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Glyn Scott has made the transition from professional ballet dancer to cadet pilot at Rex airlines. He is currently in Wagga for his pilot course and is teaching at the Wagga Picture: Les Smith Academy of Ballet.



with Riverina magazine writer Nicole Barlow



MY FIRST

WAGGA AT WORK

GLYN Scott remembers waiting in the halls of the dance studio for his ballerina sister to finish classes.

It was here that he developed his love of dance and took the first step to a fruitful career on stage. Starting classes at eight years of age might be the

best thing that Glyn has ever done. By 15 he knew he was destined to perform and in 1998 he commenced training at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School.

"I knew I had an ability and threw myself at it," he

In 2001, he was accepted into the Australian Ballet School.

His career has progressed in leaps and bounds and allowed him to dance with the American Ballet Theatre in New York and the Birmingham Royal Ballet in the United Kingdom.

He has graced the stages of Europe, Canada and central and northern America.

"Ballet has afforded me a wonderful life," he said. But during each performance and perfectly executed move Glyn felt there was something more

he should be doing.

Every boy dreams of flying and much the same as those youngsters, Glyn had a keen interest in space launches and Australian aviation.

I put a limit on being an astronaut," he said. "But I always wanted to go high and fast."

Glyn worked part time at a cinema during his school days to pay for a necessary 30 hours flying experience.

At the age of 21, he landed a ballet jump badly and broke his ankle.

What followed was hours of gruelling rehab and operations which ultimately spelt the end of his professional dance career.

Glyn retired and saw no better time to pursue his other passion, flight.

He is now one of the select few who have embarked on Rex's cadet program at Wagga. As of early next year Glyn will be a first officer with

Rex, flying in a Saab 340 aircraft.

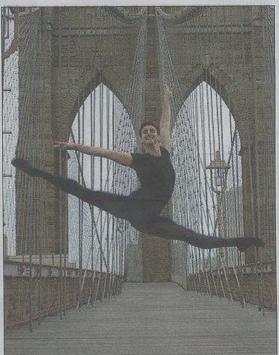
"The airline was thrilled that my previous experience was as a ballet dancer," he said.

"They thought it was an asset." They were probably right.

Who better knows the importance of discipline and routine than a professional ballet dancer?

The schedules of his two professions have their similarities - early mornings, frequent training sessions and plenty of time spent in the air.

Glyn admits that making the transition from ■ Continued Page 22



Glyn Scott enjoys the air up there during a photo shoot on the Brooklyn Bridge in New York.



Glyn sets his sights on his passion for flight

■ From Page 21 dancer to pilot was daunting.

"It was very frightening," he said. "I had to look at what I needed to do to make myself employable to any

"I applied the discipline I got from ballet to my studies."
Glyn moved to Wagga in June this

year, just weeks after hearing he was accepted into the program.

He knew not a soul in Wagga but that all soon changed after he began teaching at the Wagga Academy of

"Teaching has made me feel like part of the Wagga community," he said.

"When I leave the airport and go to dancing, I know it is going to be a nice atmosphere.

His association with the academy came about when he was pondering how he could be a good Rex cadet by getting involved with the community.

Glyn is currently choreographing a piece for the academy's end of year performance and will throw in a special treat for audiences when he performs.

The jack of all trades admits that he becomes shy when rehearsing in front of the girls at the studio.

"I come from an airport with 30 guys and maybe two girls to a dance class with 40 girls and one boy," he said.

"It's amazing that after all these years I can still be quite shy but everyone suffers the same anxieties.

Glyn feels that, through his personal experience, he has a lot to share with up-and-coming dancers.

"I hope the dancers I teach at the moment know they can be whatever they want to be," he said.

"There is life after ballet."
The now 23-year-old suffered his fair share of bullying as a child but said he always had the bigger picture in mind.

He credits this to the success he has achieved in not one, but now two career

It is hard for Glyn not to become nostalgic for the days when all eyes were focused on him while he performed in shows such as Sleeping Beauty and Romeo and Juliet.

He described ballet as 'conversation without words' and has seen even the most stringent sceptic relent after witnessing a live performance.

"A lot of dancing is what you take home from the performance...it's open to interpretation," he said.

"When it all comes together it is a very special and unique experience." "For me, it was what I felt when I

danced, it was a very personal thing." "You have a freedom on stage to be xpressive and become a part of the

Glyn still feels the same rush when he thinks about becoming a pilot,

especially with Rex, an organisation he has nothing but praise for. Even in these tough economic times, other airlines have stopped cadetships but Rex has put more in to theirs," he

"They are nurturing the future of Australian airlines by allowing us to complete training then employing us for six vears.

Glyn's sister, Amber Scott, is a senior dancer for the Australian Ballet School.

"When I'm in Melbourne I can see her perform and that's kind of my escape,"

Glyn said that at the end of his course he would like to return to Melbourne to be close to his family but would not say no if he was offered a position in Wagga.

