

## Venue Notes

### The Palais Theatre

Lower Esplanade

St. Kilda 3182

Phone: 534 0651

Manager: Caroline Harper

**Public Transport:** Trams 15 & 69 - St Kilda Road/Fitzroy Street/Esplanade Light Rail - East Brunswick to Acland Street

**Parking:** Two disabled parking bays in front of the Theatre. This is an off-street parking area accessed from Cavell Street off either the Esplanade or Jacka Blvd. Access to the footpath from the roadway is via openings in the kerb on the corner of Cavell St., or outside The Palace. There is also limited off-street parking directly opposite the Theatre. In addition there is a large car park at the rear of the Theatre accessed off Jacka Blvd. There is also parking available in the streets around the Theatre but beware of residential parking areas as the Parking Officers are very active.

**Bookings:** Phone 534 0658 - Credit Card Bookings or BASS.

Tickets can be purchased from the Theatre in advance or prior to the performance

**Box Office:** Located inside the Foyer on the right hand side.

The Box Office counter is at a reasonable height for wheelchair users.

Box Office Hours: Monday - Friday : 9.00am - 5.30pm; Saturday: 9.00am - 1.00pm. Performance days Box Office remains open till end of performance.

**Entrance:** The front of the Theatre faces the Esplanade and entry into the Theatre is level with the footpath. There are no stairs into the Foyer and Box Office areas. Doors open outwards and there are no handles, but doors are always open.

**Foyers:** The Stalls Foyer on the ground floor is spacious and the floor coverings are marble and carpeted and non-slip. There is a wide staircase on either side of the foyer, with side and centre rails, leading to the Lounge Foyer. The Lounge (so named because the first 12 rows of the 2nd Level really are lounge chairs in rows!) seating level is directly off this foyer. The Dress Circle (the back rows of the 2nd Level) is reached by stairs off either side of the Lounge Foyer.

There are two candy bars on the left side of the Stalls Foyer. The licensed bar is in the Lounge Foyer. At present there is no licence for the stalls Foyer but the management is looking at changing this in the near future.

**Toilets:** The male toilets are located on the right side of the Stalls Foyer and the female toilets on the left side. There are also male and female toilets off the Lounge Foyer. The toilets in the Stalls Foyer are accessed by several stairs down. There are no disabled toilets.

**Telephone:** The public phone is located in the Lounge Foyer upstairs, but the Box Office staff will call a Taxi or provide access to a phone if necessary.

**The Theatre:** The stalls has a capacity of 1194. There are 3 sets of entrance doors into the Theatre and 2 fire escape doors at the rear on either side. The floor of the auditorium is quite steeply raked, with only the first two rows on the flat and the back row significantly higher. This means that wherever you sit you have an excellent and unobstructed view of the stage. There are two centre aisles and aisles down either side. The wheelchairs are placed in the side aisles and there is room for approximately 10 wheelchairs. The viewing is excellent but being positioned on a ramp all evening may cause some discomfort. Staff are most happy to seat patrons requiring assistance.

The Lounge/Dress Circle has a capacity of 1400.

There is no air-conditioning in the Theatre. Heating is via individual foot-warmers in front of every seat which I am told work exceptionally well! There are no facilities for the visually or hearing impaired.

The Palais is a grand old Theatre with great style and atmosphere with its spaciousness, grandiose pillars, staircases, chandeliers and decor. When you enter the foyer you enter another world.

