

Ease-Entertainment Access Service

~ PH: 699 8497 ~

EASE-The Telephone Advice Service and Ticket Scheme for people with special needs.

Phone: 699 8497 or 699 7636

TTY: 699 8497

Address: 109-111 Sturt Street South
Melbourne 3205

Office Hours: EASE is open Monday-Friday 10.00am-4.00pm

Ticketing Information: To find out what's on and how to book call Lisa.

Access Information: We also provide information about access and facilities at venues in and around Melbourne-over the phone, in the Newsletter and via the Melbourne Venue Guide.

How to book with EASE: To book tickets with EASE, phone 699 8497 and discuss with Lisa what show you would like to see and any special requirements.



EASE STAFF

Julie-Ann Willems-Senior Project Officer

Lisa McKoy-Project assistant
Tasneem Allie-Bookkeeper

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EASE FUNDING

EASE is a project of ARTS ACCESS and is funded from a range of funding sources including the Federal Department of Community Services and Health (Disability Services) and the Victorian Department of Sport and Recreation. In addition, income earned through service fees, subscriptions and ticket commissions help support the project.

Once again thanks to Graham Berry of Typographical Services for his support.

ARTS ACCESS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Registered by Australia Post
Publication No. VAW7218

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Ease

EASE Newsletter-Arts Access Society Inc.



ARTS
Access

February 1992

3 Guys Naked From the Waist Down

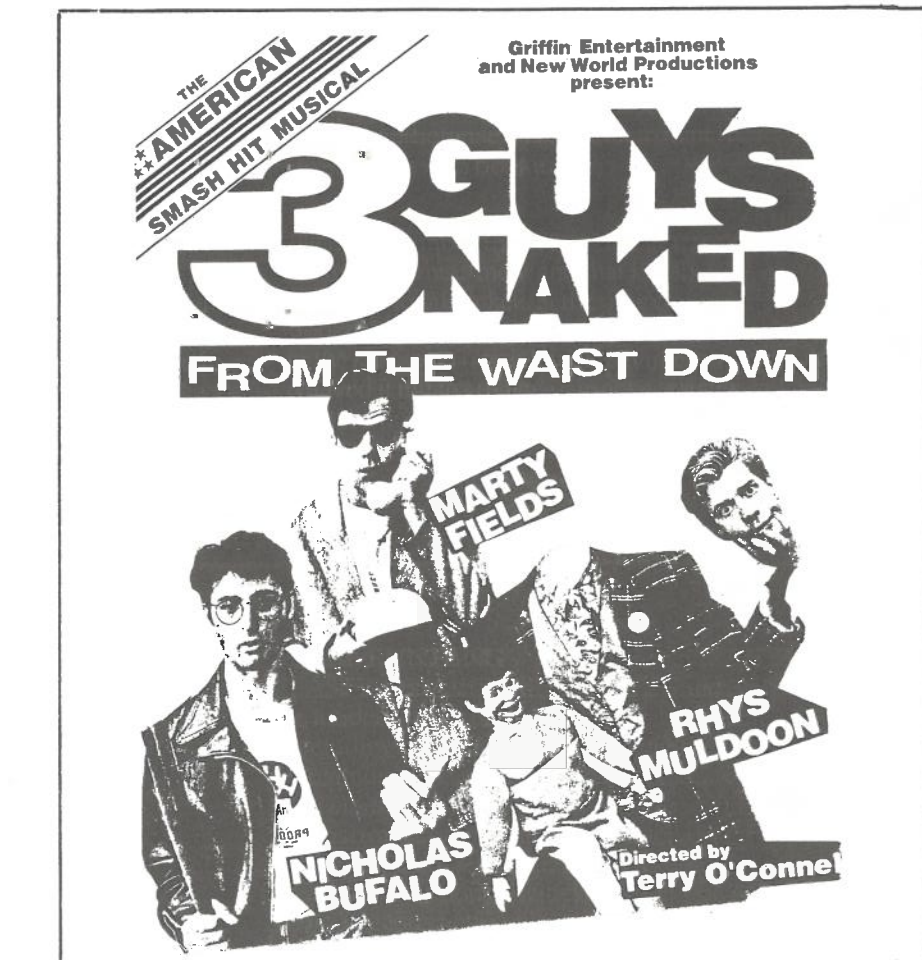
"One of the cleverest and funniest shows in a long time... this could become a cult" - Clive Barnes, New York Post.

