

# The Melbourne Venue Guide

## Don't go out without it!

The Melbourne Venue Guide was produced by Arts Access and ACROD in 1990. The Guide gives a description of access for people with disabilities to 19 of Melbourne's major entertainment venues, as well as information about how to make a booking, how to book with BASS, parking etc.

The venues included are:

- AFL - Waverley
- Dallas Brooks Hall
- Melbourne Cricket Ground
- Museum of Victoria
- Princess Theatre
- St. Martins Theatre
- The Comedy Theatre
- Her Majesty's Theatre
- Melbourne Town Hall
- National Tennis Centre
- Royal Botanic Gardens
- Sidney Myer Music Bowl
- National Gallery
- State Theatre
- Sports & Entertainment Centre
- Melbourne Concert Hall
- Playhouse
- George Fairfax Studio

**COST:** \$5.00 or \$6.10 including postage.

A second edition of The Melbourne Venue Guide is planned for 1991.

This edition will include updated information on venues assessed in the first edition as well as many additional venues

### A Note from Barbara

*"I am leaving EASE to get married in March and would like to take this opportunity to say farewell to all the good friends I have made during my time at Arts Access. Working on the EASE project has been an exciting and rewarding job for me. I have got to know many wonderful and friendly people. A big thank you to Kate and all the staff at Arts Access for their support. Thanks also*

*to Julie-Ann for her sense of humour and cheerful co-operation in the EASE office.*

*To all the busy Box Office staff at the many venues EASE does business with, a sincere thank you for all your assistance and co-operation during my time at EASE.*

*Good health and good luck to everyone!"*

**Barbara Milne.**

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#### 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 Victorian Ministry for the Arts and a generous grant from the Coles/Myer Community Trust.

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# Ease

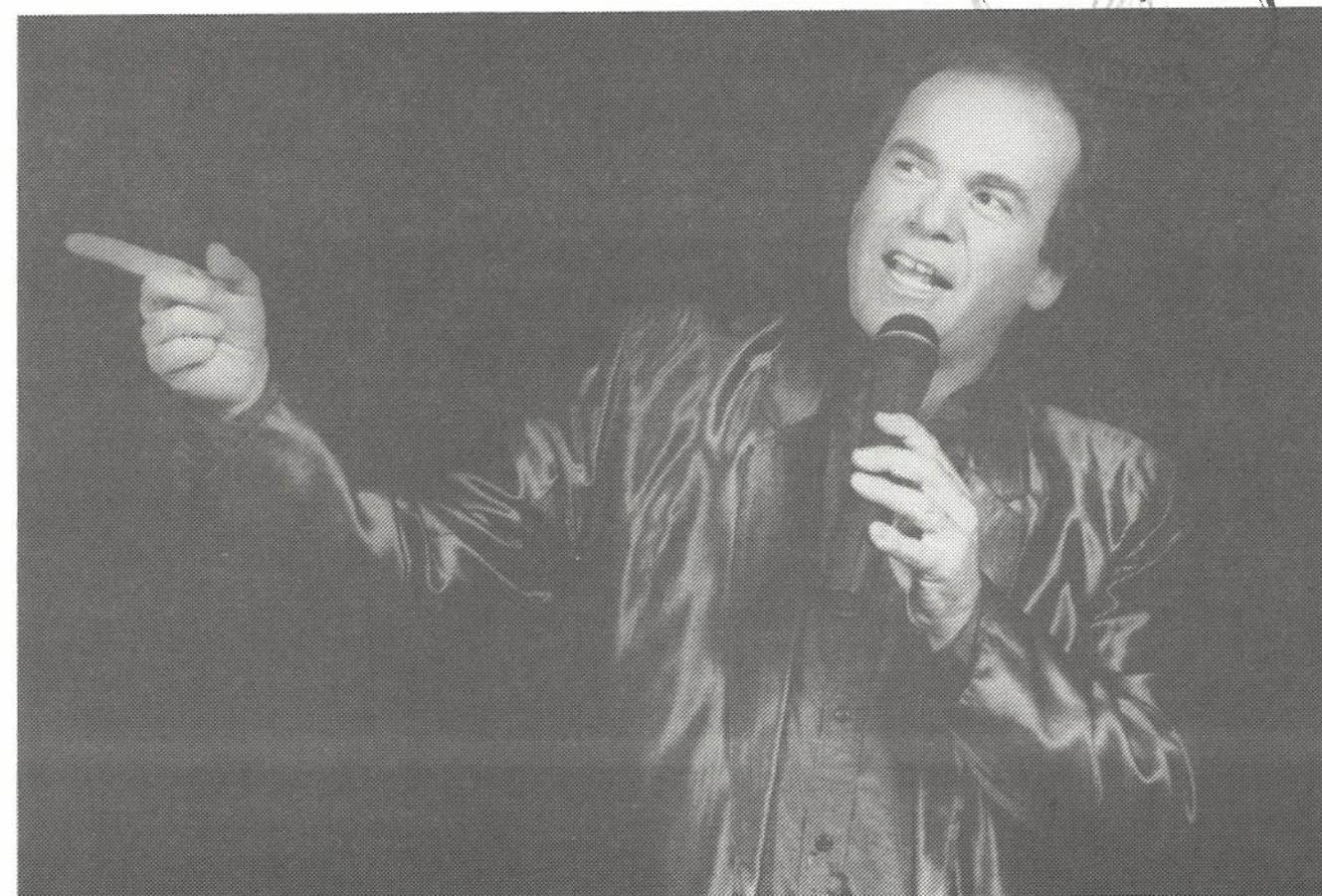
EASE Newsletter-Arts Access Society Inc.

