

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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State Library Of Victoria
328 Swanston Street
MELBOURNE 3000

If undelivered return to:
Arts Access Society Inc.
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

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EASE Staff:

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Lisa McKoy – EASE Bookings Officer

Volunteers

Bela Greenwald, Roisin Johnson,
John Pidd, Clare Matthews, Anna
Smith, Gaye Walsh, Wayne Sheehan,
and NADRASCA volunteers.

With thanks to Graham Berry of
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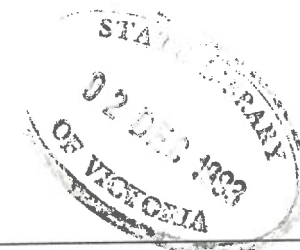
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EASE Newsletter – Arts Access Society Inc.

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Summer, 1993/94



ARTS Access

EASE Managers & Promoters Forum

More than thirty representatives from Melbourne's entertainment industry attended the EASE Venue Managers and Promoters Forum, held at the Arts Access Studio on November 25.

The purpose of the forum was to provide a broader view of the EASE service, to impart important information about the new national Disability Discrimination Act, and to thank the entertainment industry for supporting EASE.

Actor, George Fairfax spoke of the contribution EASE has made to the entertainment industry and about the extraordinary growth of the service, citing \$24,920 worth of Hoyts film vouchers sold from January to September, 1993 and sales of \$15,149 for *Phantom of the Opera* tickets from January to June. George stressed the financial and ethical value of increasing audience sizes through EASE and encouraged the industry to look at how they could increase their input to these developments.

EASE consumers, Jan Doran and Trevor Chappell gave personal views EASE's valuable role. Having no central vision, but having peripheral vision, Jan's ideal seating point in a venue is within the first few rows. She described some of her dealings with front-of-house staff, having been treated variously with disbelief (Jan does not 'appear' to be legally blind) and how once she was almost 'carried to her seat'.

Trevor Chappell, a youth development officer with the City of Malvern spoke of EASE's contribution to the lives of isolated, at risk, or otherwise socially disadvantaged young people, emphasising the difficulty of raising \$200 or \$60 to attend a rock concert.

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Ruth Cracknell will team up with *Mother and Son* writer Geoffrey Atherden when she stars in *Hotspur*, Atherden's new comedy at the Playhouse in March 1994.

Melbourne Theatre Company 1994 Season

EASE has tickets for all 1994 Melbourne Theatre Company productions at the Playhouse, Victorian Arts Centre and the Russell Street Theatre.

Before the 1994 season gets into full swing you can still catch *Two Weeks With the Queen*, adapted by Mary Morris from the novel by Morris Gleitzman at Russell Street until January 8th, 1994; and *I'm Not Rappaport*, by Herb Gardener and starring Warren Mitchell, at the Playhouse until December 23.

Early attractions in 1994 include: *The Gift of the Gorgon*, by Peter Shaffer, which runs from January 27 to March 12 at Russell Street; *Hotspur* by Geoffrey Atherden, author of the classic ABC television series. *Mother & Son*, runs from March 3 to April 2 at the Playhouse.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the last Newsletter for the year - and what a year it has been!

We would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge some of the great venues and individuals that EASE has been associated with throughout 1993 - so here goes!

* One of the best venues in Melbourne for access for all people with disabilities must be **Scienceworks** in Spotswood. If you haven't been there yet, its well worth a visit during summer.

* Congratulations to **Melbourne Tigers Basketball Team** on their NBL Premiership in 1993, and for leading the way in sport with their great support of EASE over the past three years.

EASE thanks:
* **The Melbourne Theatre Company** for continuing to offer audio-described performances (in conjunction with the Association for the Blind), and sign-interpreted performances at the Playhouse.

* Venues such as **The Melbourne Sports and Entertainment Centre**, **Nova Cinema**, **St Martins** and the **Victorian Arts Centre** for making audio-loops available for people with hearing impairments.

