

Venue Notes *continued*

The Box Office counter is very high.
Box Office Hours: Monday - Friday :
9.00am - 5.00pm
Saturday : 12.00pm - 9.00pm
Performance days: 9.00am - 9.00pm
Phone reservations can be made for all
shows at the Malthouse.
Phone bookings on Visa, Mastercard
and Bankcard.
Playbox performances run Monday to
Saturday.

Entrance: The entrance to the the
Malthouse is via a paved courtyard
running down the left side of the building
from the front entrance in Sturt Street
through to Dodds Street. The main
entrance doors are halfway along. Doors
open outwards but, weather permitting
are generally left open. There are no steps
and accessibility to and into the building
is excellent.

Toilets:

The Mens and Womens Toilets are on the
ground floor in the Foyer opposite the
bar.

Accessible Toilet:

Located on the ground floor in the foyer.
The door to the accessible toilet opens
outwards, making it awkward to get in
but easy to get out. There is not much
room to manoeuvre. Fittings and fixtures
are appropriate.

Foyer: The ground floor foyer is
spacious, pleasant and uncluttered and
runs almost the full length of the
building. The floors are slate tiles and
carpet and mobility is good. A restaurant
is planned on the ground level at the Sturt
Street end of the building.

A large bar along one wall in the centre of
the foyer is at a reasonable height for
wheelchair users. The bar serves alcohol,
tea & coffee, chocolates & cake. The bar
is open one and a half hours before each
performance and for at least half an hour
after the last performance. Closing time
depends on demand. The Malthouse is a
non-smoking building. The foyers
continue on Levels 1 and 2 with access to
the Merlyn Theatre from all levels. The
first floor foyer has an exhibition area.
Access to levels 1 and 2 by stairs only.

The Theatres

Seating in both Theatres is General
Admission. A specific seat is not
allocated when you book or purchase a
ticket. The doors to the Theatres open
15 minutes before the show and it is
advisable to arrive at least half an hour
before the starting time. If you have
special seating requirements it is best to
get there early and let the Box Office or
Front of House staff know your
requirements. The staff are extremely
helpful.

VOLUNTEERS

Hilary Ash
Barbara Kitchen
Sue O'Dwyer

EASE STAFF

Julie-Ann Willems - Project Officer
Barbara Milne - Administrative Assistant

1. The Merlyn Theatre

The larger Theatre, The Merlyn is a
500 seat, 3 level, flexible Shakespearean
theatre suitable for drama, dance, circus,
music, puppetry and other arts. It can be
modified to theatre-in-the-round,
traverse or endstaging.

Main entrance is from the ground floor to
the right of the staircase. This is the
accessible entrance and is slightly
ramped leading into the Theatre. The
seating on this level is for approximately
400 and is raked seating. There is always
accessible seating available at the front.
It is possible for wheelchair users to
transfer or stay in wheelchairs. Balcony
seating available on levels 1 and 2 but
access is by stairs only.

2. The Beckett Theatre

A 200 seat theatre suitable for new and
innovative work.

Main entrance is from the ground floor to
the right of the Box Office.

The floor is level from the foyer into the
Theatre. The seating is raked but
accessible seating is available at the
front. There is one balcony level and
access is via a staircase inside the
Theatre.

Public Phone: There is a payphone in
the foyer on the ground floor
to the left of the main doors. It is too high
for wheelchair users.

EASE SUB-COMMITTEE

Betty Rankin
Mary Longman
Noel Spurr
Jan Reuker

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ARTS ACCESS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Ease

EASE Newsletter - Arts Access Society Inc.



ARTS
Access

October 1990

Playbox - a new decade in a new home... The CUB Malthouse

In 1984 the Company's former home at
the Playbox Theatre, Exhibition Street,
Melbourne was destroyed by fire and
years of innovative theatre went up in
smoke. After an extensive search for a
new home, Playbox located an excellent
site - the old Barrett Bros. & Burston
Malthouse in South Melbourne. The
Malthouse had originally been built for
the Castlemaine Breweries in 1892.

