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# THE AUSTRALIAN ELIZABETHAN THEATRE TRUST

(A Company incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory and limited by guarantee)

85 Goulburn Street, Sydney

1957

*Annual Report*

*and*

*Financial Statements*

**President:**

The Right Honourable Sir John G. Latham, G.C.M.G., Q.C.

**Vice-Presidents:**

Sir Richard Boyer

Sir Robert Knox

Sir Arthur Rymill

**Chairman:**

Dr. H. C. Coombs

**Directors:**

Professor Frederick Alexander

J. H. G. Blakeney

K. G. Brooks

E. C. Daum

G. F. Davies

W. O. Fairfax

A. H. L. Gibson

R. E. Jacobs

J. N. Kirby, C.B.E.

F. E. Lampe, M.B.E.

Mrs. I. L. Massy Burnside

Albert Monk

C. J. A. Moses, C.B.E.

Sir Daniel McVey, C.M.G.

Clive Ogilvy

A. J. Reid, C.M.G., I.S.O.

Miss M. E. Roper

Dr. Lloyd Ross

Professor F. J. Schonell

A. T. Smithers, C.B.E.

L. C. Waterman

**Honorary Solicitors:**

Messrs. Allen, Allen & Hemsley, Martin Place, Sydney.

**Honorary Auditors:**

G. T. Hartigan & Co., Chartered Accountants (Aust.).

**Bankers:**

Commonwealth Trading Bank of Australia.

**Honorary Secretary and Registered Office:**

Maurice Parker

Commonwealth Bank Chambers,  
Cnr. London Circuit and Northbourne Avenue,  
Canberra, A.C.T.



# THE AUSTRALIAN ELIZABETHAN THEATRE TRUST

## NOTICE OF MEETING

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of Members will be held on the 2nd Floor, Commonwealth Bank Building, 367 Collins Street, Melbourne, on Monday, 14th October, 1957, at 5.30 p.m.

### BUSINESS:

1. To receive and consider the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account made up to 30th June, 1957, and the Report of the Directors and Honorary Auditors thereon.
2. To elect Honorary Auditors for the ensuing year. The retiring Auditors, Messrs. G. T. Hartigan & Co., Chartered Accountants (Aust.), are eligible for re-election.
3. To transact any other business which may be brought before the meeting in conformity with the Articles of Association.

By order of the Board,

M. PARKER,  
Secretary.

Sydney: 12th September, 1957.



# THE AUSTRALIAN ELIZABETHAN THEATRE TRUST

**Report of the Directors to the Members at the Ordinary General Meeting to be held at the Commonwealth Bank Building, 367 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria, on 14th October, 1957**

The Balance Sheet of the Trust and Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 30th June, 1957, duly certified by our Honorary Auditors, Messrs. G. T. Hartigan & Co., Chartered Accountants (Aust.), are submitted herewith.

The financial position of the Trust as at 30th June, 1957, may be considered satisfactory. Accumulated Funds standing at £112,154 being approximately the same as when the Trust commenced active operations two years ago.

Last year we reported an increase of £29,183 in our Accumulated Funds, and this year we report a reduction of £31,338.

It is necessary, when considering the financial position of the Trust, that it be viewed over a longer period than any specified 12 months. The increase in our Funds for the year ended June, 1956, as explained in our last report was due principally to State Government and City Council Grants, which were provided to help meet the costs of our more expensive productions, such as our Opera Company which at that time had not commenced.

To obtain a reasonably representative picture of our financial experience, we must take the results of the past two years together. While this would show a not unsatisfactory position, our experience, particularly with Opera, has given your Board some concern. The results of the Mozart season, from the point of view of public response in attendance and enthusiasm, demonstrated that the Trust's seasons of Opera are meeting a genuine and widespread need. The relatively poor response in Melbourne, to which a large proportion of our losses must be attributed, was obviously due to the competition of the Olympic Games. Nevertheless, the Board is conscious that if the Trust is to continue to present Opera of high quality on an Australian-wide basis, it must expect to incur substantial losses for which the present scale of our resources might prove inadequate.

An approach was made, therefore, to the Commonwealth Government which, after consideration of all aspects of the work being done by the Trust, has made a grant of £20,000 to the Trust for the year 1957/58, with an assurance that its needs will be examined again at the corresponding time next year. The Board has also had further consultations with opera organisations in the various States with a view to developing the Trust's seasons with greater emphasis on co-operation with these organisations. This, it is hoped, will not only make it possible for the seasons to be presented more economically, but will also help State opera organisations develop more vigorously.

