

—Free Entertainment in Melbourne During the Summer Months—

There are often concerts and events in Melbourne which cost nothing and are great fun. The list below is a selection of such events. Places such as the Zoo and the National Gallery also hold free concerts, once the entry fee has been paid. It is worthwhile giving them a try.

Sidney Myer Music Bowl

Concert Series

Presented by the University of Melbourne

A special series of concerts with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

• **Saturday 10th February, 8pm**

Highlights include Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1.

Also works by Mills, Mussorgsky and Sibelius.

• **Wednesday 14th February, 8pm**

Beethoven Concerto for Piano, Violin and Cello, Op.56.

Also works by Rossini and Prokofiev

• **Saturday 17th February, 8pm**

Featuring a selection of arias from Mozart's Don Giovanni, Marriage of Figaro and The Magic Flute. Also works by Beethoven and Mahler.

• **Wednesday 21st February, 8pm**

Including excerpts from Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake. Also works by McKimm, Rimsky-Korsakov, Mussorgsky and Borodin.

CONCERTS IN THE OPEN AIR

Sponsored by Northcote Community Health Centre, Victorian Health Promotions Foundation, GROLO, N.C.C. and Wang.

Northcote Amphitheatre.

Heidelberg Rd, Fairfield Park, Northcote

Sundays at 3pm

February

4th- ABC Music Deli.- Music from around the world

11th- Big Band Brass-Banda Bellini-Preston Municipal Band

18th-Victoria State Opera

25th-Music of Greece

March

4th- Radio Rhythms-Pop Music 1932-1946

11th-Latin American Concert

18th-The Australian Opera

25th-The Bushwackers &

Friends-featuring Judy Small

Enquiries: 419 3777 & 663 8307

Maribyrnong Music

Presented by The Footscray Community Arts Centre and Western Regional Health Centre

Sponsored by The Victorian Health Promotions Foundation

Amphitheatre by the River,

45 Moreland St. Footscray

Sunday Evenings 5.00-7.00pm.

February

4th- African Dance

11th-Cabaret Fun Day

18th-Classics of China

25th-Maltese Music Festa

March

4th- Symphony in the Sun

11th-Western Regional Bands Concert

18th-The Australian Opera

Enquiries: 689 5677

Exhibitions at the Museum

Here is a selection of exhibitions currently showing at, or coming to, the Museum of Victoria. For more information please ring the Museum on 669 9888 or EASE on 699 8497.

SETTLEMENT TO SATELLITES

Closes: 5 August 1990

Sponsored by OTC, the history of Australia's communications traced from the early days of letters through to the highly technological present. And a glimpse at an even more exciting future-the videophone.

DINOSAURS ALIVE

Closes: 12 March 1990

An exhibition of skeletal and animated dinosaurs in the McCoy Hall. They are

alive and roaring, eight mighty monsters from the past. An extremely popular exhibition with dinosaurs that actually move.

TAONGA MAORI EXHIBITION

Opens: 4 February 1990

Closes: 22 April 1990

The first exhibition of its kind to let Australians feel the artistic and spiritual power of the Maori culture.

TREASURES FROM THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Opens: 28 June 1990

Closes: 18 September 1990

A selection, rich in colour and character with historic significance spanning the centuries.

Ease

EASE Newsletter-Arts Access Society Inc.



ARTS Access

February 1990



A scene from the St Martins Youth Theatre touring production of "The Legend of King O'Malley" Photo: Stephen Gower.

VENUE NOTES

ST MARTINS THEATRE (YOUTH ARTS CENTRE)

44 St Martins Lane

South Yarra 3141

Phone: 267 2477

Box Office: 267 2551

Melway: Map 2L C3

THEATRE 1

Seating Capacity: 366

Wheelchair Capacity: See below.

Public Transport

Trams 3 & 38 pass St. Martins Lane off Park Street.

Parking

Limited parking in the area. St. Martins Lane is one way from Park Street and has "No-Parking" signs down its length. Some people, however, still park there! Street parking on Millswyn Street. Off street parking in a site behind the theatre. Entrance to this parking area is not marked. Drive down St Martins Lane

St Martins Youth Arts Centre

The primary aims of the Centre are to develop and maintain an extensive programme of artistic activities for young people. For ten years, St Martins Youth Arts Centre has offered an ongoing Artistic Programme which allows young people to become directly involved in theatre and the arts, to "learn by doing," and to gain "hands on" experience of the arts by working in a professional environment with professional arts practitioners, technicians and educators. St Martins maintains a youth membership of almost five hundred young people aged between 9 and 25.

The photo above gives an impression of the work undertaken by the youth at St Martins. This production of The Legend of King O'Malley has visited performing arts centres in Wangaratta, Echuca, Kyneton, Ararat, Portland, Camperdown, Warburton, Sale and Traralgon.

St Martins Theatre also offers a venue to a wide range of companies and productions.

A Turana Tape

If you enjoy interesting and original rock music, or if you would like to support the Arts Access music program that is running at Turana, think about buying the tape "Turana '89", a cassette of ten songs written and recorded by boys under the direction of Paul Agar. At just \$11.50, which includes postage, we think you will agree that this represents extraordinarily good value. Send your cheque or postal order to Arts Access Society Inc. or alternatively come in to hear the music before you buy.

ARTS ACCESS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Registered by Australia Post

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Postage
Paid
Australia

If undelivered return to:

Arts Access Society Inc.

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

SF 790-19605 EA 7 continued over

VENUE NOTES — St Martins Theatre — *continued*

and turn right at the west side of the theatre, this lane passes behind two blocks of flats.

Accessible Parking

Possible to drop off at theatre but no place specifically marked. Parking behind the theatre (see above) is rough gravel.

