

THE AUSTRALIAN ELIZABETHAN THEATRE TRUST

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

85 GOULBURN STREET, SYDNEY, N.S.W.

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December,
1960

THE AUSTRALIAN ELIZABETHAN THEATRE TRUST

Notice of Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of Members will be held on 5th Floor, Commonwealth Trading Bank, 367 Collins Street, Melbourne, on Monday, 10th July, 1961, at 5.30 p.m.

BUSINESS:

1. To receive and consider the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account made up to 31st December, 1960, 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, 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: 17th June, 1961.

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

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Sir Robert Knox
Sir Arthur Rymill

CHAIRMAN:

Dr. H. C. Coombs

DIRECTORS:

Professor Frederick Alexander
K. G. Brooks
The Hon. Mr. Justice Crisp
G. F. Davies
Mrs. M. Dekyvere, M.B.E.
W. O. Fairfax
A. H. L. Gibson
Miss Margaret Gillespie
John Glass, C.B.E.
S. G. Haviland, C.B.E.
R. E. Jacobs
J. N. Kirby, C.B.E.
F. E. Lampe, M.B.E.

Mrs. I. L. Massy Burnside
Albert Monk
Sir Charles Moses, C.B.E.
Sir Daniel McVey, C.M.G.
Professor J. A. Passmore
The Hon. Sir Roslyn Philp, K.B.E.
Sir Alexander Reid, C.M.G., I.S.O.
Miss M. E. Roper
Dr. Lloyd Ross
Professor F. J. Schonell
Sir Arthur Smithers, C.B.E.
J. B. Wallace
L. C. Waterman

HONORARY SOLICITORS:

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

HONORARY AUDITORS:

G. T. Hartigan & Co., Chartered Accountants.

BANKERS:

Commonwealth Trading Bank of Australia.

REGISTERED OFFICE:

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Neil Hutchison.

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Miss Elsie Beyer, M.B.E.

HONORARY SECRETARY:

Maurice Parker.

AUSTRALIAN ELIZABETHAN THEATRE TRUST

*Report of the Directors to the Members at the Ordinary General Meeting to be held in Melbourne
on 10th July, 1961.*

The Balance Sheet of the Trust and Statement of Income and Expenditure for the six months ended 31st December, 1960, duly certified by our Honorary Auditors, Messrs. G. T. Hartigan & Co., Chartered Accountants, are submitted herewith.

At the last Annual General Meeting we informed members of our proposal to change the Trust's accounting period from July-June to January-December as experience had shown this would be more convenient to the Trust's administration. This report, therefore, is an interim one covering a period of six months only.

We are pleased to report that there has been a further consolidation of the Trust's financial position, capital funds having increased from £129,117 to £144,013, thus bringing us nearer to the target of £150,000 which your Directors consider the minimum amount necessary to enable the activities of the Trust to be conducted on the present scale with a reasonable degree of security.

This result is particularly satisfactory as, although we were not involved in any direct Opera expenditure, the Trust was very active in the Drama field. During the period under review grants totalling some £20,000 were made by way of assistance to organisations throughout the various States, some of the major grants being: National Theatre Movement of Victoria—Opera, £5,000; The Union Theatre Repertory Company, Melbourne, £1,844; Western Australia—Drama and Opera, £3,500; The National Institute of Dramatic Art, University of N.S.W., £3,570; South Australia—Opera and Drama, £1,700; John Alden—Shakespearean Drama Festival (N.S.W.), £700; The Council of Adult Education in Victoria—presentation of *RIGOLETTO*, £2,300.

Members will see, therefore, that in addition to the Trust's own productions, it is serving a very good purpose in assisting worthwhile organisations throughout the Commonwealth.

A report on the Trust's various activities will be given in more detail in the Executive Director's report.

May we once again thank members for their support of the Trust and hope that they will find the fare which the Trust hopes to offer during the latter half of 1961 and during 1962 interesting and exciting. We should also like to express our gratitude again to our Executive Director and his enthusiastic staff for their hard work and loyalty in what is a rather complex field.

Sydney,

17th June, 1961.

H. C. COOMBS,

Chairman.

AUSTRALIAN ELIZABETHAN THEATRE TRUST

Executive Director's Report to Members

OPERA:

During the six months under review the Trust Opera Company concluded its fourth season with a visit to Brisbane, and in September the Trust brought into operation the plan outlined in our last report, whereby retainers and grants were made payable to a number of singers who might otherwise have been unable to pursue their studies and further training.

DRAMA:

The Trust Players continued their Sydney season with Eugene O'Neill's *AH WILDERNESS*, Brendan Behan's *THE HOSTAGE* and Bernard Shaw's *CANDIDA*. *THE HOSTAGE* was later transferred to Melbourne where the Trust's production was presented by J. C. Williamson Theatres Ltd. at the Comedy Theatre. In spite of the good response *THE HOSTAGE* had received in Sydney, the attendance in Melbourne was only moderate. As a Christmas attraction, *CHARLEY'S AUNT*, produced by Alexander Archdale and starring Gordon Chater, was produced at the Elizabethan Theatre, Newtown. This drew a good audience in the pre-Christmas period, but during the heat-wave conditions of late December attendance fell away. Mr. William Hodge replaced Mr. Chater in the leading role during the last fortnight of the season, and the show closed on 21st January.