The smash hit Off-Broadway musical Three Guys Naked from the Waist Down could easily win the award for the snappiest title for a musical ever! The show follows the outrageous fortunes of three eccentric stand-up comics playing the comedy club circuit in Manhattan.

When Ted, Phil and Kenny continually find themselves playing the same clubs on the same nights, they discover they share a similar sense of humour. When they decide to form a comedy team, they experience the fulfilment of their wildest dreams and their darkest nightmares. After they score a spot on the Johnny Carson show they become an instant sensation and face a dilemma-how do 1980's guys avoid selling out as they face the whirl of the 1990's hype-the clubs, movies, television.

Three Guys Naked from the Waist Down is directed by Terry O'Connell, acclaimed director of Circus Oz in Los Angeles and Europe, Steaming at the Comedy Theatre and Bouncers and Torch Song Trilogy at the Universal Theatre.

The Musical Director is Steve Morgan from Icehouse who has recently been Musical Director of the smash-hit Hair. Finding three actors who specialise in comedy routines but can also sing and



dance is not the easiest of tasks. Three of Melbourne's brightest new talents have been found to fit the bill. They are Nicholas Buffalo (D-Generation, A Country Practice), Marty Fields (comedy

album with father Maurie Fields, Starting Out, The Flying Doctors) and Rhys Muldoon (Torch Song, Acropolis Now, Chances and scripts for the Comedy Company).

The Melbourne Venue Guide-2nd Edition

The first edition of the Melbourne Venue Guide was launched in June 1990 and received overwhelming support from people with disabilities, their friends, families and support workers who found it provided essential information to ensure that they were well aware of what to expect at their entertainment destinations in Melbourne.

Demand for more information about more venues grew and assessments carried out by Arts Access and the Victorian Division of ACROD (VICROD) during 1990 and 1991 have now been compiled into the second edition of the Melbourne Venue Guide.

The Guide which was funded by Community Services Victoria and the Sunshine Foundation, provides a description of access to seventeen venues in and around Melbourne from the perspective of people with physical and sensory disabilities.

It includes information on facilities such as special parking, accessible toilets, seating, telephones, aids for people with hearing impairment and audio description for people with visual impairments, as well as detailed information on booking arrangements.

The Guide will be launched on Thursday 20th February 1992 by Kay Setches, the Minister for Community Services, at the George Fairfax Studio foyer, Victorian Arts Centre.

Copies of the Guide will be available from:

ARTS ACCESS-109-111 Sturt Street South Melbourne 3205 OR

VICROD-7 Mair Street Brighton Beach 3188

Cost: \$9.95

\$5.00 EASE & VICROD members

AF 790-19605
EA7

**19 Victoria Street
Fitzroy 3065.**
PH: 416 3311 (Administration)
**The Universal is currently run by
New World Productions. The
Directors are Terry O'Connell and
Mark Ford.**

Public Transport:
Trams: From Collins Street down
Brunswick Street to the corner of
Brunswick and Johnston Streets. Trams
from Bourke Street down Nicholson
Street to the corner of Johnston and
Nicholson Streets.
Buses: From Russell Street down
Johnston Street to the corner of Johnston
and Brunswick Streets.

Parking:
General: Some street parking in Victoria
Street and around nearby streets. It is a
residential area and parking in residential
spaces will incur parking fines. There is a
carpark located across the road from the
Universal. The charge is a flat \$3.00 per
night. The car park is locked during the
show for security and unlocked after the
show. Universal staff have the keys
should you need to get out sooner.
Accessible: There are (2) accessible
parking spaces in Victoria Street on the
right past the entrance to the Universal
Theatre.

Entrance:
The Universal has two theatres and a bar
located on the first floor at 19 Victoria
Street, Fitzroy. There is a large sign on the
front of the building which makes it easy
to locate. The entrance doors are at street
level. There are two sets of double doors
which are generally open. Just inside
there is another two sets of double doors
up an 8" step. These doors pull open.
The handles are low but the doors are
quite heavy and are often closed. The
entrance floor is tiled. There is a wide
staircase leading up to the theatres.
There are 13 steps, a landing, then 13
more steps. The steps are carpeted and
there are steel handrails on either side of
the stairs and two sets in the middle.

Bookings:
The Universal Theatre has its own
ticketing system but most shows at the
Universal are also on sale at BASS.