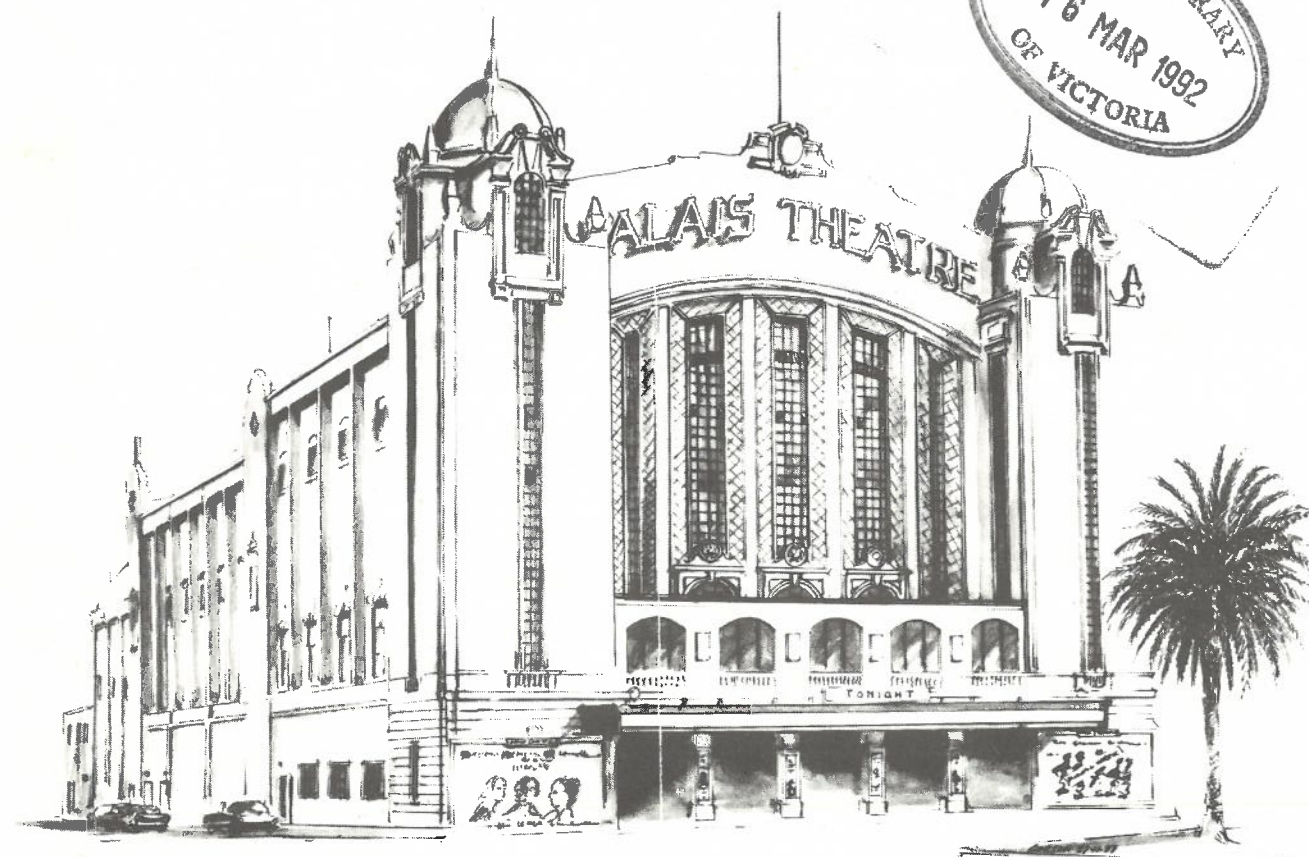
# Ease

EASE Newsletter - Arts Access Society Inc.

ARTS  
Access

December 1990

## The Palais Theatre... A Grand Old Theatre



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

### ARTS ACCESS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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### The Palais Theatre

For many years prior to the turn of the century and up until 1913 the site of the Palais Theatre was always used for some form of entertainment.

In 1913 the original partners decided to erect a Dance Palais which continued in operation until 1915. It was then converted into a picture theatre "a quieter form of amusement", until the war was over. Little alteration was made to the auditorium, which seated approximately 2,000 people, but an extensive and elaborate proscenium was built.

After the war it was decided to rebuild the theatre and enlarge it. It opened in 1920. In 1926, during remodelling of the facade, the building caught fire and was quickly burned to the ground.

The owners at the time rebuilt a colossal theatre, seating 3,000 people. This is the present Palais Theatre as it stands now.

The theatre opened for movies on 11th November 1927 with the film "Seventh Heaven" starring Janet Gaynor and Charles Farrell. The first stage presentation was "Dance of the Hours".

After the opening of the Theatre, world wide interest was aroused, due to the fact that such a unique and elaborate theatre should be situated in a suburb, rather than in the city proper.

The Palais became famous for its stage presentations - presented nightly after the screening of the newsreel, with the Palais Orchestra. Equally famous were the spectacular "Christmas Stage Shows" presented each year.

