

Free Entertainment

Sidney Myer Free Concerts with the Melbourne Symphony.

The Melbourne Symphony's annual free concerts at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl have been an important part of Melbourne's musical life for nearly 60 years.

Each of the four concerts will be conducted by the popular Russian conductor, Vladimir Verbitsky. A distinguished roster of soloists will appear with the Orchestra including the brilliant Russian pianist, Valery Kuleshov, who will play Rachmaninov's spectacular Third Piano Concerto, and internationally renowned soprano Rita Hunter, who will sing arias by Verdi, Beethoven and Wagner. Other highlights include Dvorak's New World Symphony and Ravel's Bolero.

The concerts take place at twilight commencing at 7pm on Wednesday 12th February, Saturday 15th February, Wednesday 19th February and Saturday 22nd February.

ANZ Opera at the Bowl with the Victoria State Opera. Saturday January 25th '92 at 6.30pm Johann Strauss's Die Fledermaus is one of today's most popular operas. The Victoria State Opera's annual concert performance in the relaxing setting of the Sidney Myer Music Bowl is among the biggest attractions of the Summer Music programme.

Silly Summer Sunday is kid's stuff. It happens on the Arts Centre lawns on Sunday January 19th, between 11am and 4pm. Silly Summer Sunday will startle the senses with stacks of splendidly spontaneous, stimulating and scintillating silliness.

Once again thanks to Graham Berry of Typographical Services for his support.

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If undelivered return to:
Arts Access Society Inc.
109-111 Sturt Street, South Melbourne, 3205. Australia.

~Christmas Closure~

ARTS ACCESS and EASE will be closing down for one week for Christmas from Monday 23rd to Friday 27th December. The EASE office will also be closed on New Year's Day, Wednesday 1st January. As there are shows on during our holiday week, please be sure you don't miss out

by booking in advance. The EASE staff, Julie-Ann and Lisa and our volunteers John Pidd and Barbara Kitchen would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy and entertaining Christmas and New Year.

Christmas with the Australian Boys Choir

On Thursday the 19th December at 7.45pm, the Australian Boy's Choral Institute will present "Christmas with the Australian Boy's Choir" featuring The Vocal Consort and Rantos Collegium, Melbourne's leading chamber orchestra, at the Melbourne Concert Hall.

The Institute's Christmas concert has become quite a tradition. All boy members of the Institute take part in this event, although the concert features the Institutes top performing groups, the Australian Boys' Choir and the Vocal Consort, both recently returned from a successful tour of the U.S.

There will be many opportunities for the audience to sing along with one of the world's best choirs, combining traditional, well known carols with the best of other seasonal music, superbly sung and brilliantly accompanied. For further information phone Lisa on 699 8497.

EASE STAFF

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

VOLUNTEERS

John Pidd
Barbara Kitchen

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.

Ease

EASE Newsletter - Arts Access Society Inc.

ARTS
Access

December 1991

Ease summer entertainment guide



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Melbourne Summer Music

It's shaping up to be a great summer of entertainment at the Victorian Arts Centre. Summer Music '92 continues its tradition of offering a wide range of music to family audiences. The variety on offer includes Jazz, Broadway musicals, Spanish Guitar, Rock'n'Roll, Orchestral and Opera.

Summer Music '92 also celebrates two areas of music for the first time - Country Music and Aboriginal Music. Australian Country music has developed its own distinctive style and "Salute to Tamworth" opens the festival on January 10th 1992. Archie Roach and Yothu Yindi are aboriginal performers gaining national

and international standing through performance and recordings. These exciting new sounds will make Summer Music '92 richer than ever. EASE has discount tickets to all Summer music concerts except James Galway and Australia Land of Today. All EASE Tix are under \$15.00! Call EASE for your detailed colour Melbourne Summer Music brochure!

Outdoor Entertainment in the Gardens

By Day

Kenneth Graham's "Wind in the Willows" returns for a record-breaking sixth year in the Royal Botanic Gardens. The show runs from December 23rd, Monday to Saturday, at 11.00am and 6.00pm. AF 790 19605 EA 7

By Night

"A Midsummer's Night Dream" under the stars at the Royal Botanic Gardens. Pack a picnic and enjoy Glenn Elston's acclaimed production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," a hilarious comedy of lovers, fools and fairies.

