

Booking with EASE

What's On?

First check your daily papers, free entertainment guides and other sources of information, then check EASE dates in the *EASE Ticket Update* before booking.

Bookings

Phone Lisa on 699 8497 and discuss what you would like to see, when, and any special seating requirements.

Access Information

EASE provides information about access and facilities at venues in and around Melbourne - over the phone, in the *EASE Newsletter* and via the *Melbourne Venue Guide - Editions 1 & 2*.

Method of Payment

Pay at the EASE office or by posting a cheque or money order made out to ARTS ACCESS. Payment is NEVER made at the venue. Please note Items 4 and 7 of the Conditions of Sale.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Thursday
10.00am - 4.00pm only

Bookings & TTY: 699 8497
Administration: 699 7636

Conditions of Sale

Tickets purchased through EASE are sold under the following conditions:

1. Tickets are not transferable. Tickets are sold to individual subscribers on the understanding that they are attending the booked event.
2. Tickets are sold to staff members of an organisation on the understanding that they are attending an event as a support person for the clients of that organisation, and under no other circumstances.
3. EASE staff reserve the right to refuse sale to anyone who they believe is not eligible to purchase tickets.
4. Tickets must be paid for within 14 days of receiving an invoice from EASE.
5. EASE will purchase tickets, where possible, to suit a subscriber's particular requirements. Sometimes these requests will not be possible to fulfil.
6. EASE ticket prices are determined in negotiations with each promoter, thus ticket prices will vary greatly. An administrative commission is added to this ticket price and that total price is the one quoted and sold to subscribers.
7. There is no exchange or refund of tickets. A booking is taken as a financial commitment to purchase those tickets booked.
8. EASE staff reserve the right to cancel or suspend membership if conditions of sale are breached.

Ease

Entertainment Access Service

109-111 Sturt Street
SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC 3205

Bookings & TTY: 699 8497
Administration: 699 7636
Fax: 699 8868

EASE Staff

Dean Michael - EASE Project Officer
Lisa McKoy - EASE Bookings Officer

Volunteers

Bela Greenwald, Roisin Johnson,
John Pidd, Clare Matthews, Gaye Walsh, and NADRASCA volunteers.

With thanks to Graham Berry of
Typographical Services.

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Arts Access is assisted by Arts Victoria and the Commonwealth Government, through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.



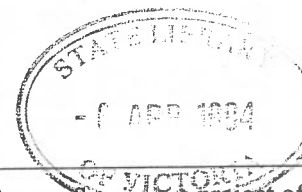
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109-111 Sturt Street, South Melbourne, VIC 3205 Australia

Ease



Celebrating 20 Years of
Innovation & Excellence
1974-1994

ARTS Access

Newsletter of the Entertainment Access Service - a project of Arts Access ISSN 1038-2879 Autumn 1994



Above: One of the more serious scenes from Baz Luhrman's colourful production of Britten's, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Strictly Dreamy The Australian Opera Season '94

Opera continues to be one of the most popular of all entertainments available to EASE subscribers. In 1994 the Australian Opera (AO) will present seven outstanding productions at the Victorian Arts Centre - and EASE has tickets to them all.

In March there's the innovative double program of *Cavalleria Rusticana* (Rustic Chivalry) with *Pagliacci* (The Clowns); and Gluck's *Orpheus & Eurydice*. Orpheus cannot contemplate life without his beloved Eurydice. With the help of Amor, god of love, he descends into the Underworld to find her.

In April, Baz Luhrman's much awaited AO production of Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is sure to delight those who are keen to see where Luhrman and collaborators, Catherine Martin and Bill Marron have moved on to since the film hit, *Strictly Ballroom* and their 1950s-style treatment of the Puccini opera, *La Boheme*.

Also in April are Gilbert and Sullivan's well known, *The Gondoliers*, starring Suzane Johnston; and Richard Wagner's, *The Mastersingers of Nuremberg*. Set in the 16th century, *Mastersingers* centres on the timeless struggle between those who cling to the past and those who want to abandon everything in favour of the new - a battle between experience and youth. Starring Bruce Martin and Joan Carden with a distinguished cast, this production is new to Melbourne.

In May look forward to one of Mozart's early operas, *Idomeneo*, conducted by world-famous Mozart interpreter, Christopher Hogwood. Based on epic poetry, this is the tragic story of King Idomeneo, whose fate is sealed upon his return to Crete from the Trojan Wars. In exchange for safe travel, he pledges to Neptune the life of the first person he sees. Unwittingly he condemns his own son to death.

DDA awareness campaign begins

The rights of people with disabilities and the responsibilities of others, such as employers, government bodies and service providers, will be promoted in a national awareness campaign for the Disability Discrimination Act beginning in March.

The campaign will be launched by the Federal Attorney General, Mr Michael Lavarch and will be run by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

The Commission says its aim is to ensure the Act is well known so that people with disabilities will actually benefit from it.