Located in the heart of the South Bank
development area "Arts City" and close to
the Arts Centre, it is no wonder Playbox
fell in love with the building and
immediately contacted the owners,
Carlton & United Breweries, with a view
to acquiring the site.

In May 1986, in an extraordinary gesture
of creative, corporate philanthropy, CUB
donated the entire Malthouse site to
Playbox.

Theatre designer John Beckett, came up
with the designs to convert the disused
maltings building into a Theatre Centre.
"In terms of the audience areas, the
Malthouse is a beautiful old building that
is rich in colour, texture and atmosphere"
says Jill Smith. "It is exciting and it has a
totally different feel to any other theatre
in Melbourne. It is a terrific example of
the conversion of an old industrial
building. The detail that has gone into
that in terms of preserving the best
features of the building is quite
extraordinary."

So it is with a great deal of excitement
that Playbox opens its 1990 season: a
new decade and a new home in which to
perform its innovative theatre.

Venue Notes

CUB Malthouse

113 Sturt Street
SOUTH MELBOURNE 3205
Phone: 685 5111

Public Transport: Trams 1,2 & 4 -
Swanston Street to South Melbourne
beach. Tram Stop is at the corner of Grant
Street & Sturt Street. The Malthouse is
opposite the Tram stop next door to Arts
Access. *SF 790 19605
EA 7*



CUB Malthouse Foyers.
The original Malthouse built in 1892 has been beautifully converted into an exciting new Theatre
Centre, incorporating the best features of the old building with modern theatre technology.
Photography by David Simmonds

Parking: Two disabled parking bays on
Sturt Street at entrance to Malthouse;
parking on Sturt Street and Dodds Street;
and several company carparks not used
at night.

Demand Response Bus: This service
is specifically for wheelchair users and
people who can't manage trams or light
rail. The bus accommodates 3 wheelchairs
and 5 passengers. This service operates
in the St. Kilda, Port Melbourne corridor
and includes Flinders St. station.

Hours of operation: 7.00am - 9.45pm
Monday to Friday
Bookings: Ph: 0080 12061
After Hours: Ph: 0080 13920. A Maxi
Taxi will be arranged and charged to the
Met. The passenger must have a rail or
other travel ticket to use this service.
Bookings: Phone 685 5111 or BASS.
EASE has discounted tickets to all
Playbox performances.
Box Office: Located inside the main
entrance doors in the foyer to the left.

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EASE Tickets for October and November include:

- A Stretch of The Imagination
- Away
- Max
- Capricornia
- Esterhaz
- Dynamite

- The House of Blue Leaves
- Modest Expectations
- A Moon for the Misbegotten
- Hoyts Film Tickets
- Circus Oz Tent Season
- Midnight Oil

- The Last Laugh Theatre Restaurant
- Melbourne Symphony Orchestra
- Melbourne Musicians
- Australian Pops Orchestra

Melbourne Theatre Company... Now Playing...

Playhouse–Capricornia

"From start to finish it is magnificent—a powerful, beautiful, compelling work of theatre" Sydney Morning Herald. This highly acclaimed epic drama focuses on Norman Shillingsworth, a half-caste aboriginal raised and educated in Melbourne. Norman believes he is the son of a Javanese Princess and Australian War Hero. It is not until he moves to his Uncle's station at the Top End that he discovers his true identity. Capricornia exposes the blatant racism that is very much a way of life in past and contemporary Northern Australia. For more details phone the EASE Office or refer to the Entertainment Update dated 29th August 1990.

Max–by Patricia Cornelius

Max is a thoughtful and moving play about the special relationship between a mother and her 40 year old intellectually disabled son. Max and his mother have worked on the corner of Flinders Street Station selling papers for years. He has lived with his mother always, apart from a time when she lost him to an institution. But Max is spreading his wings and forming other relationships. The play covers a day on the street and within that day a lifetime of memories and struggle. To quote Patricia Cornelius: " Having worked with intellectually disabled people I appreciate how critical the notion of independent living is. This play addresses the very poor options presented to those responsible for the care of the intellectually disabled in particular the issues that are confronted when adulthood is reached." Venue: Theatreworks– 14 Acland Street, St. Kilda. Dates: Tuesday 9th October – Saturday, 3rd November Times: Monday to Saturday – 8.30pm Cost: \$10.00

Give Me A Break!