ARTS  
Access

February 1991

Well it was **ONE FOR THE MONEY**  
Then it was **TWO FOR THE SHOW**  
Now you've got three to get ready for...

**GO CAT GO**



Photography by T. Schramm

Glenn Shorrock in GO CAT GO... a talent for physical and vocal mimicry which has to be seen to be believed!

Following sellout seasons at the Universal Theatre, the Melbourne Concert Hall and his last season at the Athenaeum Theatre, Glenn Shorrock a true legend of Australian rock 'n roll, is stepping out again - this time to celebrate the 'magical decade of innocence'... 'the wild psychedelia'... 'the instantaneous beat explosion' in fact, the

whole 'cultural happening' that was the 60's and 70's in his latest smash hit show "GO CAT GO"!

"GO CAT GO" will see Glenn Shorrock joined on stage with the quirky kings of revival themselves - The Eddys and two vocal dynamos - Toni Allayialis and Carol Starkey and re-united with the

prolific production team of Graeme Blundell and Bob Hudson. Together this unique blend of talent will rock the night away.

Discounted tickets available through EASE. Previews from 12th February at the Athenaeum Theatre.

Thanks again to Graham Berry and Typographical Services, 97 Tope Street, South Melbourne.

The EASE Newsletter is edited by Julie-Ann Willems. Contributions and letters are welcome and should be sent to EASE - Arts Access, 109-111 Sturt Street, South Melbourne. 3205.

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# The Athenaeum Theatre

## A Brief History.

The Athenaeum Theatre began its life in 1839 "as a Mechanic's Institute for the promotion of science in this rising colony." Thirty two years on the first building was pulled down, the foundation stone was laid for the present building and it was renamed the Melbourne Athenaeum. The Ath. as it is affectionately called is a unique theatre built as a commercial theatre with a compact and friendly interior that contradicts its formal external appearance. The Athenaeum was originally a live theatre venue before being used as a cinema for many years until the Melbourne Theatre Company took over the lease in 1977. Since 1910, the Ath's upper hall had been used as an Art Gallery. In 1979, M.T.C. established the Athenaeum Two in that upstairs space. The Company's aim was to mount special productions of the classics alongside new local work. In 1987 Elston, Hocking & Woods took over the lease and continue to present a wide variety of productions in both spaces as well as hiring the theatres out to visiting companies. In 1991 the Athenaeum Theatre will receive a new lease of life when restoration of the building begins in June. The Theatre will be closed for 3 months. The restoration will concentrate on the facade and foyer areas and parts of the auditorium.

## Venue Notes

### The Athenaeum Theatre

188 Collins Street  
Melbourne 3000  
**Phone:** 650 3504  
**General Manager:** Noel Davis  
**Public Transport:** The Athenaeum Theatre is located in the heart of the city close to the intersection of Swanston and Collins Street. It is next to the Melbourne Town Hall and opposite the City Square. The nearest Tram stops are at the intersection of Collins and Swanston Streets.

