

## Booking with EASE

### What's On?

First check your daily papers, free entertainment guides and other sources of information, then check EASE dates in the *EASE Ticket Update* before booking.

### Bookings

Phone Lisa on 699 8497 and discuss what you would like to see, when, and any special seating requirements.

### Access Information

EASE provides information about access and facilities at venues in and around Melbourne – over the phone, in the *EASE Newsletter* and via the *Melbourne Venue Guide – Editions 1 & 2*.

### Method of Payment

Pay at the EASE office or by posting a cheque or money order made out to ARTS ACCESS. Payment is NEVER made at the venue. Please note Items 4 and 7 of the Conditions of Sale.

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Thursday  
10.00am - 4.00pm only

Bookings & TTY: 699 8497  
Administration: 699 7636

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109-111 Sturt Street, South Melbourne, VIC 3205 Australia

## Conditions of Sale

Tickets purchased through EASE are sold under the following conditions:

1. Tickets are not transferable. Tickets are sold to individual subscribers on the understanding that they are attending the booked event.
2. Tickets are sold to staff members of an organisation on the understanding that they are attending an event as a support person for the clients of that organisation, and under no other circumstances.
3. EASE staff reserve the right to refuse sale to anyone who they believe is not eligible to purchase tickets.
4. Tickets must be paid for within 14 days of receiving an invoice from EASE.
5. EASE will purchase tickets, where possible, to suit a subscriber's particular requirements. Sometimes these requests will not be possible to fulfil.
6. EASE ticket prices are determined in negotiations with each promoter, thus ticket prices will vary greatly. An administrative commission is added to this ticket price and that total price is the one quoted and sold to subscribers.
7. There is no exchange or refund of tickets. A booking is taken as a financial commitment to purchase those tickets booked.
8. EASE staff reserve the right to cancel or suspend membership if conditions of sale are breached.

# Ease

## Entertainment Access Service

**Address:** 109-111 Sturt Street  
South Melbourne 3205

**Fax:** (03) 685 5112

### EASE Staff:

Dean Michael – EASE Project Officer  
Lisa McKoy – EASE Bookings Officer

### Volunteers

Irene Dunsmuir, Bela Greenwald, Roisin Johnson, John Pidd, Clare Matthews, Anna Smith, Robert Thwaites, Gaye Walsh, and NADRASCA volunteers.

With thanks to Graham Berry of Typographical Services for his support.

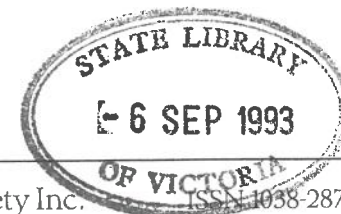
**EASE** is a project of **Arts Access** and is funded from a range of sources, particularly the Federal Department of Community Services and Health (Disability Services) and Sport & Recreation Victoria. Income earned through service fees, subscriptions and ticket commissions helps support the project. **Arts Access** is supported by Arts Victoria and the Australia Council, the Federal Government's arts funding and advisory body.



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# Ease

EASE Newsletter – Arts Access Society Inc.



ARTS  
Access

Spring, 1993

## EASE Consumers Group

The Consumers Group is a highly energetic group of people who are either individual consumers or working with organisations who are consumers of the EASE ticketing service.

The group, in conjunction with EASE staff, is continuing to look at issues to improve access, both physically and financially for EASE members.

Current projects include:

- Lobbying the City of Melbourne to provide a disabled parking bay close to the Russell Street Theatre.
- Lobbying rock music promoters and the AFL to provide low cost tickets to our membership. By the way, you can still send EASE your letters lobbying for the AFL's support, as requested in the last Ticket Update.
- Talking to the National Gallery of Victoria about access issues there.
- Discussion of information brochures to encourage people to attend arts activities.
- Discussion of membership cards.

The group meets every two months and will do so again on October 1st. If you would like to contribute to the Consumers Group, contact Dean Michael, EASE Project Officer on 699 7636.



Mike Bishop as Kenny, and Doris Younane as Rowena, in 'Blabbermouth'.

## Howdy!

Auslan sign language is used in some of the action in **Blabbermouth**, a bright new production by the MTC and Arena Theatre for the Youth Package of the Melbourne International Festival of the Arts.