From Simon Palomares (Wogs Out of Work and Acropolis Now) comes the new original stage show, Give Me A Break! Give Me A Break! is a one man cabaret style show. Simon Palomares brings to life a dozen topical, heart-rending and hilarious characters – from the paper seller in the electric wheelchair, to the late night hot dog vendor turned new age guru and the gay guy doing his Christmas shopping in July, just in case. If you feel like a good laugh, you'll love Give Me A Break! Venue: Universal Theatre Dates: From October 3rd Times: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at 8.00pm Cost: \$17.00 Please note The Universal Theatre is difficult to access.

During August/September EASE distributed tickets to:

Hoyts*Basketball*Opera*Crystal Clear*The Last Laugh*Les Miserables* Melbourne Theatre Co.*Catholic Schoolgirls*Sandy Beach Concerts*Melbourne Symphony Orchestra*Rumors*Playbox Theatre Co.*Celebration of the Irish* Melbourne Musicians*Lend Me A Tenor*Melbourne International Festival* My Army*The Royal Show*The Australian Boys Choir*Foster & Allen*Peter Ustinov*Danceworks.

Russell Street–A Stretch of the Imagination

Highly original and unmistakably Australian, A Stretch of the Imagination, is another extraordinary play in the long list of Jack Hibberd's creations, which include Dimboola, The Les Darcy Show and A Toast to Melba. In this unusual one-man tour-de-force, Max Gillies plays Monk O'Neill – a down-to-earth literary philosopher and recluse waiting for death in the wasteland of Australia. Through his ramblings, we are taken on a rocky, funny and, at times, bizarre journey through Monk's memories and imagination.

Away–by Michael Gow

"Unquestionably one of the best Australian plays" "A fine warm hearted and uplifting play – go and see it" Len Radic, The Age. Christmas 1967, and the unique rituals of the great Australian Summer holiday begin. Three families set out on their separate ways but are driven together by a storm which changes their lives forever. Exploring the themes of growth and reconciliation, AWAY is an exceptional blend of riotous observations of Australians at play, warm humanity and subtle insight, all exquisitely woven into a Shakespearean tale. Venue: Merlyn Theatre – Malthouse Dates: From October 5th Times: Monday – 6.30pm Tues. – Thurs. – 8.15pm Friday – 8.30pm Saturday – 5.15pm & 8.30pm Matinee – 1.00pm Oct. 17th Cost: \$11.00 & \$13.00

Circus Oz – Tent Season

Circus Oz is like no other circus you've ever seen ! An all-human, physical skills based artform which draws inspiration from sources as varied as traditional circus and vaudeville to contemporary cabaret and comedy, rock 'n' roll, Aboriginal music and design, Chinese acrobatics and B-grade detective movies. Circus Oz represents our unique Australian culture in a way which entertains and transcends language and generation barriers. It is quite simply fresh, dynamic popular entertainment for everyone. Venue: The Big Top – Cnr. Punt Road & Swan Sts. Richmond. Dates: Friday 2nd November – Saturday 24th November Times: 8.00pm Cost: \$10.00

EASE– Entertainment Access Service– 699 8497 Making entertainment accessible for everyone!

The Telephone Advice Service and Ticket Scheme for people with special needs. EASE is open Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm. Phone 699 8497 or 699 7636 TTY Phone – 6998497.

Our address is 109-111 Sturt Street, South Melbourne. 3205.

If you want to know what's on in theatre, concerts, sporting events or any other entertainment in or around Melbourne just give us a call.

We also provide information about access to venues in Melbourne over the phone, in the EASE Newsletter and The Melbourne Venue Guide – a publication produced by EASE and ACROD which gives a description of access for people with disabilities to 18 of Melbourne's major entertainment venues.

The Melbourne Venue Guide is available from EASE at Arts Access.