## PRODUCTIONS COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR.

### 1. Opera.

The Trust's Australian Opera Company completed a very fine season of Mozart Operas, viz., FIGARO, DON GIOVANNI, COSI FAN TUTTI and THE MAGIC FLUTE. Although the Season resulted in a financial loss, the performances were of a very high standard and attracted large audiences. The Company brought considerable prestige to the Trust and is to be congratulated on a splendid season. The Company played in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide. In Melbourne the Season coincided with the Olympic Games and formed part of the official programme.

A puppet play, THE TINTOOKIES, was presented concurrently with the Opera Season by the Trust and Peter Scriven. This proved financially successful and drew large audiences of children to matinee performances.

In addition to directly sponsored opera, the Trust has assisted the National Theatre and Fine Arts Society of Hobart in its presentation of opera by financial guarantee and services of its opera staff.

### 2. Drama.

The Trust's Australian Drama Company also had a successful season, both financially and in quality of production. The Company established a very high reputation in the following cities where it performed: Melbourne, Hobart, Launceston, Perth, Sydney and Adelaide. The Company also performed in Port Pirie, Burnie and Devonport. The Company presented TWELFTH NIGHT, THE RIVALS and SUMMER OF THE SEVENTEENTH DOLL. Special comment should be made of THE DOLL, the success of which is now a household word.



We feel the success of **THE DOLL**, which has proved to the world the capabilities of our Australian Theatre, has opened the gate to a ready market for any future Australian plays of merit and will bring to our authors an incentive to their creative minds.

Other productions directly mounted by the Trust during the year were **THE RAINMAKER**, presented in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, **NED KELLY** and **THE BEGGAR'S OPERA**, presented in Sydney.

In addition to directly sponsored drama productions, the Trust has assisted the Little Theatre Movement in Melbourne and Perth, by lending the services of its staff producers, and by a direct financial grant of £750 to the Independent Theatre, Sydney.

## **CURRENT ACTIVITIES.**

### **1. Opera.**

The Trust's Opera Company is presenting a 17 weeks' Grand Opera Season, comprising five operas, **LA BOHEME**, **OTELLO**, **TALES OF HOFFMANN**, **THE BARTERED BRIDE** and **TOSCA**, for which Miss Joan Hammond, Elsie Morrison and Ronald Dowd have returned to Australia.

The Operas have proved most popular and, although more costly to run than the Mozart Season, based on present returns, the loss on the Season should be considerably less than the Mozart Season. The reason is due to larger audiences and slightly higher admission charges.

### **2. Drama.**

The Trust's Drama Company is presenting in Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth, **HAMLET** and **THE RELAPSE**. The productions are of a very high standard.

### **3. Ballet.**

The Trust has formed its first Ballet Company which is touring in conjunction with the Opera Company. It is presenting three original ballets which are proving very popular. The Australian Ballet, **WAKOOKA**, with music by John Antill, is especially highly regarded.

### **4. Summer of the Seventeenth Doll, London Production.**

**THE DOLL** is being presented at the New Theatre in London jointly with St. James' Players. Commencing with a three weeks' tour in the provinces, it opened in London on 30th April. It has proved a huge success and continues to attract large audiences. The Trust has already profited financially to the extent of £5,000 and continues to profit at the rate of £500 per week on present audiences. It is expected to run in London until the end of this year before going to New York. The Trust expects to benefit by an additional £10,000 to £15,000 from the sale of film rights.

## **FUTURE PLANS.**

### **The Shifting Heart.**

This play is written by the Australian author, Richard Beynon, and won first prize in this year's Playwrights Advisory Board's Competition. The play was also placed third in the world-wide "Observer" competition in London. The play will be presented by the Trust in Sydney, opening on October 4th.

### **Musical Comedy.**

The Trust hopes to present an Australian Musical Comedy early next year.

Sydney, 9th September, 1957.

H. C. COOMBS,  
Chairman.



# THE AUSTRALIAN ELIZABETHAN THEATRE TRUST

## BALANCE SHEET

### LIABILITIES.

#### ACCUMULATED FUNDS:

Balance at 30th June, 1956	£ 143,492
Less Deficiency for the year ended 30th June, 1957	£ 31,338
	112,154

#### PROVISION FOR RENEWAL OF LEASE:

The Elizabethan Theatre, Sydney	9,000
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THE ELIZABETHAN THEATRE RESERVE FUND	25,833
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#### DEFERRED LIABILITY:

Balance of Cost of Shares in Newtown Majestic Pty. Limited	11,667
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SUNDRY CREDITORS AND ACCRUED EXPENDITURE	824
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### AUDITORS' REPORT.

