TRAVEL WITH FRIENDS IN 2013

Two Bites of the Big Apple

ART AND THEATRE IN NEW YORK

with Jonathan Biggins and Brian Ladd
5–15 January 2013 (11 days)
Tour leaders

Jonathan Biggins is an actor, writer and director, perhaps best known as one of the creators of *The Wharf Revue*. He has acted for all the state theatres and opera companies and he won a Helpmann Award for his direction of the musical *Avenue Q*. A regular contributor to the *Good Weekend* magazine and former host of ABC TV's arts program *Critical Mass*, Jonathan's first play, *Australia Day*, will debut for the MTC and STC in 2012.

Brian Ladd is a specialist in European and Australian sculpture and brings a broad knowledge and enthusiasm to the study of visual art. From 1996–2010 Brian was Head of the Public Programs Department at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Brian lectures for the Art Gallery Society and, since 1995, has led tours to Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Central Europe and the United States of America.

Two Bites of the Big Apple

New York is the most dynamic and exciting metropolis in the world, bursting with energy and exuberance. It is also one of the greatest art and theatre destinations.

Over ten days visit the dazzling collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, including the Cloisters; the Museum of Modern Art, the Frick Collection, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Whitney Museum of American Art. For the latest in contemporary art, spend time in the commercial gallery district in Chelsea and the New Museum in the Bowery.

And take your seats for five nights of memorable music and theatre, including a revival of a Broadway classic, the latest Tony or Pulitzer prize-winning drama, a spectacular night at the Metropolitan Opera, "the" musical production of the moment as well as the best of contemporary American theatre off-Broadway.

At a glance

- Two tour leaders who will provide unique insights into art and theatre in New York
- See the new Broadway hit musical *Book of Mormon* plus theatre on and off Broadway
- Visit MoMA without the crowds before the doors open to the public
- *Maria Stuarda* the new Metropolitan Opera production at Lincoln Center
- A comprehensive survey of the New York art scene

Metropolitan Museum
Itinerary

Sat 5 January 2013  Australia – New York
Suggested departure from Australia on Qantas flights. Arrive New York late afternoon on the same day. Check in to your hotel located just steps from St. Patrick’s Cathedral and Rockefeller Center on Madison Avenue.

Sun 6 Jan  New York
Welcome to the Big Apple! After a welcome briefing and breakfast depart the hotel for a full-day orientation tour which will introduce you to Downtown and Midtown Manhattan. Begin in the Financial District surrounding Wall Street and continue to Battery Point, making a stop at “Ground Zero”, the site of the former World Trade Centre.

After lunch, drive through TriBeCa, home to contemporary art galleries, chic cafés, designer boutiques and the downtown hip to the Midtown district. See Times Square, the Rockefeller Centre, the Broadway Theatre District, St Patrick’s Cathedral, the Empire State Building and Madison Square Garden. Evening at leisure.

Mon 7 Jan New York
Start your exploration of the museums of New York with a private tour of the Museum of Modern Art. Enjoy the experience of touring the museum without the crowds, one hour before the doors open to the public.

In 2004 MOMA re-opened to acclaim after a major expansion and refurbishing program at its mid-Manhattan site. The new MOMA was designed by the Japanese architect Yoshio Taniguchi and houses celebrated works of art of the past 150 years. There are outstanding examples by Monet, Van Gogh, Cezanne, Matisse and Pablo Picasso, including his seminal cubist painting Les Demoiselles d’Avignon (1907), as well as major photography and film collections.

Time at leisure to remain at the museum.

In the late afternoon join Jonathan and Brian for a pre-performance talk about tonight’s performance and introduction to the Metropolitan Museum respectively.

After a pre-performance dinner attend a performance of a musical currently showing on Broadway.

Tue 8 Jan  New York
Today explore the dazzling art collections of the vast and encyclopedic Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Metropolitan has extraordinary holdings of Egyptian and Greco-Roman antiquities, impressive Asian collections and European masterpieces representing the foremost artistic traditions from 1500 to 1900s (Titian, El Greco, Rembrandt, Vermeer and Ingres) and including important works by innovators of the modern era (Manet, Rodin, Renoir, Cezanne and Gauguin).

Begin with an orientation tour of the museum, after which the rest of the afternoon is free to explore the museum and its special exhibitions on your own.

Tonight see the Broadway hit musical Book of Mormon, winner of 9 Tony Awards® including best musical from Trey Parker and Matt Stone, the creators of South Park. The Book of Mormon follows a pair of mismatched Mormon boys sent on a mission to a place that’s about as far from Salt Lake City as you can get.

Broadway

In an era of dazzling 3-D movies and stunning IMAX films, Broadway theatre entertainment remains one of the most popular attractions in NYC. Few NYC attractions match the excitement and spectacle of a Broadway musical. Featuring 40 Broadway theatres, high-profile stage actors, and world-class sets and costumes, New York Broadway shows are must-see entertainment for travellers in NYC.

