

# EASE—Entertainment Access Service

Phone: 699 8497—Ticket sales/  
Information  
699 7636—Administration/  
Account Queries

TTY: 699 8497

Address: 109-111 Sturt Street South  
Melbourne 3205.

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

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

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

**Access Information:** We also provide  
information about bookings, access and  
facilities at venues in and around  
Melbourne—over the phone, in the  
Newsletter and via the Melbourne Venue  
Guide—Editions 1 & 2.

**Free or Cheap Tickets:** EASE keeps a  
list of people who are interested in free or  
cheap tickets which are usually available  
at short notice. If you can use this service  
please call Lisa and join our list.



699 8497



**Ticket Requests:** EASE will, where  
possible, negotiate for tickets to any  
event at your request. Your name will be  
placed on a waiting list and EASE staff  
will contact you should we be successful.  
Sometimes we do not receive an  
allocation until a few days before the  
event so if you really want tickets for a  
particular concert and can afford to pay  
full price, it is best to book with BASS or  
the venue. EASE will assist with full price  
tickets only if you have special seating  
requirements.

**Exchange and Refund Policy:** There  
is NO exchange and NO refund on  
tickets booked with EASE so please be  
certain of your requirements and the  
number of tickets before you make a  
booking. Both BASS and VISA have a  
NO REFUND, NO EXCHANGE  
POLICY.

Please remember that a booking is a  
financial commitment and that EASE  
must pay for all tickets at the time of  
booking in order to get you the best seats  
or the seats you need. If your payment is  
delayed it means that we cannot continue  
to make bookings and it puts the service  
in jeopardy for everyone.

**Method of Payment:** Payment can be  
made at the EASE office or by posting a  
cheque or money order made out to  
ARTS ACCESS. Payment is never made  
at the venue as EASE pays for all tickets  
at the time of booking. Prompt payment  
for tickets is essential. Tickets must be  
paid for within two weeks of receiving  
your tickets and invoice. Please enclose  
complete invoice or details with your  
payment otherwise it is difficult to match  
up cheques with bookings.

## EASE Funding

EASE is a project of ARTS ACCESS  
and is funded from a range of sources  
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## EASE STAFF

Julie-Ann Willems—Senior Project  
Officer  
Lisa McKoy—Project Assistant  
Tasneem Allie—Book-keeper

## VOLUNTEERS

John Pidd  
Barbara Kitchen  
Bill Benton

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Ease

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

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ARTS  
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EASE Newsletter—Arts Access Society Inc.

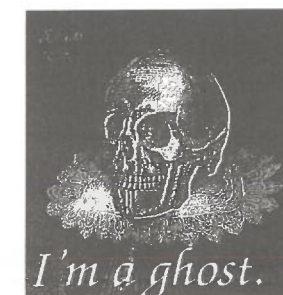
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Sept - Nov 1992



ST JAMES  
INFIRMARY

Lughnasa



I'm a ghost.  
Not a special  
effect.

John Barrymore: Act I

I Hate Hamlet



HIGH  
SOCIETY



Tony Sheldon



Lorrae Desmond



Josephine Byrnes



John McTernan



Helen Morse



Amanda Muggleton



Frank Gallacher

## Melbourne Theatre Company's 1992-93 Season

The MTC's 1992-93 season kicks off with  
a frothy, swashbuckling comedy,  
*I Hate Hamlet* by Paul Rudnick, (Nov 5—  
21). Tony Sheldon plays the ghost of  
America's legendary stage actor, Lionel  
Barrymore, who comes back to coach a  
young TV star in the art of Shakespeare,  
life and love. With Gary Day, Natasha  
Herbert, Irene Inescort and Nicki Wendt.

The MTC production of Willy Russell's  
comedy hit, *Shirley Valentine* (Nov 19—  
Dec 23) returns with Amanda Muggleton  
in her much loved interpretation of the  
Liverpool housewife who finds love  
and liberation while on holiday in  
Greece.

From Ireland's famous Abbey Theatre,  
comes *Dancing at Lughnasa* (November  
27—Dec 23) the most recent play by Brian  
Friel, which played to capacity audiences  
in the West End and on Broadway. Set in  
County Donegal in 1936 during the local  
harvest dance festival, called the  
Lughnasa (pronounced Loo-na-sa). A  
strict Catholic household is disturbed by  
the arrival of both an uncle from Uganda  
and the philandering father of the play's

narrator, a seven year old boy.