EASE will receive information and updates on the progress of the Act and will continue to promote awareness of the Act within the arts and entertainment sectors.

INSIDE:

- * Walk & Sprint Events
- * New Audio Loops
- * EASE Members Event
- * Venue Guide Offer

EASE Bookings 699 8497 10am to 4pm Mon- Fri

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first Newsletter for 1994. This is a significant year for Arts Access (of which EASE is a major project), being the 20th anniversary for the organisation.

The 20th anniversary has special meaning for EASE, because Arts Access began as a one person project distributing entertainment tickets to people with disabilities and disadvantaged groups - a model for the EASE service.

That was way back in 1974. Since then Arts Access has evolved into a leading community based arts organisation operating three major programs: the Artistic Program, which manages around 50 practical arts projects annually; the Resource Unit, which provides information, advocacy and training; and EASE as we know it today, with its ticketing and information service, and its important role as an advocate

In 1994 EASE will continue to offer ticketing to as wide a range of events as possible, while continuing to be a strong lobbyist for better access and facilities at arts and entertainment venues.

We hope you will join us in celebrating the 20 years of innovation and excellence achieved by Arts Access. Notice of special anniversary celebrations will be posted in future newsletters when arrangements are confirmed later in the year.

*

Don't forget the EASE Members 'Get Together' on March 25. See the news column (right) for details. We hope to see you there!

Dean & Lisa

NEWS

EASE Members will 'Get Together'

The first of what we hope will be an annual event - the EASE Members Get-Together - will be held on Friday, March 25th.

The event will provide a valuable opportunity for EASE members to meet staff and hear our plans for 1994 and beyond. Members can ask questions related to the EASE service, let EASE staff know what they would like to see happening, and hear a little about the new Disability Discrimination Act.

All individual financial members are welcome to attend, with support workers and friends. Representatives of organisations which are current financial members are also welcome.

Join us from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at the Arts Access Studio, behind the EASE office, at Arts Access, 109-111 Sturt St, South Melbourne. The Studio is wheelchair accessible.

RSVP is essential. Call Dean Michael on 699 7636 by Friday, March 18.

Please let Dean know if there's anything you would like discussed on the day.

EASE Consumers Group

The EASE Consumers Group is up and running in 1994, with a program of work developing for the year.

In conjunction with EASE Project Officer, Dean Michael, the EASE Consumers Group is concentrating on promoting access policies for Melbourne's entertainment venues.

Over the years EASE has been successful in advising venue managers on best practice, legal standards and other aspects of service provision, leading to new and better access policies.

Good access policies encourage and plan for the participation of people with disabilities in entertainment events, and improve standards of service for all venue patrons.

For more information about the work of the EASE Consumers Group contact Dean Michael on 699 7636

Venue Guide Double Bargain!

EASE is giving away both editions of *The Melbourne Venue Guide* for only \$2.50 - to cover the cost of postage and handling.

This offer is due to the guides being slightly out of date - however they still provide a good idea of the access and facilities provided at 39 listed venues around Melbourne and some regional centres.

There are hints on how to make your visit more comfortable and enjoyable, and contain information on BASS and audio description.

Later this year we are planning to produce a new venue guide to be available by subscription, and designed to be updated when necessary.

In the meantime if you wish to take advantage of this offer send a cheque or money order for \$2.50 to:

Venue Guides,
EASE/Arts Access,
109-111 Sturt Street,
South Melbourne VIC 3205.

Arts Access AGM

The AGM will be held on Wednesday, March 31, commencing at 6.00pm in the Arts Access Studio, at 109-111 Sturt Street South Melbourne, finishing at 7.30pm. The venue is accessible.

Arts Access and EASE members are all welcome, however only Arts Access members are eligible to vote on any decisions taken on the night.

Please RSVP to Samantha Marsh on 6998299.

Look at me when I'm talking to you!

We wouldn't dare try to describe Dame Edna's new show - we'll leave it to her: "As usual, my manager Barry Humphries insists on inviting Les Patterson (yuk!) and Sandy Stone (yawn!) plus one other un-called -for character... I'm sorry about this Possums, but I will really make it up to you somehow, somewhere, sometime. Perhaps."

EASE has tickets for March 16th and 17th (8pm), and the 20th (6pm), at the Palais Theatre, St.Kilda.

Edna's price for EASE Possums is \$27! To book phone 699 8497.



Whether you walk, wheel, or jog, be in it in March! Ms Yvette Curlis (above) was the first wheelie across the line in the 1993 Sussan Women's 10K Classic, and will compete again this year.

Sprint with Sussan or Walk Against Want

People with disabilities are encouraged to participate in two active, fun events in March that will help raise money for worthy causes here and overseas.

Community Aid Abroad (CAA) will hold the annual Walk Against Want on Sunday, March 20th, at 70 locations nationally. Registrants collect sponsors for each kilometre travelled. The central Melbourne walk starts at Princes Park, North Carlton at 9.00 am - but you can start anytime from 9am to 12 noon.

