollywood.
- A masterclass in TV commercials (based on improv) with top LA casting directors complete with all footage.
- Photos taken in classes and at the performance.
- Footage of the performance professionally shot and edited.
- A written report of the feedback you received from the teaching staff.

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN BY COMPLETING LEVEL ONE AND LEVEL TWO? WHERE ARE THESE RECOGNISED?**

The Second City runs levels one through five for adults in Improv. Each level builds on the last and each is a prerequisite to go on to the next. In TII students will take levels one and two. They will also be introduced to some of the curriculum for level three which they can then go back and study independently in years to come.

You will be able to record it on your resume as	The Second City	Improv Level One	Hollywood, CA
	The Second City	Improv Level Two	Hollywood, CA

These listings are recognised by the Improv community worldwide as well as universities, acting schools, casting directors, agents and managers of repute.

**WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF PARTICIPATING?**

- The Second City is recognized worldwide as the premier training organization with schools in Chicago, Hollywood and Toronto. Students can study levels one through five with them and then apply to the conservatory program if it is of interest. The conservatory is extremely competitive to be accepted into, but we hope that by starting Australian teens early, it will get them through the five levels earlier in life than their peers.
- The skills gained from these classes will supplement training in Australia and help students with school Improv competitions.
- If students wish to study improv or acting in the US after finishing school, or in fact apply to a US college, a recognized course with solid curriculum and with amazing alumni can only help.

The alumni list is impressive and includes *Tina Fey, Rachel Dratch, Mike Meyers, Jason Sudeikis, Amy Poehler, Joan Rivers, Martin Short, Bill Murray, Eugene Levy, Geoff Garlin, Chris Farley, Steve Carell, Dan Ackroyd, Jim Belushi* and the list goes on.

The alumni list for Second City is so extensive that we have included the link so you can take a look yourselves.  
<http://www.secondcity.com/history/>

**WHAT PROOF WILL I GET THAT I HAVE COMPLETED THE COURSE?**

A **written report** will be supplied to each improviser so that you know what your feedback was and how to focus your study in future. These reports are not 'sugar coated'. We believe that if you are going to invest your time and parents hard-earned money on a course, you need constructive feedback. You will also receive a **certificate** of completion.

**WHO IS "THE SECOND CITY"?**

The Second City is the leading brand in improv-based sketch comedy. With theatres in Chicago and Toronto, Training Centres in those cities as well as Hollywood, 11 full time touring ensembles, thriving corporate communications and theatricals divisions as well as television and film operations, The Second City has been called "A Comedy Empire" by the New York Times. The Second City approach is reknown for improv used as a tool in creating sketch comedy. For improvisers who have the passion but want to discover new ideas, approaches and techniques, their approach will have you excited, buzzing and wanting even more.



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**Description, dates & ages cont...**

**WHEN IS THIS PROJECT RUNNING & WHAT IS THE DURATION?**

The project commences in Sydney at Terminal One (if leaving from Australia with the group) on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2015** and returns to Sydney on **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2015**.

If students are in LA, the first session is on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2015** and the last class is on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2015**.

The course concludes by 5.00pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October (with the performance on the Second City stage), allowing students to depart that evening if they wish. The group will depart that night from LAX to return to Sydney. If you are staying on in LA, pick up will be at Second City at 5.00pm.

**WHO IS THIS PROJECT FOR?**

This project is ideal for teenagers who are part of a school Improv team and actors who are committed to improving their skills for audition purposes. Through practical classes with great coaches, students will gain a hands-on training opportunity. The opportunity to see great improv shows at the top venues will be offered several nights each week.

**WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE?**

Students will leave the hotel at 9.00am each morning. They will grab coffee on the way to class if they want to. Classes start each day at 10.00am, there is a lunch break and then students finish at 5.00pm.

**ARE THERE ANY SHOWCASES, PERFORMANCES OR OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE MY WORK SEEN DURING T.I.I.?**

Yes. There is a performance at the conclusion of the project. The performance will be professionally recorded and photographed. A small selection of industry professionals are invited to attend, although as the performance is a Friday afternoon we can't guarantee a huge turnout. Previous projects have had audiences of about twenty people. Footage is also put up online for future reference or for those who cannot attend the performance to view. It can also be added to your reel/Facebook/website etc.

**WHAT IS THE AGE GROUP THIS COURSE IS DESIGNED FOR?**

This course is designed for students aged **14 - 20 years** and will move at a rapid pace. You must be passionate and self-driven. The project is suitable for students who can focus and learn independently.