**Blabbermouth** is the story of Rowena Batts, a gutsy 12 year old who has a speech impairment and is determined not to be defined by her disability. Rowena has other problems – like Mr Cosgrove, the stuffed shirt who manages the local menswear store. He wants to take on Rowena as a 'community project'. Meanwhile, she's starting school in a new town and has to come to terms with the school tough, Darryn Peck. But Ro's biggest problem is Kenny, the apple farming cowboy who sings really awful country music and stands on his head in restaurants. Worst of all, Kenny is Rowena's Dad – but he's the only person she can communicate with through sign language. *Continued over...*

## INSIDE:

- EASE Festival Highlights
- Disability Discrimination Act



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## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the September EASE Newsletter.

Thanks to the people who sent their support letters to help EASE lobby for low cost tickets to rock concerts and AFL games. Only ten letters were received – a disappointing response given the number of football and rock concert requests we get each week. We need your support if we are to access a greater range of events. Those letters received regarding rock concerts have been sent to the appropriate body. Let's hope we hear some good news soon!

*Please remember to include your invoice with your payment. It can be a nightmare trying to match payments without the original booking details. We appreciate the efforts of subscribers who pay promptly. Outstanding debts have taken up a lot of time lately – that's time lost that should be spent providing you with a better service.*

Booking wise – don't forget to book early for your **Royal Agricultural Show** tickets. Orders for Royal Show tickets must be in by **Thursday, September 2nd at 4.00pm.**

**Cats** has been booking heavily and now only limited seats are available. The word is that **Five Guys Named Moe** and **South Pacific** are both fantastic so, again, book early! Once each show starts it will be hard to get good tickets.

The **Melbourne International Festival** is a great opportunity to see world class theatre, dance, music and film at reasonable prices. It's also a perfect opportunity for you or your group to try something a little different. You can also soak up the exciting festival atmosphere and see some great street performances throughout the city and Southgate – all for free! Enjoy the Festival!

Regards,

*Dean & Lisa*

P.S. Let us know of your recent experiences of access and facilities at venues – both good and bad. We'd also like to know your thoughts on particular shows. If you wish, your comments can be shared with EASE members through the newsletter. Drop us a line soon.

## Disability Discrimination Act

On March 1st, 1993 discrimination based on disability became unlawful under the Federal Disability Discrimination Act. The following is a brief overview of the Act.

### What is Discrimination under the Act?

Different treatment of people with a disability is not unlawful. Treating people with a disability less favourably than people without a disability under the same circumstances is discrimination.

### What is Disability under the Act?

The definition of disability is meant to be as broad as possible. It includes physical, intellectual, psychiatric, sensory, neurological or learning disabilities. It also includes physical disfigurement and the presence in the body of a disease causing organism, e.g. the HIV. It is also unlawful to discriminate against associates of people with disabilities.

### What areas are covered?

Discrimination against people with a disability is unlawful in employment, accommodation, education, access to

premises, sport, activities of clubs and the provision of goods, services and facilities, among other things. Services include banking, insurance, finance, entertainment, transport and services provided by any profession or trade.

### How Can Complaints be Made?

Complaints are lodged with the Disability Discrimination Commissioner, by the person directly affected or by someone acting on behalf of the person directly affected. Confidential information can be given over the telephone but formal complaints must be in writing.

This is a very brief overview of the Act. For further information contact the Office of the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity:

4th Floor, 356 Collins Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
Phone (03) 602 3338  
Fax (03) 670 2922  
TTY (03) 670 1951  
Toll free (Vic. only) 008 134 142

## Titus: 2 sides to a rare Shakespeare

EASE members with a taste for fine Shakespearian theatre will have a rare opportunity to experience two outstanding productions which take distinctive and unusual approaches to the bard's *Titus Andronicus*, a play rarely performed in Australia. Both productions are in association with the Melbourne International Festival of the Arts.

First, there's the production of *Titus Andronicus* by Romania's National Theatre of Craiova. The company has emerged from the recently liberated Eastern bloc nation as one of the world's most startlingly original theatre companies. Their production of Shakespeare's history of revenge, power and bloody conflict is informed by the recent terrors of Romanian history. This is described as a masterpiece production with impeccable sets, a mesmerising cast and 12 international awards to its credit. The play is performed in Romanian with simultaneous English translation.

Moving beyond the language barrier in other ways is *Titus*, an ambitious multi-lingual adaptation of Shakespeare's play by David Pledger. *Titus* combines Aboriginal, Asian, European and Anglo-Saxon dialects to reflect the social fabric of contemporary Australia.