Phone Bookings: PH: 419 3777
Credit Card Bookings: Mastercard,
Visa and Bankcard are accepted.
There is a \$3.00 handling fee per show,
not per ticket.

New World Productions

It's just over a year since New World Productions took control of Melbourne's legendary Universal Theatre.
During 1992 the Universal will present another eclectic mix – the hottest Off Broadway musical hits, high energy children's theatre, contemporary Australian drama and the best of local and international comedy.
The Universal with its revamped bar and foyer and its proximity to Brunswick Street's restaurant strip, will again become a major focus point for Melbourne's festivals– MIDSUMMA, MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL, NEXT WAVE and the 10TH ANNUAL MELBOURNE FRINGE ARTS FESTIVAL.

Box Office Hours: The Box Office is
open Monday to Friday 10.00am until the
last show has commenced. Weekend
hours are generally 2.00pm until the last
show has commenced.

Theatre Box Office:
Turn left at the top of the stairs and you
will see the Box Office.
The Box Office is quite small with a one
person window and counter. The counter
is high but accessible.

Foyer:
All facilities are off the foyer and are
signposted with neon signs. The foyer is
spacious with bench seating on either
side and in the middle. The floor is
carpeted. Smoking is allowed in the
foyer.
Foyer Entertainment:
During the Comedy Festival free late-
night entertainment is provided in the
foyer and the bar remains open until late.
Bar:
The Bar runs the length of the far end of
the foyer (opposite the stairs). The Bar is
quite high, but not deep and reasonably
accessible.
It is a licensed bar and also sells tea and
coffee and confectionery, ice-creams etc.
The Theatres

Universal One (U1)
The entrance to this theatre is off the
main foyer area. Turn left at the top of the
stairs past the Box Office. The doors to
the theatre are staffed and open prior to
performances. Seating is general
admission and doors generally open 15
minutes prior to the commencement of
the performance. There are 8 steps (with
rails) up into the theatre. The seating is
raked with the majority of the seating
down one step per row (deep steps) to the
stage with three rows up one step per row
to the back of the auditorium. The
seating arrangement is a semi-circle with
the majority of seats facing the stage and
some seating on either side. There are
four aisles. There is one row of seating
immediately inside the entrance at the
top of the stairs on the walkway
separating the lower section from the
upper section with a 6" – 8" rise.

Accessible seating:
Wheelchairs can be located on the far
side on the side or just inside the entrance
near the Bio Box. Wheelchair transfer is
possible to the row of seats on the
walkway.

Universal 2 (U2)
The entrance to this theatre is just past
the Box Office. Seating is general
admission. Half of the seating is on the
flat, the remainder raked with one step
up per row. There is an aisle on the right
side of the theatre as you face the stage.
Accessible seating:
Wheelchairs can be accommodated in
the front row or on the right hand side of
the theatre. Transfer is possible to aisle
seats or front row seats on the flat. Before
you get to the theatre you need to come
up the 26 steps from the street. Staff will
assist but it is advisable to attend with a
couple of people who can help you in. It
would be almost impossible to get an
electric wheelchair into the theatre.

Facilities:
For Visually Impaired People:
No specific facilities. However, seating is
general admission and we would
recommend that you arrive early and
request seating as close to the front as
possible or better still, phone in advance
and seats can be reserved.
For Hearing Impaired People:
As for Visually impaired people. No
Audio Loop.

Toilets:
The toilets are located at the far end of the
foyer off to the left of the bar. There is one
6" step down from the foyer into the
corridor leading to the toilets.
The Women's toilets are the first door
on the left. The door pushes in and is
quite heavy. There are two basins on the
right immediately inside the door.
Mirrors, hand dryer, taps etc are
accessible but the area is very small.
There are 3 narrow cubicles with inward
opening doors.
The Men's toilets are to the right off the
corridor and are a similar layout.
Accessible Toilets:
There are no accessible toilets.
Telephone:
There is a gold phone located at the top of
the stairs against the wall. It is accessible.

NOTES:
The Management and staff of the
Universal are keen to improve access to
the Theatre and subject to a funding
plan, to install a stair climber and other
facilities.
If you plan to attend shows at the
Universal and need special seating or
assistance to get into the theatre it is
advisable to call the theatre in advance
and let them know your requirements.
The staff are very
helpful.

Battlefield Band — Wednesday 20th March 1992 at 8.00pm

Battlefield Band, the group that defines Highland Soul Music by combining a love of Scotland's rich musical heritage with the very best of new technology, will perform for one night only at the Melbourne Concert Hall.

