

Hollie's big gig in the Big Apple

BRIANA DOMJEN

HOLLIE McKay is an Aussie girl making her mark on Tinseltown.

Hollie, 25, has landed a job that would be envied by many — as Entertainment Pop Culture reporter and columnist for FOXNews.com.

In her formative years she spent her time balancing journalism studies with intensive dance training.

"I was trying to figure out whether a career in reporting or performing was in my future," she said.

"In the end, entertainment journalism proved to be the perfect marriage of both worlds."

After she published a novel aged 13, a creative career was inevitable.

Still in the middle of her studies but armed with motivation and her natural talent, Hollie jetted off to the US — the mecca of the industry — and landed the ultimate gig.

"I decided on a whim to finish the last semester of my degree by studying abroad, and there was no question New York City was the place for me. It was now or never," she said.

"UTS was affiliated with Pace University in downtown New York, so I put my application together at the very last minute.

"As I was diligent about saving my money from part-time jobs, I was able to just up and go.

"Shortly after arriving, I heard about internships, so I applied online at FoxNews.com, and within a few days I was neck-deep in news at the News Corp skyscraper.

Hollie McKay is now FOX News.com's entertainment and pop culture reporter and has her own daily column entitled FOX411's Pop Tarts as well as a segment on FOX News.com Live called Hollie On Hollywood.

"My stories tend to be very driven by a lot of the social issues reflected by Hollywood — the impact certain TV shows have on teen audiences or how a fallen star will ever revive their career after a big public scandal."

She strongly believes that to break into the competitive industry and separate yourself from the rest, tertiary education is essential.

"Especially in the US, it is advisable to have a related university degree — whether that be in journalism, communications, political science or something similar," she said.

"However, there are many things that no degree can ever teach you and that's what makes internships, or any other work experience in the industry, so incredibly valuable.

"You have to be able to write and speak well, but you also have to have good critical thinking skills also, so that you can think outside the box."

Interviewing celebrities, A-listers



Aussie Hollie McKay has cracked a job with FOX as entertainment reporter

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and industry experts is no easy feat.

Much of it is just hard work, with long hours and where industry knowledge is absolutely essential.

"My work might revolve around Hollywood, but, sadly, it is often anything but glamorous," she said.

"At most of the red carpets, you wait around for hours and hours, packed in like sardines in a jar.

"The hours are always very long, often starting at the crack of dawn to keep up with New York (three hours ahead) and the nights roll late."

While Hollie is living the dream, having put the mic to the likes of Oprah Winfrey, Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt and Beyonce, it is still the small things that make it all worth while for

this spirited young lady.

"Every single day I still get a heart flutter when I see "story by..." beneath the headline, and I don't think that flutter will ever go away."

She has some practical advice for anyone contemplating becoming an entertainment reporter: "Build as many contacts as you possibly can get lots of work experience, always go above and beyond the call of duty, and practice as much as you can," she explained.

"It's also critical to stay on top of what's going on in the world, and not just in the entertainment industry.

"Scour the news sites, the blogs and maintain a solid sense of what's happening in all areas of the media."