



LIGHTING THE WAY

AMBIENCE STORY | YOYO TSAI DESIGN | AMBIENCE PHOTOS

Ambience is the first and only student group dedicated to creating a community for glovers at universities. Established in the summer of 2011 at UC Berkeley and UC Irvine, Ambience promotes glove lightshows as an art, dance, and form of entertainment in a positive environment. Its members engage in weekly sessions and perform at dances and philanthropy events.

The organizations's mission is to create a safe and sober environment for people to learn, practice, and trade lightshows. However, Ambience is not simply a campus club, but a movement for all lightshow artists who love what they do and want to see it become accepted as a respected art form. Its goal is not to make gloving mainstream, but rather spread awareness and give people the opportunity to become more exposed to the culture. Many common misconceptions about gloving exist that make the art appear to be intrinsically

tied to drug and rave culture. Ambience wants to break those stereotypes and build a forum for the appreciation of lightshows beyond these realms of influence. Ambience provides a positive environment so that glovers of all skill levels may come together to learn from each other. Members engage in weekly sessions and perform at a variety of dance and philanthropy events. Ambience is being brought to multiple campuses in order to establish a community for glovers and demonstrate to the public the true value of the art.

Ambience works in conjunction with the DeCal on campus known as "Ambience: An Intro to Glove Lightshows." The DeCal provides students on campus the opportunity to become familiarized with lightshow theory and musicality while simultaneously learning fundamental techniques involved in lightshow performances. An important project that students must perform is a double lightshow, in which two students

perform an improvised lightshow together with nothing more than a few key aspects in mind and knowledge of each other's style. During Fall 2011, the two facilitators decided to record a double lightshow as an example for the class to learn from. Pleased with how the performance turned out, the facilitators decided to submit the video in the Google+ and UC Berkeley Talent Show. The talent show was an online competition that displayed a wide variety of talent at UC Berkeley. The winner was determined by the video that received the most +1's by the end of the competition. Multiple performance groups and talented students entered; however, people seemed to be most impressed by the double lightshow performance. Ambience was awarded first place and a prize of \$200, helping push glove lightshows forward as a legitimate talent and art!



1, 2 TIME TO GLOW Ambience members demonstrate gloving techniques. To perfect their craft, the club held two-hour-long weekly meetings; to showcase their talent, they participated in multiple performances throughout the school year. 3, 4 GLOVE GROOVY Students practice welding gloves containing various LED lights, attempting to synchronize their movements with both the music and each other.