Entrances

No steps into foyer.

There are 12 steps from the foyer into the auditorium. These steps have rails up the middle and on both sides.

People requiring assistance up and down the theatre steps should ring the theatre beforehand on 267 2551. During the day this number will have an answering service, leave an appropriate message and the Front of House Manager will make arrangements.

A gallery space leads off the foyer, small performances and temporary exhibitions are held in this space. One section of this area, known as "The Pit" is three steps down, the rest is accessible.

Foyer bar (unlicensed) is high.

Seating

The auditorium is divided into two sections by a broad passage. Seating on the first row of the upper section, Row H, is level with the top of the twelve steps leading into the theatre.

There is no central aisle. Seats numbered

1, or, for some rows, 23, 24 or 25 are on the side. Rails line both sides of the auditorium.

Accessible Seating

Once the twelve steps into the auditorium have been negotiated, people remaining in their wheelchairs can stay in front of Row H, to the side. People transferring also use Row H. These are the best seats in the house.

Toilets

Toilets are down a short corridor off the Gallery Space, this corridor is unmarked and dimly lit. There are two steps down to the Ladies and a further three steps to the Mens with no rail to either level.

Accessible Toilet

One accessible toilet at the far end of the Gallery Space. This toilet is not marked on the wall and may be difficult to see from a distance. The sliding door leads directly into toilet. Movable bench seating may obstruct this doorway. There is no rail behind the toilet, only one thick rail to the side and high up. During the EASE visit there was no toilet paper holder.

Phone

One red phone in the foyer. Too high for wheelchair users.

THEATRE 2

Seating Capacity: 113

Wheelchair Capacity: Flexible

Public Transport & Parking

As for Theatre 1.

Entrance

Via Foyer, no step. Seating arrangements vary however and for some set ups access might be restricted. Two side exits offer possible alternative entrances with one step each.

Seating

Flexible seating plans. Seating accessibility will depend on the arrangement.

Toilets

See above

Phone

See above

Facilities for the Hearing Impaired

Both Theatres are fitted with audio loops. These are not, however, permanently connected. If you wish to use the loop system you would need to contact the Theatre twenty-four hours beforehand. Ring 267 2477.

Helpful Hints

1. St. Martins Lane is one way. When searching for a parking spot try the gravel car park behind the theatre.
2. Because of the twelve steps into the main auditorium people requiring assistance should ring 267 2551. Once these steps have been negotiated, however, the view from Row H is excellent.

Tickets 699 8497

February-March is the Rock Star Season.

EASE will be negotiating for most of the stars visiting Melbourne during this period. Please ring us if you want to know more. Here is a brief list of some of the shows we have already:

NANA, A New Musical

THE COMEDY CLUB

LES MISERABLES

A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

HOW TO BOOK WITH EASE

To book tickets with EASE, ring 699 8497, discuss with Barbara or Chris what you would like to see and where you would like to sit. Make out a cheque to Arts Access for the appropriate amount and post it to Arts Access, 109-111 Sturt Street South Melbourne 3205. We will either hold the tickets for you, post them or arrange for them to be at the box office—whichever you prefer. It does help us if you can provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

EASE Ticket Prices Explained

EASE has received numerous enquiries about the price of tickets available through the service. EASE negotiates with Promoters and Entrepreneurs for access to tickets at a reduced rate. The scheme may purchase tickets directly from the promoters or a ticketing agency. The price on the ticket, therefore, need not correspond to the price paid by EASE or the price quoted by us. Some promoters, for example, wish to distribute tickets directly to us using "house seats." These tickets have no price on them, yet the promoter will charge EASE. EASE places a commission on its tickets in order to support the service. Our commission is no longer a fixed rate but varies depending on the arrangement reached with the promoter. Prices quoted over the phone take all these factors into account. If you would like to know more please don't hesitate to give us a call.

Venue Information Available in Print Through EASE

Over the past two years EASE staff have reported on access to venues throughout Melbourne. This material is currently being collated and will be published, in conjunction with VICROD, in one volume. Below is a list of venue assessments printed in the EASE bimonthly newsletters. If you want back copies of this newsletter please don't hesitate to contact Barbara. Copies are free to subscribers, but there is a charge of \$5 per order for non-subscribers.

VENUE

Comedy Theatre

Dallas Brooks Hall

Melbourne Concert Hall

Melbourne Town Hall

Museum of Victoria

National Gallery of Victoria

National Tennis Centre

Playhouse Theatre

Royal Botanic Gardens

Sidney Myer Music Bowl

Sports & Entertainment Centre

State Theatre

VFL Park

Victorian Arts Centre

EASE NEWSLETTER

1988 September

1988 November

1988 May

1989 December

1989 April

1989 October

1988 February

1988 May

1989 August

1989 February

1988 June

1988 May

1989 June

1988 May

Entertainment Access Service

EASE

EASE aims to assist people with special needs to attend Melbourne's mainstream entertainment by providing information, social support and incentives.

EASE also aims to encourage promoters and venue management to ensure physical access is feasible at all events within the Melbourne metropolitan region.

For information on the EASE service fee and other charges please ring Chris on 699 7636.

INFORMATION HOTLINE: 699 8497

Advice about venue accessibility, what's on and booking procedures.

BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Information, articles, letters and announcements of tickets available through EASE. EASE newsletter annual subscription: \$15.00.

TICKET SCHEME

Low cost tickets to a variety of entertainment events.

EASE STAFF

Chris Milton, Project Officer
Barbara Milne, Administrative Assistant.

VOLUNTEERS

Hilary Ash

Betty Rankin

Sue O'Dwyer

Noel Spurr

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