**WHAT SORTS OF IMPROVISORS IS THIS PROJECT SUITABLE FOR?**

Students worldwide are encouraged and welcome to apply, but must have a solid command of the English language. Students will need determination, ambition, stamina and a good work ethic. This project is suitable for students who are self-sufficient, highly motivated and dedicated to the craft and can handle long days and supplementary evening preparation. Students must have the skill to follow direction, get themselves up and ready in the morning and complete tasks as required.

**AIPA & AB1319**

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

The Australian Institute for Performing Arts Inc is the US branch of AIPA trading as a corporation in California. We provide training, productions, talent development and performance opportunities to talented individuals in all performing arts disciplines. The Australian companies, AIPA Pty Ltd and our dedicated touring division (Performing Arts Tours) have been working with groups of students with similar projects domestically since 1997 and internationally since 2002. We have hundreds of testimonials that you would be more than welcome to look at [www.aipatdp.com](http://www.aipatdp.com). We are NOT affiliated with any other company. We are flattered that other companies intimate that we are, but there is no truth in that statement. *Our bond number in California is 100194001.*

**Application.**

**HOW DO I APPLY?**

If you are under eighteen, please have one of your parents contact AIPA to discuss your involvement. Your Improv coach/drama teacher is also more than welcome to call us to hear more about the project and how they can be involved. We can make a time for you to come in and meet the team. Naturally we would like to meet you for a quick interview either in person or via Skype. Please contact AIPA's Sydney office 02 9966 5425 [sydneyoffice@aipa.com.au](mailto:sydneyoffice@aipa.com.au) or the LA office +1 323 882 8098 [assistant@aipa.com.au](mailto:assistant@aipa.com.au)

**WHAT ARE MY PARENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR?**

Your parents will need to fund your involvement in the project and complete all your paperwork. They will need to purchase an airfare on the group flight or one arriving that day, travel insurance and ensure that you are ready to travel to the US without them.



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**Accommodation, flights, meals & transfers.**

**WHERE DO YOU STAY?**

We use a chain hotel in the Hollywood & Highland neighbourhood - in the heart of Hollywood. Naturally parents will be given the name and location in the update. For child protection, we do not list addresses online. If you are organising your own accommodation, we recommend you staying within walking distance of Second City Hollywood.

**WHICH FLIGHTS DO YOU RECOMMEND I BOOK TO GET TO & FROM LA?**

There is a supervised group flight for this project. We fly with Qantas, although if you are a seasoned traveller you can take any flight you like as long as you arrive in time to meet the group at arrivals for the group transfer or get yourself to the hotel.

The group will fly to LA on **QF17** from Sydney on **18<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2015**. Dep SYD: at 5.40pm Arr LAX: 2.15pm (same day)

The group will fly to Sydney on **QF12** from Los Angeles on **2<sup>nd</sup> Oct, 2015** Dep LAX: at 10.00pm Arr SYD: 7.10pm (4<sup>th</sup> October)

If coming from another country or state, we will have staff meeting all flights arriving 10.00am – 2.15pm. between 6.00am – 9.00am. If you are coming from a port that doesn't have a flight arriving into LAX between those times, please speak to the LA office about arranging for a staff member to meet you the day before and supervise you at an airport hotel. There will be an additional cost for this of \$420.00 to cover the staff member's hotel room, wage and expenses and your hotel room. If you are so seasoned that you can stay by yourself at an airport hotel and the hotel will allow this (most insist on 21+ to check in by yourself), then you can meet us at LAX the next morning.

**WHAT DO WE EAT?**

We use a fantastic catering company with an extensive menu of gourmet sandwiches, wraps, rolls, salads, paninis etc for lunches and then dinners are a mix of restaurants who deliver and our caterers! Any allergies can be catered for if we know in advance. The caterers charge a small additional charge for gluten free. The food is good quality and the servings are plentiful.

**HOW DO I GET TO AND FROM LAX?**

There will be an organised airport transfer to and from Los Angeles International airport for anyone staying with the group.

**IF WE ARE IN LA DO WE HAVE TO GO TO LAX TO MEET THE GROUP?**

No. You can meet the group at the hotel, or simply at the first timetabled activity. All this information is covered in the updates.

**Supervision**

**WHAT IS THE STAFF/STUDENT RATIO FOR THE PROJECT?**

The staff/student ratio is 1:12. In addition we have a dedicated nurse on call 24/7 and our admin team.

**HOW DO YOU SUPERVISE AND DISCIPLINE THIS AGE GROUP?**

Parents select a level of supervision Red, Orange or Green prior to the student leaving for the US. A detailed description of each level is given to parents in writing and they select the one that they feel is best for their child. Students are treated with respect and given plenty of notice as to where they need to be at what time and what they need. If they can follow direction and are self-disciplined they don't have any problems. Students put themselves to bed. Students who need more help with day to day are reduced to RED level and staff step in to help them at a far more concentrated level until they are able to cope. Orange is the norm for the 14 – 17 age group. Green is only available to those 18 year and older. Students who break the rules are either grounded or sent home without refund, depending on the severity. We don't expect any problems with this group, but please know that we take supervision of minors very seriously and rules are there to keep them and our staff safe and happy.