Before the advent of television in Australia, the theatre was filled to capacity practically every night of the week, and most patrons had permanent bookings, leaving only a few rows for casual patrons.

Since the advent of television it has become the policy of the company to concentrate more on legitimate stage attractions rather than films, and during the last 25 years many artists and companies have performed on the stage including the following:

Bob Hope, Louis Armstrong, Abbott & Costello, Eartha Kitt, Shirley Bassey, Tom Jones, Yehudi Menuhin, The Rolling Stones, Peter Cooke & Dudley Moore, The Bolshoi Ballet, Stuttgart Ballet, London Festival Ballet, The Australian Ballet, The Australian Opera with Joan Sutherland, Bette Midler, Shirley MacLaine and many more.

The capacity of the theatre at the present time is 2,828.

The theatre is privately and independently owned by descendants of the original partners.

Venue Notes on page

SF 790 19605 EA 7



## Summer Entertainment in the Gardens They're back . . . Glenn Elston's unique outdoor shows!

### A Midsummer Night's Dream – Under the Stars

Location: Royal Botanic Gardens  
Dates: From Tuesday 4th December  
Times: Mon – Wed nights – 8.45 pm  
Cost: EASE price – \$17

### Wind in the Willows

Location: Royal Botanic Gardens  
Dates: From Thursday 27th December  
Times: Mon – Wed – 11 am & 6 pm  
Cost: EASE price – \$8 Adults & Children

### Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Location: Werribee Mansion Gardens  
Dates: From Wednesday 12th December  
Times: Wed – Friday 2 & 6 pm, Sat & Sun  
2 & 5 pm  
Cost: EASE price – \$8 Adults & Children

## Melbourne Summer Music

The Victorian Arts Centre presents Melbourne Summer Music – Australia's premier Music festival. Once again the month of January will boast a distinguished programme which has something for all musical tastes featuring some of the greatest Australian and international artists currently performing on the world's concert stages. The Festival commences on Friday 11th January and ends on Saturday 2nd February.

Summer Music's gala opening will be a tribute to the legendary conductor and television producer, Hector Crawford. The State Orchestra of Victoria will be featured on this night of celebration, which will include actors from some of Australia's best loved television programmes. For more information call EASE, pick up a brochure from BASS outlets or refer to the entertainment pages in The Age.

### EASE has tickets available to the following Melbourne Summer Music concerts:

- Hector Crawford – A Celebration
- 'The Old Ducks' & Dick Hughes
- John McCabe Piano Recital
- Rockin' Back the Clock
- Great Orchestral Classics
- The Big 4
- The Music of South America

- Valery Kuleshov
- Tommy Emanuel
- The Music of Africa
- Mozart 200 – Twilight Concerts . Ensemble Concerts . Orchestral Concerts
- Requiem – A festival commemorating the 200th anniversary of the great composer's death.

## FREE EVENTS

### 1. Sidney Myer Music Bowl

- Saturday 26th January 1991 – Victoria State Opera – 6.30pm
- Saturday 9th February 1991 – Melbourne Symphony Orchestra – 8pm
- Wednesday 13th February 1991 – Melbourne Symphony Orchestra – 8pm
- Saturday 16th February 1991 – Melbourne Symphony Orchestra – 8pm
- Wednesday 20th February 1991 – Melbourne Symphony Orchestra – 8pm

### 2. Victorian Arts Centre

Open Mind – Christmas Concert  
George Fairfax Studio  
Sunday 9th December – 3pm  
Devised by Len Vorster with Margaret Haggart (soprano), Frederick Shade (flute), Jane Robertson (clarinet) and Marinko Opalic (guitar).

## From Midnight Oil to John Farnham with EASE!

On Wednesday 21st November 93 EASE clients went to see Midnight Oil and had a fantastic time! Midnight Oil Enterprises were extremely receptive to our request and allowed us access to tickets to suit the special requirements of our clients i.e. wheelchair seats, aisle seats, not many stairs, close to the front for visually impaired clients etc. Thanks to all at The Midnight Oil Office, especially Arlene

Brooks for her support and constant liaison to ensure all went smoothly. . . and it did! We have also obtained 50 tickets to one of the John Farnham concerts at The National Tennis Centre in December. Thanks to Glen Wheatley of The Wheatley Organisation and Debbie at Premier Artists for their support of EASE. Everyone is really looking forward to the concert!