Broadway refers to the famous street in Manhattan that has become the worldwide leader in stage entertainment. The history of Broadway dates all the way back to the 1700’s, when the first NYC stage was built on Massau Street. This NYC theatre held less than 300 people, and mostly presented Shakespeare plays from across the pond. It wasn’t until after the American Revolution – in 1798 – that the first great NYC theatre was built.
Wed 9 Jan   New York
Mid-morning visit to the Lincoln Center for a guided tour of the Metropolitan Opera house and increase your understanding of how the company works. On this backstage tour visit production areas not usually seen by the general public.

One of New York’s great collections of modern art and architecture isn’t in a museum, it’s at Lincoln Center, where paintings, sculpture, limited-edition prints, posters, and buildings by the leading artists and architects of this and the last century can be found outside and inside the theatres on the world-famous 16-acre campus.

The Art and Architecture tour takes an especially close look at the grand and adventurous architecture and beautiful artwork that graces the Lincoln Center campus, including pieces by Henry Moore, Jasper Johns, Lee Bontecou, and Richard Lippold.

Evening at leisure. ☺

Thu 10 Jan   New York
This morning join Jonathan and Brian for talks about the ‘upcoming’ performances and museum visits.

Late morning visit to the Frick Collection housed in a luxurious Fifth Avenue mansion built in 1913 by Henry Clay Frick, one of America’s most successful steel and railroad industrialists. The old master paintings are exceptional! The collection, including superb decorative arts, evokes the splendour and tranquility of a bygone era and at the same time testifies to how some great American art collections came into being. Highlights include works by Bellini, Bronzino, Holbein, Rembrandt, Vermeer, Boucher and Fragonard.

After lunch at a local restaurant, walk to The Whitney Museum of American Art. Founded in 1931 by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, the museum houses a superb collection of twentieth century work by leading exponents, including Edward Hopper, Jackson Pollock, Andy Warhol, David Smith, Frank Stella and Roy Lichtenstein.

Remainder of the day at leisure. ☺ ☺

Fri 11 Jan   New York
This morning join Jonathan and Brian for introductory talks, followed by a morning tour of the Upper West side and Harlem. The area has been associated for a long period with the American black community, crime and poverty but Harlem is now experiencing an economic and social gentrification.

Continue to the Cloisters, a branch of the Metropolitan Museum devoted to the art and architecture of medieval Europe, located in northern Manhattan’s Fort Tryon Park. This building incorporates elements from five medieval French cloisters. Discover the Cloisters collection, which comprises approximately five thousand works of art from medieval Europe, dating from about the ninth to the fifteenth century.

Return via the magnificent Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum located on Fifth Avenue. The Guggenheim is home to one of the world’s most integrated collections of modern and contemporary art in one of the greatest modern architectural icons of the 20th century.

Tonight return to Broadway to see a contemporary play. ☺

Sat 12 Jan   New York
The New Museum is the only museum in New York City exclusively devoted to presenting contemporary art from around the world. In December 2007, the New Museum opened the doors to its new location in the Bowery. Designed by the cutting-edge, Tokyo-based architects Sejima + Nishizawa/SANAA, the new building has greatly expanded the Museum’s exhibitions and space.

Weather permitting, take a walk on the High Line, a 1.6 km linear park built on a section of the former elevated New York Central

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The Book of Mormon

The Book of Mormon is a religious satire musical with a book, lyrics, and music by Trey Parker, Robert Lopez, and Matt Stone. Best known for creating the animated comedy South Park, Parker and Stone co-created the music with Lopez, who co-wrote and co-composed Avenue Q. The show lampoons organised religion and traditional musical theatre, reflecting the creators’ lifelong fascination with Mormonism and musicals.

The Book of Mormon tells the story of two young Mormon missionaries sent to a remote village in northern Uganda, where a brutal warlord is threatening the local population. Naive and optimistic, the two missionaries try to share the Book of Mormon, one of their scriptures – which only one of them knows very well – but have trouble connecting with the locals, who are more worried about war, famine, poverty, and AIDS than about religion.

After nearly seven years of development, the show opened on Broadway in March 2011. The Book of Mormon has garnered positive critical response and numerous theatre awards including nine Tony Awards, one of which was for Best Musical and Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album.
Railroad spur called the West Side Line, which runs along the lower west side of Manhattan; it has been redesigned and planted as an aerial greenway. The High Line Park currently runs from Gansevoort Street, up to 30th Street, through the neighborhood of Chelsea.

In the afternoon explore colourful Chelsea, the heart of New York’s avant-garde art world. During the 1990s Chelsea evolved into one of Manhattan’s most trendy neighbourhoods. Former warehouses have been converted into gallery space, and Chelsea has become a thriving quarter for new art. Visit some galleries such as Gagosion, Matthew Marks and Agora Galleries.

Pre-performance dinner at Grand Tier restaurant before attending the Metropolitan Opera’s premiere production of Donizetti’s Maria Stuarda with mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato sings the role of the doomed Mary, Queen of Scots, Elza van den Heever sings Elizabeth I and Maurizio Benini conducts.