The Union Theatre Repertory Company began its new season with a production of *ROOTS* by Arnold Wesker at the end of August and this was followed by *SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER*, *VISIT TO A SMALL PLANET*, *A TASTE OF HONEY* and, as a Christmas attraction, *SEE HOW THEY RUN*. Towards the end of the year the decision was made to move the company to the Russell Street Theatre at the end of the Eighth Season at the Union for a further period of four months. It will be remembered that the Russell Street Theatre is a building recently reconstructed and adapted for use as a theatre by the Victorian Council of Adult Education.

CHILDREN'S THEATRE:

The Young Elizabethan Players concluded an extended tour of all States except Western Australia. The plays produced were those being studied for the Leaving and Intermediate Certificates. The demand shows that two companies are barely sufficient to supply the requirement and there is little doubt that a third company will be needed before very long. These abbreviated Shakespearian productions have proved to be widely popular, not only in schools, but in remote and isolated communities where people seldom have the opportunity to see theatrical performances. The treatment of Shakespeare by the Young Elizabethan Players was never intended for the general public, and certainly not for the purist, but there is little doubt that it fills a need which is wider than was originally envisaged. The production of all these plays was handled by Mr. John V. Trevor who was also responsible for the abbreviations of the texts. The Northern Company (which toured New South Wales and Queensland) was organised in association with the Arts Council of New South Wales.

After an extended tour covering all States, the adaptation for marionettes of Norman Lindsay's *THE MAGIC PUDDING* returned to Sydney for a second season. Mr. Peter Scriven and the Lindsay family were associated with the Trust in the presentation of this popular work.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DRAMATIC ART:

Of the thirty students who this year completed their two-year course at the National Institute of Dramatic Art, twelve were taken into various Trust enterprises on the completion of their studies. Others have secured employment with other managements. There is little doubt that the sound basic training which they received at the Institute is proving of great value.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

As examples of the kind of work undertaken by the Trust under this heading, we should mention the assistance given to the Independent Theatre for its production of the Australian play *HUNGER OF A GIRL* by George Kerr, the financial guarantee given to the Phillip Street Theatre in connection with the adaptation to theatrical use of the premises formerly known as the Australian Hall, guarantees in respect of country tours of the Trust's production of *RIGOLETTO* undertaken by the Victorian Council of Adult Education and the Arts Council of New South Wales, assistance to the National Theatre and Fine Arts Society of Tasmania for the production of opera in Tasmania, the subsidisation of the National Theatre of Western Australia in the provision of a full-time Artistic Director, assistance to the John Alden Company in connection with a season of Shakespeare at the Sydney Conservatorium, financial support made available for opera production in South Australia and a grant made to the National Theatre Movement of Victoria, for its production of *THE STUDENT PRINCE*. Financial help has also been given to a number of individuals of outstanding promise who have expressed a wish to pursue their further training in some special way. In addition to the opera singers who have been assisted by weekly allowances, enabling them to continue their studies, a number of actors, dancers and producers have been helped to go overseas with a view to getting a wider experience in their art. When such assistance is given, an undertaking is normally required from the recipient to the effect that he will return to Australia within a given period of time and that his or her services will be available to the Trust.

ELIZABETHAN THEATRE, NEWTOWN:

At the close of the year, negotiations were under way for a leasing of a theatre in the city area. For some years we have been receiving wide-spread complaints from our members and others that the location of the theatre in Newtown is detrimental to the support we receive. There is no doubt that the Elizabethan Theatre itself is a fine building, well suited to musicals and big productions of every kind, but it is too large for most modern plays which calls for a degree of intimacy. Several locations were investigated, but at the end of the year it seemed likely that the move would be to the Palace Theatre in Pitt Street where the playing time would be shared between the Trust and Mr. Garnet H. Carroll. The Palace, a beautiful late Victorian theatre, is admirably fitted to our needs. With accommodation for eight hundred, it bears comparison with many of the most famous theatres in London and New York where the smaller type of modern play is usually performed. Its central situation is such that it is readily accessible from every direction by public transport.

I believe that the future is full of promise. In spite of the inroads that television has everywhere made upon theatre audiences there is a growing awareness of the importance of drama, ballet and opera in the cultural life of the nation. I believe that the Trust has an important function to fulfil not only in the initiation of works of quality on its own account, but in co-operation with other managements in all those projects which contribute to the enrichment of theatrical experience.

Once again I must mention the work of the staff who have devoted themselves with such single-minded enthusiasm to all the various enterprises with which the Trust has been concerned. I am most grateful to them for their diligence and devoted co-operation. My cordial thanks are also due to the Directors for the wise counsel they have given me and for their continuing trust, and to all our members for their enthusiasm and willing support.

