



FREE EVENTS

Victorian Arts Centre



Open Mind.

Sunday 3rd November at 3.00 pm, at the George Fairfax Studio. Free.

Letters To and Fro is an unusual musical event. It consists of letters by literacy and musical figures that have been set to music by various composers. The correspondents include Rachel Henning and Charles Lindbergh. The pieces will be performed by some of Australia's most outstanding singers and musicians.

The Magic Funday Sunday

Sunday 27th October, 12.00 pm-4.00 pm.

The Magic Funday Sunday is a family entertainment spectacular. There will be a host of free entertainment, as well as The Mega Magic Show, which starts at noon. Funday takes place at the Melbourne Concert Hall. Entry to the Mega Magic Show costs \$18 for a family, \$9 for adults, and \$4 for children.

Seige by Kim Gleeson

Theatreworks from 11th November 1991

On New Years Day in 1915 Gool Badsha an Ice-cream vendor, and Mullah Abdullah a butcher, waited near the outskirts of Broken Hill for the annual Manchester Unity picnic train. Beside them their ice-cream cart was flying the Turkish flag. As the train approached carrying hundreds of families to the New Year's Day festivities, they drew rifles from their cart and declared war on Australia as the young Anzacs were storming the Turks at Gallipoli!

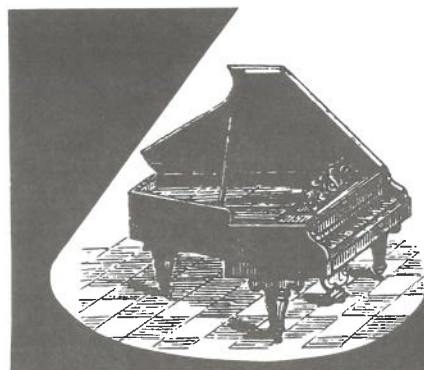
An exciting and dramatic epic play.

EASE has tickets for \$12.50. Wednesday and Thursday evening performance at 8.30 pm. Running time - 90 mins with no interval.

Lunch Time Concert.

Monday 14th October 1.10 pm. Free.

Acclaimed international pianist Lisa Moore will be performing at the Melbourne Concert Hall. Lisa has received numerous prestigious awards, including the Alliance Francaise and the Bernstein Fellowship.



"excellent Australian pianist... first rate performances." *New York Times*

"phenomenal pianist." *Village Voice*



EASE STAFF

Julie-Ann Willems - Project Officer
Lisa McKoy - EASE Project Assistant

VOLUNTEERS

John Pidd
Hilary Ash
Barbara Kitchen
Rifka Knox

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.

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Ease

EASE Newsletter - Arts Access Society Inc.



ARTS
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October 1991

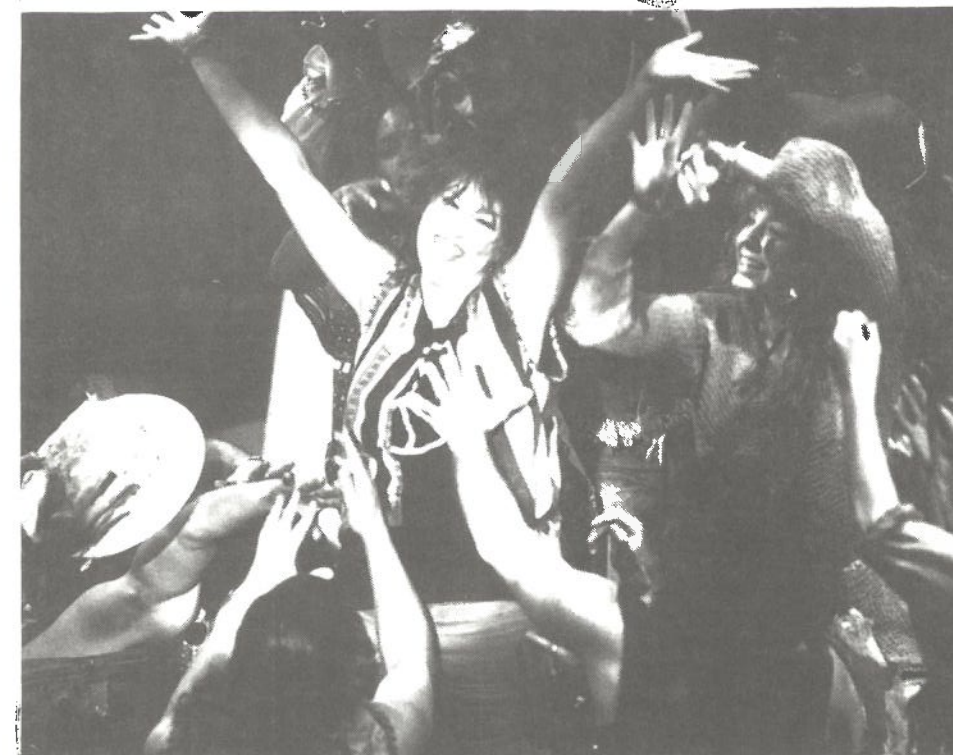
"Hair" transfers to accessible Athenaeum