Sun 13 Jan New York
Morning at leisure until a matinee performance. Evening at leisure.

Mon 14 Jan New York
Continue your exploration of Greater New York City with a tour to Brooklyn, New York City’s most populated borough with 2.5 million residents. Brooklyn was an independent city until its consolidation with New York City in 1898, but continues to maintain a distinct culture, independent art scene, and unique architectural heritage. Visit the Brooklyn Museum, the second-largest art museum in New York City, and one of the largest in the USA. It is one of the premier art institutions in the world, with its permanent collection including more than one-and-a-half million objects, from ancient Egyptian masterpieces to contemporary art.

After a farewell lunch, visit BAM – the Brooklyn Academy of Music – known as a center for progressive and avant garde performances. The Brooklyn Academy of Music presented its first performance in 1861. Today, BAM has a worldwide reputation as a leader in artistic innovation and has grown into a model urban arts center focused on both international issues in the arts and local community needs. Subject to the final program, attend a performance at BAM.

Wed 16 Jan In-flight

Thu 18 Jan Arrive Australia
Morning arrival in Australia.

Maria Stuarda

David McVicar, who staged last season’s Met premiere of Anna Bolena, directs the company premiere of the second opera in Donizetti’s famous trilogy of operas about Tudor-era queens. “Donizetti’s three Tudor operas are very different in tone, mood, and musical content,” McVicar says. “With Maria Stuarda being a different kind of opera than last season’s Anna Bolena, which we presented with a great deal of historical accuracy, we’ve gone for a visual style which is freer. Rather than reflecting history, it reflects the romantic nature of this retelling of the story and the sweeping romantic nature of Donizetti’s music.” Joyce DiDonato sings the title role of the defiant Mary, Queen of Scots. South African soprano Elza van den Heever makes her Met debut as Mary’s formidable rival, Queen Elizabeth I. Maurizio Benini conducts a cast that also includes Francesco Meli as the Earl of Leicester, Joshua Hopkins as Cecil, and Matthew Rose as Talbot.
Tour Prices

Per person, twin-share AUD 7,750
Single supplement AUD 1,550
Deposit (per person) AUD 500
Final payment due 6 November 2012

* Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking.

Tour code
AGS BIG APPLE

Suggested airline
Qantas
Competitive airfares are available on Qantas as well as V Australia, United and Delta Airlines. Please contact Renaissance Tours for current fares and bookings.

Visas
Australian passport-holders do not require a tourist visa for the USA.

Tour prices include

• Ten (10) nights accommodation in centrally located four star superior hotel with daily breakfast.
• Meals as per itinerary (📸=Lunch, 🍽️=Dinner) including a welcome reception.
• Wine with dinners.
• Premium and A-reserve tickets to 5 performances – opera, musical and drama.
• Pre-performance talks and museum introductions with Jonathan Biggins and Brian Ladd.
• Transfers and sightseeing, including entrance fees as per itinerary, in comfortable air-conditioned coaches.
• Gratuities for local guides and drivers.
• Hotel porterage (1 piece per person).

Tour price does not include

• International airfares.
• Transfer on arrival and departure in New York.
• Items of a personal nature, including telephone, laundry, room service etc.
• Travel insurance.
• Airport porterage

Your hotel
New York – New York Palace ★★★★★★
Hotel of a similar standard may be substituted.
Terms & Conditions

How to Book
Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit.

Deposit/Final Payments
Your deposit is due at the time of booking and is used to pay hotel, airline, performance tickets and/or other deposits. It is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation.

Final payment is due 60 days before departure. Failure to make the final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit.

Payments are accepted in cash and by cheque, bank transfer, American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa. A 3% service charge applies for payment by American Express and Diners Club.

Cancellation & Refunds
a) Cancellation by You – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Renaissance Tours as shown below, airlines, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

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The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above, cancellation charges may apply for additional arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours, such as air tickets, hotels and travel insurance premium. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

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Passports, Visas and Vaccinations
All travellers must be in possession of a valid passport – most countries require a 6-month validity from your date of entry or exit. For some countries (e.g. China, Vietnam, India, Russia), visas are included in the tour cost and will be arranged by Renaissance Tours prior to travel. For other countries, it is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate visa(s).

You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour.

Travel Insurance
It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. Your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours.

Fitness and Participation
For the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 2–3 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark/disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

If you (or we) have any doubts about your ability to participate in your chosen tour, you may be required to have a doctor’s appraisal. This would require a doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour and provide you with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

Terms & Conditions
You can find the full terms & conditions on the Renaissance Tours booking form. They can also be found at www.renaissancetours.com.au or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.
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Front cover: Times Square at night
Back cover: Book of Mormon

Art Gallery Society of New South Wales
Art Gallery Road, The Domain
Sydney NSW 2000
w www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/member

Your travel agent is