Thanks also to Camilla Ella and the staff at The National Tennis Centre for their support and assistance.

### During October/November EASE distributed tickets to:

Hoyts \* Max \* Last Laugh \* Dynamite \* Cleo Laine \* Melbourne Symphony Orchestra \* Shirley MacLaine \* Stretch of the Imagination \* Victorian Orchestra for the Disabled \* Away \* Boldly British \* Melbourne Musicians \* signs . . . in transit \* Circus Oz & The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra \* Midnight Oil \* Special Olympics Opening Ceremony \* Don Pasquale \* Circus Oz \* Samson & Dalila \* Don McLean \* Moon for the Misbegotten \* The Life & Death of Sandy Stone \* Australian Pops Orchestra \* Modest Expectations \* House of Blue Leaves \* Peter Combe Xmas Show.

## 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 – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm  
Phone 699 8497 or 699 7636

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.

**TTY 699 8497** – EASE now has a TTY Phone for hearing impaired people so please spread the word and give us a call . . . we need the practice!

**The Melbourne Venue guide** was produced by Arts Access and ACROD and gives a description of access for people with disabilities to 18 of Melbourne's major entertainment venues as well as information about how to make a booking, how to book with BASS, parking etc.

Copies are 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.

**Access information:** We also provide information about access to venues in Melbourne – over the phone, in the EASE newsletter and the Melbourne Venue Guide.

**EASE Xmas Holidays:** The EASE Office will be closed for the Xmas break from Monday 24th December until Wednesday 2nd January. AS there are shows on during this week and early in January please be sure to make your holiday bookings in advance so you don't miss out.

### 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 an event and you would like to purchase full price tickets we are happy to assist but still need to place a commission on the tickets.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There are NO exchanges or refunds on tickets booked with EASE so please be certain about your requirements before you 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 operating costs. Uncollected, unused or returned tickets must be paid for.

**Payment** can be made at the EASE office or by posting a cheque or Money Order made out to Arts Access. **PLEASE NOTE:** 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 EASE for confirmation.  
**PROMPT PAYMENT** for Tickets is appreciated. Tickets should be paid for in advance where possible or within one week of the event.

**Ticket requests:** EASE will negotiate for tickets to any event at your request.

Xmas Greetings: We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of EASE during 1990. Barbara and I extend our warmest wishes to you for the Christmas season and all the very best for the New Year.

### EASE STAFF

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

### VOLUNTEERS

Hilary Ash  
Barbara Kitchen  
Linda Smith  
Rifka Knox  
Isi Plack

### EASE SUB-COMMITTEE

Betty Rankin  
Mary Longman  
Noel Spurr  
Jan Reuker

### EASE FUNDING

EASE is now earning funds through it's 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.

## Learn to Dance!

Come and learn how from Victoria's only qualified wheelchair dancing teacher – Lynette Salmon. Wheelchairs need not be a barrier to enjoying the fun of dancing.

**Dates:** Fourth Saturday of the month. Beginning Saturday 24th November

**Time:** 2.00pm – 4.00pm

**Venue:** Church of Christ Hall – Cnr Allandale and Boronia Rds Boronia

**Cost:** \$2.00

For further information contact Alf Stephens on 881 8333

## EASE Tickets for December, January & February include:

- A Midsummer Night's Dream
- Wind in the Willows
- Alice in Wonderland
- Sesame Street Live
- John Farnham
- Phantom of the Opera
- Melbourne Summer Music
- The Nutcracker
- Sing Christmas

- Hoyts Films
- Happiness
- Peer Gynt
- Messiah – Melbourne Symphony Orchestra
- Selling Eyeballs & The Peg Machine
- Age Carol Concert – Melbourne Chorale
- The Australian Chamber Orchestra
- Melbourne Musicians
- Last Laugh

- The Venetian Twins
- Present Laughter
- On Top of the World
- Another Time
- Christmas Carol
- The Importance of Being Earnest
- Esterhaz
- Australian Pops Orchestra