We have audited the foregoing Balance Sheet with the Books of Account of The Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust. Having obtained all the information and explanations we have required, we are of the opinion that the said Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 30th June, 1957, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the Company. In our opinion, the Register of Members and other records which the Company is required to keep by the Companies Ordinance 1954 or by its Articles have been properly kept.

G. T. HARTIGAN & CO.,  
Chartered Accountants (Aust.).  
Honorary Auditors. £159,478

SYDNEY, 6th August, 1957.

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

### EXPENDITURE.

POSTAGES, TELEPHONES AND CABLES	£ 1,128
PRINTING AND STATIONERY	427
PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS	1,193
RENT	398
SALARIES	8,792
TRAVELLING AND ENTERTAINING EXPENSES	2,776
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	439
ALLOWANCE FOR DEPRECIATION OF:	
Furniture	64
	15,217
GRANTS AND ADVANCES WRITTEN OFF:	
Independent Theatre, Sydney	850
Chair of Literature	508
Council of National Theatre and Fine Arts Society of Tasmania	350
University of Western Australia	75
Queensland Opera Company	25
Theatre for Playwrights, Sydney	21
Twelfth Night Theatre, Brisbane	18
	1,847
LOSS ON PRODUCTIONS:	
"Ned Kelly"	9,317
"The Rainmaker"	17,118
"Beggars' Opera"	8,097
Mozart Opera Season	36,051
	70,583

#### LOSS ON BROCHURE

#### PROVISION FOR RENEWAL OF LEASE:

The Elizabethan Theatre, Sydney	9,000
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£97,384



# BETHAN THEATRE TRUST

AS AT 30th JUNE, 1957

## ASSETS.

	£	£
INVESTMENTS—At Cost		72,562
THE ELIZABETHAN THEATRE, SYDNEY—		
At Cost:		
2 Shares of £1 each in Newtown Majestic Pty. Ltd. (see Contra)		37,500
FURNITURE—At Cost, less Depreciation		753
ADVANCES:		
The Elizabethan Theatre Company (Sydney) limited	11,500	
The Elizabethan Opera Company	15,449	
The Elizabethan Drama Company	16,000	
The Summer of the Seventeenth Doll—London Production	4,155	
		47,104
Sundry Debtors		205
Cash with Bankers		1,334
Cash on Hand		20
H. C. COOMBS } Directors.		£159,478
J. N. KIRBY }		

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1957

## INCOME.

	£	£
RECEIPTS FROM:		
Subscribing Members	5,605	
Donors	3,758	
		9,363
INVESTMENT INCOME		4,463
SUNDRY INCOME:		
Share of Surplus—		
“Tintookies”	1,458	
“The Boy Friend”	1,835	
Australian Drama Company—1956	3,541	
		6,834
Royalties—“Summer of the Seventeenth Doll”—London	242	
Sale of Scenery—“Medea”	100	
Management Fees Received	11,025	
Interest on Advance to The Elizabethan Theatre Company (Sydney) Limited	215	
Sundries	121	
		18,537
SUBSIDIES RECEIVED:		
Victorian State Government	8,000	
Melbourne City Council	2,000	
Queensland State Government	5,000	
South Australian State Government	6,000	
Tasmanian State Government	3,000	
Adelaide City Council	1,000	
Western Australian Government	4,000	
		29,000
N.S.W. State Government	7,500	
Sydney City Council	3,600	
		11,100
Less Transfer to The Elizabethan Theatre Reserve Fund	6,417	
		4,683
		33,683
BALANCE, being Deficiency for the year transferred to Accumulated Funds		31,338
		£97,384



**BETHAN THEATRE TRUST**  
**AS AT 30th JUNE, 1957**

	£	£
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS:</b>		
Balance at 30th June, 1956	143,492	
Less Deficiency for the year ended 30th June, 1957	<u>31,338</u>	112,154
<b>PROVISION FOR RENEWAL OF LEASE:</b>		
The Elizabethan Theatre, Sydney		9,000
<b>THE ELIZABETHAN THEATRE RESERVE FUND</b>		25,833
<b>DEFERRED LIABILITY:</b>		
Balance of Cost of Shares in Newtown Majestic Pty. Limited		11,667
<b>SUNDRY CREDITORS AND ACCRUED EXPENDITURE</b>		824

### AUDITORS' REPORT.

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G. T. HARTIGAN & CO.,  
Chartered Accountants (Aust.),  
Honorary Auditors.

SYDNEY, 6th August, 1957.

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

[illegible]

£97,384

ASSETS.															£	£
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1957**

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PEERLESS PRESS PTY. LIMITED, SYDNEY.