The transfer of the hugely popular revival of Hair to the Athenaeum Theatre on the 12th October marks the re-opening of the historic Melbourne theatre. The Athenaeum Theatre at 188 Collins Street, Melbourne has been undergoing renovation for the past three months. The design by Allom, Lovell and Associates, Conservation Architects, has preserved the original designs and features wherever possible at the same time providing greater access and facilities.

There's now a ramped entrance - it's on the right hand side of the theatre's main entrance. Before the foyer area was very small with audiences having to spill out into the street during interval. Now several walls have been removed and the foyer area has been greatly increased. You can now comfortably move about the foyer and access the Box Office, the bar, toilets and auditorium.

The Box Office is now located through the entrance foyer and to your right. The counter is fairly high, but is accessible to wheelchair users.

The toilets - including a unisex accessible toilet - are on the left of the entrance foyer just before the stalls auditorium doors.



Wheelchair spaces remain unchanged. These are located at the back of the stalls auditorium on the aisles on either side. EASE is looking into the possibility of two wheelchair spaces at the side front of the stalls auditorium on either side. This is subject to fire regulations.

Congratulations to all those involved in Phase One of the Athenaeum Theatre renovations for the improvement in access and facilities thereby making their venue more accessible. There are plans, subject to funding to install an Audio Loop in the future.

EASE - have your say!

"EASE has grown enormously over the last year" says Julie-Ann Willems, Senior Project Officer - EASE. "Whereas last year we distributed approximately 500 tickets per month, now we're distributing around 1200."

EASE staff are constantly looking at ways of improving the service for users of the EASE scheme. We would love to hear about your experiences attending entertainment and sporting events, your comments on the EASE Newsletter and the EASE Ticketing Service. So drop us a line or give us a call with your praise for certain venues and constructive criticism of others.

Often, problems can be simple things that the people who run the venue aren't aware of. Then, they're easy to fix. But if a problem is difficult or costly to rectify then it's important that you let the venue and EASE know so that we can work together to improve the situation. "Positive feedback can do as much good as criticism" says Julie-Ann. "When a venue is acknowledged for improving access at one event, it can encourage both that venue and others to do the same at other events and venues." "We liaise with venues and promoters regularly" says Julie-Ann so we can pass on your comments to them. Even if you

write directly to the venues, we recommend that you also send us a copy! The EASE Newsletter is an ideal vehicle for your comments. All venues, promoters and ticketing agencies receive the EASE Newsletter. "Also tell us what you want in the EASE Newsletter" says Julie-Ann. "At the moment we include a venue assessment, information about free and cheap events, a listing of shows currently available through EASE and we let people know about improved services such as Audio Description. We're limited by money and space, but we will try to include your suggestions, ideas and letters. So start writing!"

The EASE Newsletter is edited by Mike Houghton. Contributions and letters are welcome and should be sent to Arts Access, 109-111 Sturt St, South Melbourne 3205.