* **The Myer Music Bowl** and the **Tennis Centre** for continuing to allocate seating areas for people with vision impairments.

* **Edgley Ventures**, **Michael Coppel**, the **Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Society**, **Anthill Theatre** and **Playbox Theatre Company** for making available complimentary tickets throughout the year.

* The staff and management of the **Last Laugh**, who through their energy and willingness to assist people with disabilities, have helped to overcome the shortcomings of access to that venue - and for making available a portable ramp.

* Thanks to the Box Office staff at all venues!

* Special thanks to all the EASE volunteers, and particularly to **Roisin Johnson**, who for over a year has helped out with ticket collection from venues.

Finally, have a Merry Christmas, and all the best for 1994!

Dean & Lisa

Summer enchanted evenings

One of the all time great stage musicals, **Rogers and Hammerstein's South Pacific** opens in Melbourne at the State Theatre, Victorian Arts Centre on January 5, 1994. Billed as "a story of love in a world at war" the musical is based on the novel *Stories of the South Pacific* by James A Michener. The film version is one of the most successful film musicals ever. This Gordon Frost Attractions production includes a dynamic cast of over 50. The daughter of Richard Rogers and the son of Oscar Hamerstein were in Australia recently and gave the productions their unequivocal "thumbs up".

SCROOGE The Musical

Keith Michell, arguably Australia's best known theatrical export is starring in **SCROOGE The Musical**, at the Princes Theatre until January 30, 1994.

Michell, world renowned for his Shakespearian roles, his television portrayals of Henry VIII and more recently Captain James Cook, has returned to the Australian stage after eight years absence to play Ebenezer Scrooge.

He is joined by a brilliant cast of local stage luminaries including: Max Gillies as the Ghost of Christmas Present,

SEASONAL FARE

Summer once again brings such popular fare as **A Midsummer Night's Dream**, and **Wind in the Willows** performed in the open at the Botanical Gardens, **Melbourne Summer Music**,

The star international cast includes: American star **Paige O'Hara** as navy nurse, **Nellie Forbush**. O'Hara's voice was used for Belle in the Disney film, *Beauty and the Beast*; French Canadian star, **Andre Jobin** as plantation owner **Emile de Becque**; and US star **Roz Ryan** as **Bloody Mary**. Australian star **Phillip Gould**, who plays **Lieutenant Cable**, has returned from England where he appeared in *Show Boat* and *42nd Street*.

The **South Pacific** creative team was also responsible for the hit 1992 Gordon Frost production of *The King and I*, which opens on Broadway in 1994.

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William Zappa as **Jacob Marley**, and **Tony Taylor** as **Bob Cratchit**. *Phantom of the Opera* cast members, **Dale Burridge** and **Maree Johnson** play the young **Scrooge** and **Isabelle**.

Based on Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*, this production is by **Leslie Briccuse** who adapted the story for the screen in 1970. Bricusse contributed music to shows such as *Stop the World I Want to Get Off* and *Mr Chips* and wrote songs for movies such as *Doctor Doolittle*, *Home Alone* and *Hook*.

EASE Bookings phone 699 8497

and the **Australian Open Tennis**. Check the monthly *EASE Ticket Update* for details of prices, dates and performance times

is one of **Fiona's** boarders. She wants him out, but **Freddy** has a plan.

Later in the year comes **Cosi**, by **Louis Nowra** which continues the exploits of **Lewis**, a character from Nowra's previous acclaimed play, *Summer of the Aliens*. **Lewis** takes a job directing a play in a psychiatric hospital. **Lewis** would like to stage a **Brecht** play, but the cast of patients insist on performing **Mozart's** opera, *Così fan tutte*, even though none can sing or speak Italian.

Look out for the **Così** painting by artist, **Jane Trengove** in the MTC program. **Jane** is a member of the EASE Sub-Committee and is currently working with the Resource Unit at Arts Access.