See the *EASE Ticket Update* for details for both shows.

### Howdy!

*From page 1*

This is the world premiere of Mary Morris' funny, poignant adaptation of the best selling novel by Morris Gleitzman. Doris Younane (*The Heartbreak Kid*) and Mike Bishop (*Law of the Land*) star as Ro and Kenny, and Jane Turner (*Fast Forward*) plays a number of town characters. Original country music was composed by James Reyne and Paul Gildea.

There are only two fully sign-interpreted performances scheduled for **Blabbermouth**. Details are listed elsewhere in this newsletter and in the *EASE Ticket Update*. EASE Bookings 699 8497.



Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, in 'Read My Hips' at MIFA.

## MIFA – EASE Highlights

Apart from **Blabbermouth**, **Titus**, and **Titus Andronicus**, EASE has negotiated tickets for the following Melbourne International Festival shows:

### Opera

#### Improvement: Don Leaves Linda

An exhilarating production by Melbourne's Chamber Maid Opera of American composer Robert Ashley's 'ultra-hip road movie' style opera. Follow Linda's journey from a road side turn-off, to the big city, the all night deli and the shrink. Playhouse, Victorian Arts Centre. Mon, Sept 13, 8.30pm

### Music

#### Chamber Music Sunset Series

A great range of chamber music from Schumann to Shostakovich, and featuring piano music by Rachmaninov. In the Great Hall of the National Gallery. Food and drinks available from 5pm. Sept 13-17, 6pm.

#### The Piano in Concert:

Invitation to the Dance Eight grand pianos on the stage of the Melbourne Concert Hall, with sixteen grand pianists for one night only. Includes Rossini's *William Tell Overture* for 32 hands!. Friday Sept 24, 8pm.

#### Blossom Dearie

America's legendary singer/songwriter. An urbane wit, worldly but not world-weary, a queen of the cabaret. CUB Malthouse. Thurs, Sept 23, 6.30pm

#### James Morrison & the Ray Brown Trio

Australia's international multi-instrumentalist jazz virtuoso playing with world jazz icon Ray Brown. Not to be missed. Melbourne Concert Hall, Victorian Arts Centre. Thurs, Sept 23, 8pm.

### Theatre

#### Sadness

Photographer, William Yang screens poignant images of his times while telling moving stories of life in the 90's. Beckett Theatre, CUB Malthouse, Sept 15.

### Cinema

#### The New Babylon

Newly reconstructed 1929 Russian silent film classic featuring the original score by Shostakovich and performed live by the State Orchestra of Victoria. Melbourne Town Hall. September 22, 8pm.

## Multicultural Entertainment Anyone?

There is an increasing number of international performers of non-English speaking background touring Australia annually. EASE is happy to try negotiating with promoters for tickets to shows by such artists. Please let Lisa know of any prospective tours you believe we should know about, on 699 8497.

## Kibbitzing with Peter & the Wolf

Spawned in the unique setting of the Israeli kibbutz, the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company has drawn its members from around the globe and is adored for its vitality and exquisite technique. This 40 member company has a reputation for being the most cohesive ensemble in the world of modern dance.

The company will present three separate programs of its finest recent works including: *Wing'd Dream*, *Real Time*, *Down North*, *Read My Hips* or *Midnight*, and *Speed Me Down... Slow Me Up*. Venue: State Theatre, Victorian Arts Centre.

The Kibbutz's acclaimed family program, **Kibbutz for Kids**, features the two great classical compositions for young people, Saint-Saen's *Carnival of the Animals* and Prokofiev's *Peter & the Wolf*. Venue: The Playhouse, Victorian Arts Centre.

For dates see the *EASE Ticket Update*.

## Audio Description Dates

Subscribers wishing to book Audio Description dates are advised to book well in advance. All bookings for Audio Description performances are made through EASE 699 8497.

#### Shadowlands

Wed, Oct 13, 1pm  
Sat, Oct 16, 4pm  
Thurs, Oct 21, 8pm  
The Playhouse, Victorian Arts Centre

#### I'm Not Rappaport

Sat, Nov 20, 4pm  
Wed, Nov 24, 1pm  
Thurs, Dec 2, 8pm  
The Playhouse, Victorian Arts Centre

## Sign Interpreted Performances

#### Blabbermouth

Wed, Oct 6th, 10am  
Fri, Oct 8th, 6.30pm  
Melbourne Theatre Company,  
Russell Street Theatre