**HOW DO YOU CHOOSE YOUR SUPERVISION/LOGISTICS STAFF?**

Our supervision staff are a mix of school teachers, nurses, physios, choreographers, performers, ambos/paramedics, AIPA staff and adult AIPA students (who we use as assistants). All staff are first aid trained and screened for child protection. We have ground staff who live in LA and Canada and are great fun, have a wealth of knowledge and are experienced in working with improvisers. We also listen carefully to feedback from students and their parents and adjust the team when and if we need to.

**HAVE YOU TAKEN IMPROVISORS OVERSEAS BEFORE?**

Yes we certainly have. We have completed two trips to Canada (involving three flights to get there and three trips to Los Angeles). We have also completed over fifty trips with actors, singers, dancers to Los Angeles, New York, Florida so we feel confident that our staff are competent and that the suppliers we use do a great job. All our projects have measurable learning goals and outcomes to ensure that you progress through the syllabus.



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**MY PARENTS BELIEVE I AM TOO YOUNG TO GO WITHOUT THEM, CAN THEY GO TOO?**

If they feel that you are too young to travel without them, then ideally you should not apply and wait for a year or two. We run these projects as closed events, ie everything that you will need is provided and you are adequately supervised. Adding extra adults into the equation confuses students - as you don't know who to listen to.

**If your parents are on a holiday, then you can stay independently of the group (option one)** but you won't be able to attend group dinners or activities as we have an 'all in or all out' policy. This is for insurance and logistics reasons. Whenever we make exceptions, parents are late to drop off, meaning the whole group are late or our supervision numbers are out. Parents and families are welcome to attend the performance, however all classes and organised activities are closed sessions. We like to see you grow and thrive and you do this when you are in a group and need to be self-sufficient. Just tell them that you will have to do your own washing and ironing and you will come back quite skilled in household chores (All true)

**Professional Development**

**I AM A QUALIFIED TEACHER/IMPROV COACH. ARE THERE ANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ME?**

Yes. We have a component each year where we encourage professional development and are happy to speak with teachers about the possibility of being involved in both Australia and the US. Your school will need to support you financially; however, we have a scheme to assist further education and are happy to discuss this. There is no 'cost' to be involved, apart from the hard costs of airfares, accommodation and living expenses. You are welcome to audit a selection of the sessions as long as you have students in the group.

**Costs and Inclusions.**

**HOW MUCH DOES THIS PROJECT COST AND WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?**

You have four options. These are listed below and we encourage you to ask any questions that you may have regarding which option is best for you. We cannot provide additional options beyond the four listed.

**OPTION ONE: Tuition and course inclusions only. No accommodation, transfers or meals will be provided. US\$2330.**

This is best for students who are attending while their family take a holiday in LA.

- Eleven days of tuition and performance.
- Photos and footage.
- A written report of the feedback you received from the teaching staff.
- Staff component and venue rental for classes.
- Project Uniform: Hoodie, t-shirt & backpack.
- Facilitation and administration of course.

**OPTION TWO: Tuition, Quad share accommodation, meals, supervision and transfers. US\$4463.00**

The cost covers a student **sharing a queen/double bed with another student (same gender)** and a room with up to three others.

- Accommodation: Quad share room for fourteen (14) nights.
- Eleven days of tuition and performance.
- Photos and footage.
- A written report of the feedback you received from the teaching staff.
- Staff component and venue rental for classes.
- Project Uniform: Hoodie, t-shirt & backpack.
- Facilitation and administration of course.
- Internet: Wireless is provided at the hotel.
- Transfers with group on coach. LAX – hotel - LAX (as long as you are travelling with the group or meet at LAX)
- Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

**OPTION THREE: Tuition, twin/triple share accommodation, meals, supervision and transfers. US\$4868.00**

The cost covers a student **sharing a room with one or two other students (same gender) OWN double/queen bed**

- Accommodation: Twin/triple share room for fourteen (14) nights.
- Eleven days of tuition and performance.
- Photos and footage.
- A written report of the feedback you received from the teaching staff.



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- Staff component and venue rental for classes.
- Project Uniform: Hoodie, t-shirt & backpack.
- Facilitation and administration of course.
- Internet: Wireless is provided at the hotel.
- Transfers with group on coach. LAX – hotel - LAX (as long as you are travelling with the group or meet at LAX)
- Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

**OPTION FOUR: Tuition, private accommodation, meals, supervision and transfers. US\$5591.00**

The cost covers a student with their own room.