The songs and music of Cole Porter  
combined with a champagne love story  
make *High Society*, a perfect way to usher  
in the New Year in appropriate high  
spirits (December 31—Jan 23). This  
production by Simon Phillips (whose  
*Importance of Being Ernest* thrilled half a  
million theatre goers around Australia)  
stars John McTernan (ex GP), Lorrae  
Desmond, Josephine Byrnes (*Brides of  
Christ*), Helen Budge, Bob Hornery and  
Kevin Miles.

Later in 1993 you can look forward to:

Chilean playwright, Ariel Dorfman's new  
political and psychological thriller, *Death  
and the Maiden* (February 18—March 27)  
starring Helen Morse, John Gaden and  
Frank Gallacher.

David Henry Hwang's, *M. Butterfly*  
(March 25—May 1) explores the politics  
of sex, the misunderstandings between  
men and women and between East and  
West, making bold use of Puccini's  
romantic opera, *Madam Butterfly* and the  
rituals of Japanese and Chinese theatre.



## INSIDE

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# Audio Description Update

It is now 18 months since Audio Description was launched in Australia. This free service provided by the Association for the Blind is making possible and enhancing the theatre experiences of people with visual impairment.

Audio Description is the art of describing, if appropriate, what is happening on the stage when there is no dialogue or sound effects. For example: non-verbal action (a character raises a weapon, or enters/exits the stage); scene and costume changes; and program notes that may enhance the appreciation of a performance.

Since its inception, Audio Description has been available at ten Melbourne Theatre Company productions at the Playhouse, at performances of **The King and I** and **Fiddler on the Roof** at the State Theatre of the Victorian Arts Centre, and recently, at the MTC production of **Gulliver's Travels** at the Geelong Performing Arts Centre.

EASE distributed a questionnaire to patrons with visual impairments to help evaluate the service to date and to look at where next to provide Audio Description. The response was extremely favourable:

## Audio Description dates

<b>Pirates of Penzance</b> Victorian State Opera Wed, 25 November, 7.30pm Sat, 5 December, 1.00pm	<b>Dancing at Lughnasa</b> Melbourne Theatre Company Wed, 9 December, 1.00pm Sat, 12 December, 4pm Mon, 21 December, 6.30pm
<b>I Hate Hamlet</b> Melbourne Theatre Company Thurs, 12 November, 8.00pm Wed, 18 November, 1.00pm Sat, 21 November, 4.00pm	<b>High Society</b> Melbourne Theatre Company Wed, 13 January, 1993, 1.00pm Sat, 16 January, 1993, 4.00pm Mon, 18 January, 1993, 6.30pm

## Have Your Say! Nominate for the EASE Consumers Group

EASE is your service and we would like you to be more involved in its future development. We are currently setting up a committee comprised of regular users of the EASE service. The purpose of the EASE Consumers Group is to:

- obtain direct feedback on access, facilities and services at venues and booking agencies (including EASE)
- modify and improve the level and range of services provided by EASE
- prioritise the issues related to attending entertainment, including: transport, cost, access, seating allocations, companions, session times, new and expanded services, etc.
- to facilitate direct advocacy by people with disabilities (by writing letters, attending meetings with venue managers, etc) to effect attitudinal and physical changes.

If you would like to nominate for this group and are able to attend a meeting every two months for approximately one hour, then please fill in the form below and return it to:

ARTS ACCESS, 109-111 Sturt Street, South Melbourne 3205 or contact EASE on 699 8497.

### I wish to nominate for the EASE Consumers Group

Name: .....  
Address: .....  
Phone no: .....

# Theatre Companions

Some vision-impaired theatre lovers who want to use the Audio Description service find it difficult to get to theatres on their own. To make getting to the theatre easier, a list of Theatre Companions is being compiled. The idea is that theatre loving people who live near someone with a visual impairment could offer to accompany them to a venue. A Theatre Companion might offer a lift in a private car or travel with a visually impaired person on public transport. Hopefully, friendships will be formed through the scheme and the idea will spread far and wide. If you would like a Theatre Companion or would like to be a Theatre Companion, please contact Bettie McSween at the Association for the Blind, HM Lightfoot Centre during business hours on (03) 822 111.

## Saltwater River Festival November 28-29

Billed as the biggest event of the year in Footscray Park, this celebration of the local community features family fun activities including: a rock concert; a major art and craft market; arts exhibition; river events; sport and leisure activities; a horse and harness show; an ethnic communities dance; a mini farm yard; a variety of food stalls and carnival amusements bonfire, fireworks and more. For details about events contact the Recreation Department at Footscray City Council on 688 0200.