Melbourne Zoo

Venue Notes

Elliott Avenue, Parkville
Melways Map: 29 E12
Telephone: 347 0309
Public Transport
Train or tram to Royal Park Railway Station.
Parking
General: There is ample parking space near the main entrance and at the Royal Park entrance.
Accessible: There are four accessible parking spaces on the far side of Elliott Avenue next to the pedestrian crossing. The parking area nearer the zoo is gravel and there are no marked parking bays. There is no accessible parking at the Royal Park entrance.
Entrances
Both the Elliott Avenue and Royal Park entrances are accessible, but the main entrance, on Elliott Avenue, has the most facilities.
Entry is free for people in wheelchairs plus one accompanying adult. There are wheelchairs available at both entrances. We recommend that people with mobility problems use a wheelchair, as you have to cover a lot of ground to see the entire zoo.

Seal, Butterfly and Reptile Enclosures
Accessible
Bear Enclosure
Accessible but steep. Assistance required.
Deer and Bison Enclosure
Accessible but steep and very long. Assistance required.
Bushland Enclosure
Accessible, but overhanging branches could be a problem for the visually impaired.
Great Flight Aviary
Accessible but steep. Gravelled surfaces difficult to manoeuvre on.
Orangutan/Chimpanzee Enclosure
Accessible, but it's hard to see over the bushes.
Lion Enclosure
Entrance near reptile enclosure is ramped.
Facilities
Free Zoo Tours
The zoo's trained guides can provide information or take you on a tour. The Guides' Office is open from 11.00 am - 4.00 pm on weekends. It is near the main entrance. Tours must be arranged in advance through the Friends of the Zoo on 347 1533.

Accessible Toilets
Unisex accessible toilets are marked on the zoo map, but not with the usual symbol. They are at the main entrance, the Lakeside Restaurant, the Butterfly Bistro, and near the large floral bed. There are no accessible toilets at the Royal Park entrance.
Telephone
The public telephones near the main entrance are too high up to be used by someone in a wheelchair.
Mothers' Rooms
These are at the Butterfly Bistro and the Lakeside Restaurant.
Restaurants
All the restaurants are accessible, but it is difficult to access the outdoor table areas. We suggest you get a take away from one of the restaurants and then go to the far side of the Lakeside Bistro, which is under cover.
Special Opening Times
Platypusary: 11.00 am-4.00 pm.
Butterflies: 9.30 am-4.30 pm. Reptiles: 10.30 am-4.30 pm. Arboreal Primates: 10.00 am-4.15 pm.
Feeding Times
Seals: 2.00 pm. Pelicans: 2.30 pm. Great Apes: 1.00 pm.
Penguins: 4.15 pm.

EASE – Entertainment Access Service

Ph: 699 8497

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

Office Hours: EASE is open Monday to Friday – 9.00 am to 5.00 pm.
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 facilities and access at venues in and around Melbourne – over the phone, in the EASE 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.

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 time of booking. The price on the ticket is not always correct. Please make a note of the ticket price at the time of booking. Prompt payment for tickets is requested. Please enclose invoice or details with payment.

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

Your name will be placed on a waiting list and EASE will contact you should we be successful.
Exchange and Refund Policy: There is NO exchange or refund on tickets booked with EASE so please be certain of 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.
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 avail yourself of this service please call Lisa and join our list.

Melbourne Zoo – Tours for the Visually Impaired

"My involvement with Melbourne Zoo started when I worked with a blind law student" says Joan Naylor. "One day he told me he didn't know how big a giraffe was." Joan took her friend to Melbourne Zoo. "I thought that introducing visually impaired people to the zoo was so worthwhile that I became a volunteer worker." Joan is now the co-ordinator for the visually impaired at Melbourne Zoo. "I've taken literally hundreds of visually impaired people around the zoo," she says. Tours start in a classroom, where you're given information about the animals. Then, under the supervision of the guides, you can handle live lizards and snakes, as well as various skins and skulls. Then the groups are taken around the zoo. "By the seals pool there are life size sculptures of seals, which the visually impaired can feel to get a good