See the *EASE Ticket Update* for details



Playbox 1994 season writers from left, Hannie Rayson, Michael Gurr, David Williamson, Ariette Taylor, Michael Gow, Luke Devenish, Tobsha Lerner, and Barry Dickins.

Playbox Theatre Company 1994 Season

EASE has tickets for all Playbox productions during its 1994 season at the CUB Malthouse.

Once again the Playbox presents a star studded lineup of great Australian writers, players and playmakers, with the added dimension of US comedian **Steve Martin's** first play, **Picasso At the Lapin Agile**, which Playbox workshopped with the author earlier this year.

The season opens in March with a Sydney Theatre Company Production of **Michael Gow's** new play, **Furious**, directed by the author. **Roland** is summoned to an aged care home to collect a box left for him by someone he has never met. The box is filled with newspaper clippings about him and his writing career. he has to find out why. **Furious** opens on March 11, and stars **Nicholas Eadie**, **Tamblyn Lord** and **Kerry Walker**.

EASE Forum

From page 1

Catherine Brown, the director of legal and public relations at the Wesley Central Mission spoke on the Disability Discrimination Act, explaining the complaint process, the need for action plans for venues in case of a ruling of discrimination, and explained

Disturbing the Dust, by **Ariette Taylor** and **Luke Devenish**, was commissioned for the 1994 Adelaide Festival and features music by **David Chesworth**. The play concerns **Alice**, a former dancer whose past has become her life. She wants no part of the future and all her memories are of illusions. The part of **Alice** was created for **Patricia Kennedy**, one of Australia's most distinguished actors. **Disturbing the Dust** opens on March 15.

Other plays in the season are: **David Williamson's** new play, **Sanctuary**, to be directed by **Aubrey Mellor**, Playbox's new Artistic Director. **Underwear**, **Perfume & Crash Helmet**, by **Michael Gurr**, author of the hit, *Sex Diary of an Infidel* was commissioned by Playbox. **Falling From Grace**, by **Hannie Rayson**; **Remember Ronald Ryan**, by **Barry Dickins**; and **The Glass Mermaid** by **Tobsha Lerner**.

More news of the new Playbox season in our Autumn newsletter .

'unjustifiable hardship' as a form of defence. **Catherine** also explained how the Disability Commission is considering setting its own standards, which will be stricter than the current Australian Standards used to guide new and modified buildings.

EASE Christmas & New Year Closure

EASE will close on Thursday, December 23 (last bookings on Wednesday December 22). EASE reopens for business on Monday January 3, 1994.

Ballet Centre Car Park

Here's a slightly cheaper alternative to the Arts Centre car park. The Ballet Centre is in Kavanagh Street just behind the Arts Centre. It has one car space reserved for the use of disabled drivers, on the ground level, next to the cashiers desk, which is near the lifts. Reserved parking can be arranged in advance. For further information phone 682 5623.

Rates: *Day Rate:* \$6.50 (6.45am - 6.00pm), or first hour \$2, additional hours \$1 each.. *Early Bird Rate:* \$5 (in before 9.30am and out between 4.00pm and 6.00pm). *Night Rate:* \$5, 5.00pm to 12.30am (Mon-Thurs), 5.00pm-1.30am (Fri-Sat),

Companion Service Proposal

Thanks to everyone who responded to our inquiries regarding the proposed companion service. EASE will now conduct a feasibility study, but it will be some time before we can ascertain when, if at all, such a service can be implemented.

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.

Hotspur

The Playhouse, Victorian Arts Centre
Monday, March 21, 6.30pm
Wednesday, March 16, 1.00pm
Thursday, March 24, 8.00pm
Saturday, March 19, 4.00pm

The Grapes of Wrath

The Playhouse, Victorian Arts Centre
Monday, May 23, 6.30pm
Monday, May18, 1.00pm
Thursday, May 26, 8.00pm
Saturday, May 21, 4.00