Cost: \$5.00 if you come and purchase a copy from us or \$6.10 if you would like us to mail you a copy.

EASE aims to encourage Promoters and Venue Management to ensure physical access is feasible at all events within the Melbourne metropolitan region.

Victorian Orchestra for the Disabled

Spring Concert – directed by Timothy Smith Programme : Mozart: Overture to "The Marriage of Figaro" Albinoni: Adagio for Strings Schubert: Symphony No. 8 "Unfinished" Beethoven: Symphony No. 6 "Pastoral" Venue: Melba Hall – Melbourne University Conservatorium of Music – Royal Parade, Parkville. Date: Saturday 20th October Time: 8.15pm

FREE EVENTS

Open Mind! – Free

Presented by the Victorian Arts Centre. William Akers, Director of Productions and Lighting Designer of The Australian Ballet talks about "Divine Accidents, Heavenly Venues." Venue: Playhouse Theatre Date: Tuesday 23rd October Time: 11.30am

Free Playreading

1990 Wal Cherry Play of the Year The Victorian Arts Centre, Anthill, Playbox, La Mama and the Melbourne Theatre Company present the reading of the winning play. Venue: George Fairfax Studio Theatre – Victorian Arts Centre Date: Thursday 1st November Time: 3.00pm

Free Family Entertainment:

Magic Sunday Funday – Sunday 21st October Presented by the Victorian Arts Centre featuring Magic, Music, Fun & Entertainment for all the family in and around the Arts Centre. Check the newspaper for more details or ring the EASE Office.

How to Book with EASE

To book tickets with EASE, ring 699 8497 or 699 7636, discuss with Barbara or Julie-Ann what show you would like to see and any special seating requirements.

If EASE does not have discounted tickets to a concert or event and you would like to purchase full price tickets we are happy to assist but still need to place a commission on the ticket.

There are no EXCHANGES or REFUNDS on tickets booked with EASE so please be certain about your requirements before you ask us to make a booking.

Both VISA and BASS have a NO REFUND, NO EXCHANGE Policy. EASE is a service and although we place a small commission on tickets it does not cover our running costs. Uncollected, returned or unused tickets still have to be paid for.

PAYMENT IS NEVER MADE AT THE VENUE.

The price on the ticket is not always relevant. Please make a note of the ticket price at the time of booking or phone us before sending in your payment.

Tickets can be collected from the EASE Office, be posted to you, or left at the Box Office. Payment can be made at the EASE Office or by posting a cheque or money order made out to Arts Access. EASE will negotiate for tickets to any event at your request!

We will put your name and phone number on a waiting list and if we are successful in obtaining tickets we then contact those people first.

In 1991 the EASE Newsletter will be changing format and coming out more regularly with more news and more information.

We would be interested in your comments or feedback on the Newsletter and the Service.

EASE FUNDING

EASE is now earning funds through its Service Fees, Newsletter Subscriptions, and Ticket commissions, to supplement support from the Federal Department of Disability Services, Victorian Department of Sport and Recreation, the Ministry for the Arts and a generous grant from the Coles/Myer Community Trust.

Padma Menon – Kuchipudi Indian Classical Dance

Padma Menon is a well known exponent of Kuchipudi. Originally performed only by men, it evolved from ancient Sanskrit drama. It is a highly dramatic and spiritual dance form depicting stories from Indian mythology. One night only – Saturday 27th October – For more details call EASE.

Learn to dance!



Wheelchair Dancing



Wheelchairs need not be a barrier to enjoying the fun of dancing. Come and learn how from international wheelchair dancing teacher Corrie Van Hugten. Corrie will be in Melbourne for two days only conducting two workshops with her able-bodied partner, Ondine de Hullu. Corrie developed wheelchair dancing in Holland, where it has become a popular recreational activity and competition event. The dance styles include Ballroom, Rock'n'Roll and Latin American. The Melbourne workshops will be held on: Tuesday, 13th November – 6.30pm to 9.30pm or Wednesday, 14th November – 10.00am to 2.00pm The cost is \$20 per person. For bookings or further information phone Samantha at Arts Access on 699 8299.