## Royal Melbourne Zoo's 130th Birthday

During October the Royal Melbourne Zoo is celebrating its 130th year with a historical photographic exhibition in the Zoo's Visitor Activities Centre, and special talks by zoo keepers every weekend. The Zoo is in Elliot Avenue, Parkville. Take Tram 55 from the corner of Market and Flinders Sts to Stop 23 or a train from Flinders Street Station to Royal Park on the Upfield line. For general information phone the Zoo on 285 9300, or for access information phone EASE on 699 8497.

# Rambler Tours

Rambler Tours in Melbourne have established a range of half day and overnight leisure trips to scenic Victorian locations with people with disabilities in mind. Rambler Tours use accessible touring coaches equipped with wheelchair lifts and anchorages and with flexible seating configurations to suit varying groups. Coaches are fully carpeted, air-conditioned, have on-board toilet and video. Carers can be arranged. All tours listed below depart from Melbourne from a convenient group pick-up point of your choice. For details and bookings contact Rambler Tours directly on (03) 480 4444. Here's a sample of what they are offering:

**Puffing Billy (Day)**  
Departs 9.00am. Includes a ride on the Puffing Billy from Belgrave to Emerald where the coach travels either to Olinda, Healesville Sanctuary or Phillip Island for lunch before returning to Melbourne in the evening.

## Blues in the Night

Like the hit musical, **42nd Street** the story of **Blues in the Night** comes from America's depression era and tells the story of three women and a fallen saloon singer in a run-down hotel in Chicago as they reflect on their lives and loves. What could have been a sad tale brings a message of hope to warm the soul, all through the music of the Blues.

Often called the mother of Jazz, the Blues holds the emotions the way no other music can. This is the music that carried many Americans through the Great Depression and on to new lives—"when everything is gone there is always the Blues."

The show features 25 songs performed by a cast of four Australian and international stars.

**Venetta Fields** began her career as a gospel singer then went on to tour with Ike & Tina Turner, eventually working with artists such as Neil Diamond, Barbra Streisand, Bob Dylan, the Supremes, Bette Middler and Aretha Franklin.

**Marcie Jones**, with her group, The Cookies, was one of Australia's best known female pop stars of the 1960s

**Jenny Davis** spent two years with the Australian Opera Children's Chorus, had a role in the recent revival of *Hair* and has appeared on national television.

**Michael Edwards-Stevens** played Jim in the US tour of *Big River*.

**Phillip Island (Half Day)**  
Departs 2.00pm (seasonal) via Cranbourne, Sawtell's Inlet, the Giant Earthworm Museum and Wombat World at Bass. Visits to Phillip island Koala reserve, the Nobbies, and the evening penguin parade at Summerland Beach (warm clothing needed).

**Phillip Island (Overnight)**  
Departs 9.30 am. Morning tea at Ricketts Point Tea House. BYO picnic lunch at Arthur's Seat then to Phillip Island via Moorooduc/Baxter/Bass. Evening penguin parade at Summerland Beach. Day Two: Depart Phillip Island at 9.30am. Scenic drive to Wonthaggi and Inverloch for morning tea. Lunch and sightseeing at Coal Creek historical park, Korumburra (2 hours). Return to Melbourne via South Gippsland Highway.

**Healesville (Half day)**  
Departs 10.00am via eastern Freeway, and Yarra Valley scenic route to Warrandyte, then via Maroondah Highway to Lilydale. Arrive Healesville Sanctuary at 11.30am for BYO picnic lunch and sanctuary tour. Return to Melbourne mid-afternoon.

**Echuca-Bendigo (Overnight)**  
Via Hume Highway, cross the Dividing Range at Kilmore. Morning break at Heathcote. Lunch at Echuca. Town tour, museum visit and river boat trip (when operating). Day Two: Depart 9.30am for Bendigo. Central Debra Mine tour and lunch. Return via Castlemaine/Kyneton. Arrive Melbourne at 5.00pm.



Venetta Fields, Marcie Jones, Jenny Davis and Michael Edwards-Stevens are on stage for the entire performance of the passionate Broadway musical, *Blues in the Night*.

## COMING SOON

EASE does not presently have tickets to the following shows, but if you would like to put your name on a waiting list, or would like further information about where and how to book tickets at full price, call EASE on 699 8497.

- **42nd Street** – Her Majesty's Theatre
- **Wind in the Willows** – Botanic Gardens
- **Twelfth Night** – Botanic Gardens
- **Kissing Frogs (Glynn Nicholas)** – Universal Theatre
- **Looking Through a Glass Onion** (John Waters) – Athenaeum Theatre
- **Scanlan** (Max Gillies) – Universal Theatre
- **Elton John** – Tennis Centre
- **Julian Clary** – Universal Theatre