"Beautiful and wickedly entertaining - a world class production" - Adelaide Festival.

The Dream starts at 8.45pm on Tuesday 10th December, and then plays Monday to Sunday.

See a Movie with EASE

EASE has discount vouchers available to a wide range of cinemas in the Melbourne metropolitan area.

HOYTS Vouchers can be used at the following cinemas:

- Hoyts Cinema Centre – 140 Bourke Street Melbourne.
- Hoyts Mid-City – 200 Bourke Street Melbourne
- ** Hoyts 8 Chadstone Shopping Centre – 1341 Dandenong Rd Chadstone
- ** Hoyts 8 Northland Shopping Centre – 50 Murray Road Preston
- ** Hoyts 10 Highpoint Shopping Centre – Rosamond Road Maribyrnong
- ** Hoyts 10 Forest Hill Shopping Ctre – Cnr Canterbury & Mahoneys Rds

GREATER UNION/VILLAGE Vouchers can be used at the following cinemas:

- * Greater Union Russell Cinemas – 131 Russell St Melbourne
- ** Village/G.U. Knox District Centre – Burwood Highway Knoxfield
- ** Village/G.U. Dandenong 10 Capitol Ctre – Cnr McCrae & Walker Sts.
- ** Village/G.U. Airport West 8 Westfield Shopping Ctre – Louis St
- ** Village/G.U. Southland 8 Westfield Shopping Ctre – 1239 Nepean Hwy

INDEPENDENT CINEMAS Vouchers can be used at the following cinemas:

- ** Balwyn Cinema – 233 Whitehorse Rd Balwyn
- * Belgrave Cameo Cinemas – 548 Monbulk Road Belgrave
- Croydon Twin Cinemas – 3 Hewish Road Croydon
- ? Elsternwick Classic – 9 Gordon Street Elsternwick
- * Melton Twin Cinema – McKenzie Street Melton
- ? Reservoir Cinema North – 909 High Street Reservoir
- ? Sale Twin Cinemas – Sale
- * Toorak Trak – 445 Toorak Road Toorak
- ? Warragul Civic Cinema – Smith Street Warragul
- ? Waverley Pinewood – Pinewood Drive Waverley
- ? Waverley Garden Twin – Shopping Centre – Waverley Gardens
- ** Dendy Brighton Twin – Dendy Plaza Church St Brighton

**** Denotes access to all Cinemas. * Denotes limited access.**

? No access information available at time of printing Newsletter.

Playbox Season '92

The Playbox Season '92 opens at the CUB Malthouse in March. Through the year the Company will present eight plays in a season that aims to entertain and excite. The Playbox commitment to contemporary writing remains the primary focus with seven new works selected for your enjoyment.

The first production is **“The Chronicle of Macbeth,”** an adaptation of Shakespeare's text by Tadashi Suzuki. Acclaimed around the world for his bold interpretation of western classics, Suzuki combines the tradition of Japanese theatre with his own brilliant contemporary style. The result is a highly physical and superbly disciplined ensemble. A unique theatrical experience.

The King and I

For four decades “The King and I” has captivated millions with its delightful story of Anna Leonwens, brought to the court of Siam as a tutor to the King's children. It is a story of love and joy set to one of the most glorious and beautiful scores ever written. This sumptuous Australian production, starring Hayley Mills and Tony Marinyo, has won ecstatic reviews and standing ovations in Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane.

EASE has limited tickets to four performances of “The King and I” – Monday 6th January and Tuesday 7th January at 7.30pm; Wednesday 5th February at 1.00pm and Saturday 8th February at 2.00pm.

EASE Tickets – Who can use them?

EASE – Entertainment Access Service obtains discount tickets and the right to access seats for people with special needs to encourage and assist disabled and disadvantaged people to attend and enjoy Melbourne's diverse range of entertainment and sporting events.

EASE offers the same price to support workers, family and friends accompanying the EASE client. EASE tickets are NOT available to people who do not qualify for assistance, especially staff, for their own personal use. EASE staff take bookings from workers in the belief that the tickets are being fairly used. Please do not abuse the trust we place in you or the scheme will be placed in jeopardy.

Thank You!