**Parking:** Parking in the city is difficult. There is limited meter parking and after hours parking in the streets. There are parking stations in Little Collins Street between Russell & Swanston Streets. Hoyts Parking in Flinders Lane between Russell and Swanston Streets is only \$4.00 per night after 6pm. The nearest disabled parking bay is in Little Collins Street near Swanston Street.

**Phone Bookings:** Phone: 650 1500  
Credit Card Bookings - VISA, BANKCARD, MASTERCARD only.

**Box Office:** Supervisor: Deb Dowling  
The Athenaeum Box Office and BASS Outlet is located just inside the main entrance on the left. The Box Office counter is high but not inaccessible. Box

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm & Saturday 9am - 5pm.  
Performance days: Till 8pm

**Entrance:** There is a 2 inch step from the footpath to the entrance lobby, increasing in height as the footpath slopes downhill towards Swanston Street. The lowest point is on the right side of the lobby facing the Theatre and Barbara was able to get up this step in her electric wheelchair. The footpath outside the entrance is covered by a large awning. The floor surface of the lobby is marble.

**Foyers:** All foyers are carpeted. The stalls foyer is quite small with a second annexed area off the main foyer and up two steps. There is no Circle or Gallery Foyers. A licensed bar opens one hour prior to the performance (or after 6pm) and also sells tea, coffee, confectionery etc. A second bar operates in the annexed stalls foyer opposite the main bar when it is busy. (Cafe on Collins next door to the Athenaeum often remains open until after interval.)

**Toilets:** The toilets are located in the main foyer on the left past the Box Office. The female facilities have 3 cubicles none of which are wheelchair accessible. The height of the basins is okay for wheelchair users but the handtowels and mirrors are too high. The male facilities have 3 cubicles none of which are wheelchair accessible. Space is limited. Access to the male toilets is through a door and down 3 steps. There are no disabled toilet facilities at present.

**Telephone:** There are 3 Public Telephones outside the Athenaeum Theatre towards the Town Hall. One is wheelchair accessible.

**The Theatre:** Total Capacity: 914. The Stalls has a capacity of 453. Access to the Stalls is via two sets of double doors which are opened and staffed prior to the performance. The back of the auditorium has two aisles. The front of the auditorium has a centre aisle and two aisles along the side walls. Row numbers & seat numbers are clearly marked. The Athenaeum recently refurbished the original seats and there is plenty of leg room. Two pillars in the stalls impair viewing but seats affected are sold as restricted viewing at a reduced rate. The floor of the auditorium is slightly raked to facilitate viewing. The floor surface is wood and the aisles are carpeted. Wheelchair seating is at the rear of the stalls behind the last row of the 2 side blocks. A chair will be provided for an accompanying person. The staff are extremely helpful and will assist.

**Dress Circle:** Capacity - 218. It is accessible via stairs beyond the Candy Bar. Steps lead down to all seats in the

Circle. Access is via a centre aisle and two side aisles dividing the seating into 3 blocks. The ladies toilet is off the Dress Circle entrance foyer up two steps.

**Gallery:** Capacity - 247. It is accessible via the glass doors off the street level lobby next to the main entrance. (This is also the access to The Athenaeum Library and the Athenaeum Two Theatre.) The Gallery is up two sets of steps with handrails. There are steep steps to all seats.

### The Athenaeum Two

Enter from street level through the glass doors on the right of the lobby. Access to this Theatre is via 4 flights of stairs... a long way up! There are rails on all stairs. There is lift access to the Athenaeum Two Theatre. The lift is located next to the Box Office in the ground floor foyer. It is an old style wooden lift and can only hold 1 wheelchair and 2 accompanying people. Assistance is required with the Lift doors but the staff will assist. Entrance to the Theatre is via double doors off a landing at the top of the final flight of steps. This door is staffed prior to the performance. Tickets for this venue are available at the main Box Office downstairs or at the door. This Theatre is small and intimate and is used for a wide variety of productions including comedy, dance, and new work. The capacity of the Theatre is 150. The seating is end on and raked fairly steeply. There are steps to all seats and viewing is excellent. New seating has been installed recently. Wheelchairs can be placed in front of the front row of seats.