You can wheel, walk, cycle, pram, run or rollerblade a chosen distance (up to 40k) and there are two easy, short routes of 1.9k and 3.3k. Parking (close to the start/finish lines) and toilet facilities for people with disabilities will be provided.

For information telephone CAA on: (03) 289 9444 or 008 034 034.

Participants in the 1994 Sussan Women's 10K Classic, can win 'spot' prizes, trophies for the oldest person to finish, the first in each age group - and New Zealand Natural Ice Cream are offering sporting scholarships (\$500, \$150 and \$100) to the first three wheelchair competitors to finish.

If the 10K 'run' seems a bit ambitious you can always try the 5K 'walk'.

Entry is \$10 (\$5 for under 18s). For each entry received Sussan Stores will donate \$1 to the Royal Women's Hospital.

The Classic starts at the Bourke Street Mall at 10.00am on Sunday, March 27.

Entry forms are available at all Sussan stores or from : Anna Le Deaux, Sussan, GPO Box 490G, Melbourne 3001.

Telephone (03) 254 111.

Theatre

Furious

Michael Gow will direct the Sydney Theatre Company production of his fiery new play, *Furious*, for Playbox at the CUB Malthouse.

Nicholas Eadie is Roland, a respected playwright, who is called to an old people's home to collect a box, which he finds is filled with news clippings about him. He has to find out why. With John Gaden, Tamblyn Lord, Andrea Moor, Rachel Szalay, and Kerry Walker.

Opens on Friday, March 11.

Disturbing the Dust

Patricia Kennedy plays Alice, a role created for her by writers Arietta Tayler and Luke Devenish. Alice looks back on her life of acclaim. Moments, deeply

buried in the past are relived and become indistinguishably interwoven with the present. With a distinguished cast including Malcolm Robertson.

Opens at the Playbox, CUB Malthouse, on Tuesday, March 15.

Hotspur

Mother & Son team, Ruth Cracknell, Gary McDonald and writer, Geoffrey Atherden, bring their comic genius to the stage in *Hotspur*.

Fiona MacPherson (Cracknell) is the landlady of Hotspur, a crumbling mansion, where she spars with long time boarder, the bankrupt millionaire divorcee, Freddy Brown (McDonald). When council zoning plans reveal Hotspur may be surrounded by hideous 'luxury' apartments, Freddy plans to foil the developers and make a fortune.

Opens at the Playhouse, Victorian Arts Centre on Tuesday, March 8.

Music

MSO

After an absence of seven years, the The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra returns to the Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University, for a series of four Friday night concerts starting on March 25. The series features renowned conductors Eduardo Mata and Hiroyuki Iwaki, with acclaimed soloists in the mellow acoustics of the MSO's regular recording venue.

The MSO will continue its 20th Century Orchestra series at the CUB Malthouse in 1994. Over three Saturday night concerts, starting on May 28, the series features trailblazing performances of important recent compositions.

For further information about the full 1994 MSO program phone the Orchestra office on 524 2866/55.

EASE Bookings 699 8497.

Comedy

Glynn Nicholas

In his new show, *Crossing the Line*, at the Universal Theatre in Fitzroy, actor-comedian-musician, Glynn Nicholas brings to the stage his observations of recent travels in America, Europe and Asia - the politics, the people, the food, keeping fit, and "the things children do."

Crossing the Line is a mixture of music songs, stories and illusions with dashes of irreverent Nicholas wit.

The show currently runs to March 6, but will probably be extended.

Wheelchair users are advised to contact Universal staff on 416 3311 before arriving, so that where required, they can assist you in negotiating the stairs.

Audio Description

Subscribers wishing to book Audio Description dates are advised to book well in advance. All bookings for Audio Description performances are through EASE 699 8497.

Hotspur at The Playhouse, Victorian Arts Centre

Monday, March 21, 6.30pm
Wednesday, March 16, 1.00pm
Thursday, March 24, 8.00pm
Saturday, March 19, 4.00pm

The Grapes of Wrath at The Playhouse, Victorian Arts Centre

Monday, May 23, 6.30pm
Wednesday, May 18, 1.00pm
Thursday, May 26, 8.00pm
Saturday, May 21, 4.00

New audio loop at Sports & Entertainment Centre

An audio loop has recently been installed at the Sports and Entertainment Centre.

The loop covers 190 seats in the southern or river side of the building.

A portable loop can be placed in the stalls area for patrons using wheelchairs. There are signs at the site indicating the loop area, which covers rows D - M, seats 71 to 89.

Olympic Park Management, which operates the Centre, is to be congratulated for providing greatly improved access for people with hearing impairment to the live entertainment at the Sports and Entertainment Centre.

The audio loop was installed by Robert Willis of Word of Mouth Technology.

Box office staff at the Centre are keen to see the loop used regularly. Inquiries about the loop facility can be made directly on 429 6288.