In 1991 EASE booked and distributed almost 13,000 tickets to entertainment and sporting events in Melbourne and Geelong for clients in Melbourne, country Victoria and Adelaide. This is double the number of tickets distributed in 1989.

I would like to thank the Promoters, Companies, Venues, BASS and everybody else who through their commitment to, and support for EASE – Entertainment Access Service has made accessing entertainment a reality for everyone.

“Wolf” by contemporary Australian playwright Tobsha Learner is a provocative account of modern adult sexuality. The character of Daniel Lupus is possibly one of the most mature and incisive creations of a male character by a woman in this country today.

“Mary Lives!” by Frank Hardy stars Maryanne Fahey (of the Comedy Company) as Mary Hardy. “Mary Lives” portrays a unique and troubled personality, songs and all – her humour, love, generosity and courage.

“Sex Diary of an Infidel” set against the backgrounds of Melbourne and Manila, weaves a cunning web of truth, lies, self-delusion and depravity. Fast establishing himself as one of our most talented playwrights, Michael Gurr's previous work includes “The Hundred Year Ambush” and “Dead to the World.”

Broadway to Hollywood

The 85 piece Australian Pops Orchestra presents two enthralling musical evenings, recreating the excitement and romance of Broadway showstoppers and Hollywood spectaculars. The shows include music from West Side Story, The King and I, Oliver, Fiddler on the Roof and Whitehorse Inn.

Broadway to Hollywood is at the Melbourne Concert Hall for two nights only – Saturday December 28th and New Year's Eve, Tuesday December 31st.

EASE has tickets for the concert on Saturday 28th December.

EASE – Entertainment Access Service PH: 699 8497

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

Phone: 6998497 or 699 7636

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.

Access Information: We also provide information about access and facilities 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.

BASS

BASS is the largest ticketing service in Australia and sells tickets for most events.

BASS has a phone booking number for Credit Card bookings 11500 and Sportscharge 11522. There are also numerous outlets throughout Melbourne. If you book by phone you will get the best available tickets at the time and you will not have a choice about where you sit. If you require specific seats you will need to go to a BASS outlet where you can look at the seating plans and obtain basic information about access and facilities

If you cannot get to a BASS outlet and have special requirements for your seating you can call the BASS Customer Services numbers 685 881 or 685 8882 for information and bookings. Wheelchair Bookings are made directly with the venue where the event is on.

Independent Access

In the past two years EASE has doubled the number of tickets it distributes while maintaining the same staffing levels. One of the aims of the EASE service is to encourage independent access to entertainment by informing BASS and venues of the special requirements of our clients and facilitating change.

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.

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 commission on tickets it does not cover our operating costs. Uncollected, unused or returned tickets must be paid for.

M.T.C Season '92

The Melbourne Theatre Company recently launched their 10 play 1992 season, a season remarkable for its diversity of theme, style and period. Even if you're not a regular lover of theatre, I'm sure that at least one of the plays on offer will touch some area of interest to you.

The Melbourne Theatre Company's director, Roger Hodgeman, called the new 10 play season, “A balanced programme that will appeal to a large audience.” “ Our aim is to stimulate and entertain, and by the choice of repertoire and manner of presentation, to contribute to the development of Australia's culture,” he said. The 1992 season reflects this aim with its exciting amalgam of theatrical styles featuring commissions of Australian works, the best of contemporary world drama, and the classics, both traditional and modern.

The EASE price for most tickets is approximately the concession price available through BASS although there are some exceptions. We therefore ask your support, particularly if you have a concession card or can afford to pay a little extra, by booking your tickets directly with BASS. EASE continues to expand its relationship with BASS and many of the problems that led to the establishment of

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. 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 essential. Tickets must be paid for within two weeks of receiving your tickets and invoice. Please enclose invoice or details with your payment otherwise it is difficult to match up cheques with bookings.

Please remember that a booking is a financial commitment and that EASE must pay for the 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.

New in 1992

The MTC (Melbourne Theatre Company) has introduced new ticket pricing structures and services in 1992 facilitating greater access to theatre.

These include a Youth Under 26 Series, a Senior Cardholders Series and Audio Description in conjunction with the Association for the Blind and Interpreted performances in association with The Victorian Deaf Society. For further information call Kevin at the MTC on 654 4817 or Lisa at EASE on 699 8497.

Season's Greetings