### The Athenaeum Library

2nd Floor  
188 Collins Street  
Melbourne 3000  
**PH:** 650 3100

**Library Hours:** Monday - Friday: 8.30am - 5.00pm  
Saturday: 8.30am - 12 midday.

**Membership:** There are a variety of memberships available depending on the number of books you wish to borrow in one visit. For one book at a time for up to a month, the fee is \$28.30. You can borrow up to 12 books at a time and fees increase with the number of books. Membership can be paid quarterly, half yearly or yearly. There is a 15% discount for people over 60. Entrance to the Library is off the lobby to the right of the Athenaeum Theatre street entrance through the glass doors. There are two flights of stairs up with handrails. The lift near the Athenaeum Box Office is available for Library patrons and stops on the second floor inside the Library.

# EASE - Entertainment Access Service

## 699 8497

## Making Entertainment accessible for everyone!

**The Telephone Advice Service and Ticket Scheme for people with special needs.**  
**Office Hours:** EASE is open Monday-Friday - 9.00am-5.00pm  
**Phone** 699 8497 or 699 7636  
**TTY** 699 8497  
**Address:** 109-111 Sturt Street, South Melbourne. 3205.

**Ticketing Information:** To find out what's on and how to book just give us a call.

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

**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 we are happy to assist but still need to place a commission on the tickets.

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

**Exchange & Refund Policy:** There is No Exchange or Refund 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.

**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. The price on the ticket is not always relevant. Please make 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.

## EASE Tickets... something for everyone!

- \* Phantom of the Opera
- \* The Comedy Club
- \* Australian Chamber Orchestra
- \* The Melbourne Theatre Company
- \* Playbox Theatre Company

- \* Last Laugh Theatre Restaurant
- \* Melbourne Symphony Orchestra
- \* The Australian Pops Orchestra
- \* Hoyts Film Tickets
- \* The Australian Opera

- \* A Midsummer Night's Dream
- \* Go Cat Go - Glenn Shorrock
- \* Hothouse Flowers (from Dublin)
- \* Moomba Procession
- \* Greater Union Film Tickets

### 1991 Moomba Procession

The procession is scheduled for Monday 11th March. There will be a limited number of passes available through EASE to the wheelchair/reserved seating area on the lawn in front of the State Museum in Swanston Street. There will also be a small number of reserved parking spaces in LaTrobe Street between Russell and Swanston Streets from 7am - 1pm on the day of the procession.

### Playbox - Season '91 - The Arts Led Recovery

The new Playbox season commences on Saturday 2nd March with the world premiere of Sisters by Stephen Sewell in the Beckett Theatre at the Malthouse. Season '91 is again All Australian with seven plays including six world premieres.

### The Australian Opera 1991 Season

The 1991 Australian Opera season commences at the State Theatre - Victorian Arts Centre on the 16th March with the first production La Clemenza di Tito. Other productions for the season are The Mikado, Lucrezia Borgia, Turandot Romeo et Juliette and Death in Venice. EASE will have \$15.00 tickets for single performances depending on availability. Bookings are not yet open but if you are interested we can put your name on a waiting list.

### Melbourne Theatre Company 1991 Season

Bookings for the new M.T.C. season open on Monday 11th March 1991. For more details or to obtain a brochure phone the EASE office.

## Hey Hey it's Healthy and it's Free!

### Flagstaff Gardens... Free Concerts... Life Games & Family fun!

All concerts at 3.00pm - February 3rd to March 3rd.  
Flagstaff Gardens are just around the corner from the Queen Victoria Market.

### Northcote Amphitheatre... Free Concerts... Summer 1991

All concerts Sunday at 3.00pm - February 3rd to March 10th.  
Northcote Amphitheatre, Heidelberg Road, Fairfield Park, Northcote.  
Melway Ref: Map 30 J12  
Bring a picnic, a hat, a pillow to sit on and enjoy a Sunday afternoon concert by the banks of the Yarra. The kiosk will be open with fabulous healthy food supplied by the Fitz Cafe.

Phone EASE for Programme details.