Voted the "Best Live Group" in Britain by
'Folkroots' magazine, Battlefield Band
play a mixture of traditional and rock
instruments – combining the Highland
bagpipes, fiddle, tin whistle, cittern,
concertina, mandolin, flute, hurdy
gurdy, accordion, bouzouki and guitar
with synthesiser, keyboards, drum
computer and saxophone. Their music
ranges from ancient traditional airs to
modern protest songs, and all of it, even
their tongue-in-cheek rock medley, has a
unique Scottish flavour.

The Battlefield Band is four musicians –
Iain Mac Donald (Highland Pipes/Flute/
Whistle), Alain Reid (Keyboards/Guitar/
Vocals), Alastair Russell (Guitar/
Cittern/Vocals) and the most recent
member John McCusker (Fiddle/
Whistle/Accordion/Keyboards/Cittern).
John McCusker, who has joined
Battlefield Band since their last visit to
Australia, is described as a teenage
prodigy whose slight build, spiky hair
and classical bowing technique gives
him a striking resemblance to Nigel
Kennedy. Musically he is highly

accomplished on all instruments and his
exceptional musical compositions show
a great maturity which makes one forget
he is 18 years old.
“*this was the sound of Scotland, the
mountains, the lochs, the myths and
legends, the industrial past, all spiced with
a touch of Gaelic and a jug of whiskey. .*”
Battlefield Band create a music of rare
passion, energy, joy and inventiveness
through a vibrant eclectic mix of diverse
instrumentation and original
presentation – audiences are captivated
by their unique sound.

Evelyn Glennie — Sunday 9th March 1992 — Melbourne Concert Hall

The acclaimed Scottish percussionist
has brought percussion from the back
row of the orchestra to the forefront of
concert platforms around the world. Her
impeccable technique is matched by all
the passion and dynamic energy that
define the true virtuoso.
Miss Glennie has been unanimously
hailed by the international press as an

exceptional talent: "the young and by
any standards brilliant percussionist,
Evelyn Glennie . . . displayed admirably
her astonishing capabilities" – The
Times.
Also astounding is the fact that Miss
Glennie is profoundly deaf. After
gradually losing her hearing as a child,
Miss Glennie's subsequent success is the

direct result of a powerful personality
trying to reach the musical sky through
near super-human efforts.
Evelyn Glennie insists however that her
physical disability must not be used to
influence her audiences. She wants to be
judged by the quality of her
performances alone.
**Evelyn Glennie is a remarkable
performer – by any standards.**

Take a trip down memory lane to . . . The Good Old Days

Starring – in person – on his farewell tour – Alan Jones.
His Hollywood films included Rose-Marie, Showboat, A
Night at the Opera and The Firefly with Jeanette MacDonald
in which he introduced the immortal Donkey Serenade.
With **Roy Waterson** – 'Just singing the old songs and your
requests'

Margaret Nisbett – Melbourne's favourite soprano
Michael "Banjo" Young – Instrumental Virtuoso
David Johnson at the famous Town Hall Organ
Venue: Melbourne Town Hall
Date: Tuesday 3rd March
Time: 11.00am

The Australian Pops Orchestra — Friday 28th February at 8.00pm A Night At the Opera Melbourne Concert Hall

A gala evening of popular operatic
favourites from the 85 piece Australian
Pops Orchestra and special guests –
Jennifer McGregor, Roger Lemke, David
Hobson and the Melbourne Chorale
Continuing Choir.

Featuring the best arias from La Boheme,
La Traviata, Rigoletta, The Pearl Fishers,
Aida, Tannhauser, Turandot and
Carmen.
Conducted by Nicholas Braithwaite.

Free Concerts Melbourne Concert Hall at 1.10pm

Wednesday 4th March friends and relations

What started as a friendly singalong
between two groups of sisters has grown
into a professional outfit featuring
mesmerising harmonies and specialising
in traditional and original Gaelic folk
music.

presented as part of the International
Women's Day programme.

Tuesday 14th April

Denise Scott Lynda Gibson Judith Lucy

DENISE SCOTT (the Midday Show, The
Today Show) is hailed as "one of
Australia's funniest ladies" (A Current
Affair). She is joined by LYNDA
GIBSON (renowned as 'Matron
Conniving Bitch' in Let the Blood Run
Free) and the deliciously ironic JUDITH
LUCY for a programme of hilarious
stand-up.