- Accommodation: King/Queen bedded room for fourteen (14) nights.
- Eleven days of tuition and performance.
- Photos and footage.
- A written report of the feedback you received from the teaching staff.
- Staff component and venue rental for classes.
- Project Uniform: Hoodie, t-shirt & backpack.
- Facilitation and administration of course.
- Internet: Wireless is provided at the hotel.
- Transfers with group on coach. LAX – hotel - LAX (as long as you are travelling with the group or meet at LAX)
- Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

**WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?**

**Airfares:** For details on flights, see above. You can select any airline, you don't have to use Qantas nor fly from Sydney.

**Spending Money:** For obvious reasons, this is a personal choice. We suggest US\$100 a week for incidentals (snacks, cell phone, coffee) and then money for gifts and souvenirs.

Students will have an opportunity to go Universal Studios on Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Sep (Approx US\$120) & Disneyland (Approx US\$200) on Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Sep.

**Travel Insurance:** Please ensure that as soon as you have booked your flights, you book travel insurance. You will need to enter the policy number when you fill in the enrolment form. All students MUST be covered at top level and protected for cancellation, health and accident, baggage etc. It is easy to purchase this online, at the post office, from an insurance broker or travel agent.

**Excess baggage:** Please check with the airline about baggage.

**HOW DO I PAY?**

You can enrol and pay in one transaction. Payments can be made by cash (in USD), travellers cheques or a bank draft (in USD). You can also pay by creditcard, but please note a 3.5% surcharge applied. Please note payment is due BY the date listed. Full payment details and options will be sent to you in Update One.

**WHEN IS PAYMENT DUE?**

Payment is due by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.

**WILL I BE ISSUED A RECEIPT?**

Yes. The US office will issue a receipt that will be given to each student on the last day. These can also be emailed to parents. Receipts will be made out to the person or company that pays AIPA INC.

**WHAT IS YOUR CANCELLATION POLICY?**

AIPA makes a significant investment in staffing, planning, and purchasing that cannot be recovered in the event of short-notice cancellations, emergency cancellations, or transfers. For these reasons we have established the policies listed below.

Payment in full is due a minimum of 14 days before the start date of your project.

Once we receive your registration and payment we will send you an update and packing list. We recommend that you delay purchasing airline tickets until you have received confirmation that your course has adequate enrollment to meet our minimum group size (Twelve participants). You may elect to purchase tickets before receiving that information but if you do and your project is cancelled, AIPA will not be responsible for your un-used airline ticket. AIPA will not reimburse you for materials you have purchased, hotels, or other expenses.

If you choose to cancel for any reason within 60 days of your course start date, the following fees apply:

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All information is correct at 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2015. Prices subject to change. Replication in part or entirety is strictly prohibited and offenders will be prosecuted.



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- Between 45-60 days of the start of your course, there is a 25% tuition penalty.
- Between 15-44 days of the start of your course, there is a 50% tuition penalty.
- Between 0-14 days of the start of your course, there is a 100% tuition penalty.
- If you choose to leave the course early, there is a 100% tuition penalty.

For cancellations within 60 days of your course start date, the cancellation penalties apply to the full-published tuition rate, or full amount due for scholarship recipients. These fees are not based on the amount paid up to the day of your cancellation. Although we don't foresee this, we reserve the right to cancel a course or change a course duration, tuition or location. AIPA is not responsible for costs associated in these cases. We recommend that you consider refundable airplane tickets and tuition insurance. In the case that AIPA cancels the course; your money will be refunded immediately.

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

Ask us! We strongly encourage you to call our office in Sydney on 02 9966 4473 or LA +1 323 882 8098 and ask any questions that you may have. You can arrange a time to meet members of our team. All staff have been screened as appropriate and all are first aid trained. We would be happy to put you in touch with parents whose child has taken part in past years if you would like to speak with them. We have had students from Australia, the UK, Canada and New Zealand attend with 100% positive feedback.

**ARE THERE ANY PARENTS I CAN SPEAK TO WHO HAVE SENT THEIR CHILDREN TO THE US WITH AIPA BEFORE?**

Absolutely. We have a huge parent fan base and have hundreds who have offered to speak to parents who do not us. All you need to do is contact us and give us your permission to pass on your details. We will give you a few options for parents who have children the same age as your child. (Wherever possible)

**CAN WE, AS STUDENTS, SPEAK TO OTHER STUDENTS WHO HAVE RECENTLY TRAINED WITH AIPA?**

Absolutely. Facebook is a great way to contact other actors, we encourage you to wall post and ask people. We would be more than happy to provide you with names and details of people who have recently studied with us so that you can contact them via Facebook, email or on the phone and ask them about their experiences. If your agent would like to speak to some of the professionals who are teaching this program, we would also be happy to connect them.