idea of what a seal looks like and people with even a little vision can see the seals through the underwater viewing window. "In the Great Flight Aviary there are hundreds of plants to touch and smell, and you can listen to the calls of all sorts of exotic birds." "We also visit the Butterfly House, which is sealed and has a tropical climate. The House is full of tropical plants, and the butterflies often settle on people." "The guides for the visually impaired receive thorough training." "We take them around the zoo wearing blindfolds, or glasses that simulate various forms of partial sight," says Joan. The ratio of guides to visually impaired visitors is almost one-to-one, so there's always someone to describe what's going on. "Because the guides know the history of every animal they can tell you all sorts of anecdotes about

them." "A lot of the people we take on these tours are surprised by how much they get out of the visit" says Joan. "There are animals and plants to touch and a huge number of strange sounds and smells." Melbourne Zoo has produced an embossed Braille book of twenty zoo animals. Almost every library that deals with the visually impaired has a copy, or you can get hold of one by contacting Melbourne Zoo. "It's not a child's book" says Joan. "It has Braille maps and drawings and lots of detailed written information. It's a very helpful thing for people to read before taking the zoo tour." ***Zoo tours for the visually impaired can be booked by calling Wendy Goodwin, Friends of the Zoo (FOTZ), administrative assistant, on 347 1522.***

MTC's Summer Season

Hay Fever

Noel Coward's comedy Hay Fever, which opens at the Playhouse on 17th October, is described as "an evening of sparkling irresponsibility, wit and fun." Four unsuspecting guests spend a weekend in the country with the delightfully eccentric Bliss family. Each member of the family has invited a house guest without notifying the others, resulting in a comedy of manners (or lack of them), which has made Hay Fever one of Noel Coward's most important and enduringly funny plays.

Sunday Lunch

This is the world premiere of Bill Garner's latest comedy – a post Don's Party exploration of Australia's middle class. "Sandra and Neil's lunch is gate-crashed by Wally, sceptic and self appointed conscience of his generation. With more unexpected arrivals, announcements of suicide, and confessions of marital infidelity (all before the first course), Sunday Lunch dishes up hilarious farce and corrosive satire." Wally is played by Bruce Spence. Sunday Lunch runs from 26th September to 2nd November 1991 at the Russell Street Theatre.

The Girl Who Saw Everything

Alma de Groen's new play – here receiving its world premiere – is an intelligent, fast moving and sharply observed comedy of the manners that govern the relationships between women and men. "Controversial historian Liz Ransome abandons the past to research the future in the quiet of the Blue Mountains. A mysterious death and a chance meeting lead Liz and her husband to a new understanding." The Girl Who Saw Everything runs from 7th November to 7th December 1991 at the Russell Street Theatre.



Audio Description

Three performances of Hay Fever will feature Audio Description – a new aid for visually impaired theatre goers. Developed by the Association for the Blind. Audio Description allows concise descriptions of what happens on stage to be relayed to the visually impaired through a radio receiver no bigger than a "Walkman." The describing is done live. The Describers, who familiarise themselves with each production beforehand, sit in booths at the back of the theatre. Stage movements, sets and the actors' gestures and facial expressions are all described during breaks in the dialogue. Programme notes and stage setting are also described in detail before the performance starts. Access to Audio Description is free and must be booked through EASE. The equipment – receiver and a new earpiece – is collected on arrival at the theatre. Hay Fever runs from 17th October to 23rd November 1991 at the Playhouse, Victorian Arts Centre. There are twenty Audio Description units available at each of the following performances: Wednesday 6th November at 8.00 pm, Thursday 14th November at 8.00 pm, and Saturday 16th November at 4.00 pm. Phone Lisa on 699 8497 to book your units.

EASE Tickets now available.

*Melbourne Theatre Company Summer Season

1. Sunday Lunch
2. Hay Fever
3. The Girl Who Saw Everything
4. The Selection
5. Shirley Valentine

*Playbox Theatre Company

1. Heroic Measures
 2. Early Days Under the Old Hat
- *Australian Chamber Orchestra
*Australian Pops Orchestra – Gershwin, Porter and Kern
*Hair
*The Buddy Holly Story
*AC/DC
*New Kids on the Block
*The Last Laugh

- *The Comedy Club
*High Spirits – Googie Withers and John McCallum
*Phantom of the Opera – The Silent Movie
*Hoyts Movie tickets
*Greater Union/Village Movie tickets
*Nureyev
*Melbourne Symphony Orchestra