Sydney, 17th June, 1961.

NEIL HUTCHISON,
Executive Director.

THE AUSTRALIAN ELIZABETHAN THEATRE TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

LIABILITIES

ACCUMULATED FUNDS:

	£	£
Balance at 30th June, 1960	129,116	
Add Surplus for the six months ended 31st December, 1960	<u>14,897</u>	
		144,013

PROVISION FOR LOSS:

The Magic Pudding Production	1,085
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PROVISION FOR RENEWAL OF LEASE:

The Elizabethan Theatre—Sydney	13,500
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THE ELIZABETHAN THEATRE RESERVE FUND

37,500

THE ELIZABETHAN BALL COMMITTEE ASSISTANCE FUND

955

DEFERRED LIABILITY:

New South Wales Government (Secured by Mortgage over property 153-161 Dowling Street, Sydney)	40,000
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CURRENT LIABILITIES:

SUNDRY CREDITORS AND ACCRUED EXPENDITURE	4,744
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CONTINGENT LIABILITY:

Guarantee—Union Theatre Repertory Company, Melbourne	<u>£5,000</u>
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£241,797

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 31st December, 1960, 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.

SYDNEY, 23rd May, 1961.

G. T. HARTIGAN & CO.,

Chartered Accountants,

Registered under the Public Accountants' Registration Act, 1945, as amended.

Honorary Auditors.

BETHAN THEATRE TRUST

at 31st DECEMBER, 1960

ASSETS

FIXED ASSETS:

	£	£
FREEHOLD LAND AND BUILDINGS:		
153-161 Dowling Street, Sydney—at Cost	73,840	
THE ELIZABETHAN THEATRE—at Cost—		
2 Shares of £1 each in Newtown Majestic Pty. Limited (See Contra)	37,500	
INVESTMENTS—at Cost (Market Value at 31st December, 1960 £108,684)	94,486	
FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT—at Cost, less Provision for Depreciation	9,034	
		214,860

CURRENT ASSETS:

WORKSHOP MATERIALS AND WORK IN PROGRESS—at Cost as certified by the Executive Director.....	4,029	
ADVANCES:		
The Council of Adult Education—Victoria	1,000	
The Trust Players	816	
"Little Fella Bindi" Production	101	
"The Magic Pudding" Production	3,381	
		5,298
COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY DUE (Received 24th January, 1961)	10,000	
SUNDRY DEBTORS	4,203	
CASH AT BANK AND ON HAND	1,942	
PREPAYMENTS	1,465	

£241,797

H. C. COOMBS }
J. N. KIRBY } Directors.

THE AUSTRALIAN ELIZABETHAN

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

EXPENDITURE

GRANTS AND ADVANCES:

Adelaide Festival of Arts	500
Adelaide Theatre Group	200
Council of Adult Education—Victoria	2,323
Elder Conservatorium of Music—South Australia	1,000
Independent Theatre	345
John Alden	700
National Institute of Dramatic Art	3,573
National Theatre and Fine Arts Society of Tasmania	1,000
National Theatre Movement of Victoria	5,000
Perth Festival	2,400
Peter Scriven	250
Playhouse Theatre—Perth	1,049
Union Theatre Repertory Company—Victoria	1,844
William Thompson	150
Sundry Grants	79
	<u>20,413</u>

LOSS ON PRODUCTIONS:

The Elizabethan Opera Company—1960 season (additional)	258
The Trust Players—1960 Season (additional)	170
"Candida"	4,619
"Charley's Aunt"	7,116
"The Hostage"	8,827
"The Magic Pudding"	1,085
The Young Elizabethan Players—Southern Company	3,904
Northern Company	1,016
	<u>26,995</u>

NET COST OF OPERATION OF WORKSHOP AND STORE	3,889
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OVERHEAD EXPENSES:

Insurance	15
Reader's Fees	48
Miscellaneous Expenses	186
Pay Roll Tax	331
Postage, Telephone and Cables	1,590
Printing and Stationery	1,195
Publicity and Public Relations	2,646
Rent	738
Repairs and Maintenance	407
Royalty—"Dalgerie"	150
Salaries (General)	10,865
Salaries and Retainers arising from cancellation of 1961 Opera Season	5,600
Secretarial Services	58
Subscriptions	32
Travelling Expenses	2,161
Allowance for Depreciation: Furniture and Office Equipment	105
	<u>26,127</u>
BALANCE being SURPLUS for the six months transferred to Accumulated Funds	14,897

£92,321

BETHAN THEATRE TRUST

STATEMENT for the six months ended 31st DECEMBER, 1960

INCOME

	£	£
RECEIPTS FROM:		
Subscribing Members	8,318	
Donations	876	
		9,194
SUBSIDIES RECEIVED:		
Commonwealth Government	36,400	
New South Wales Government	26,400	
Sydney City Council	3,000	
Queensland Government	6,000	
Tasmanian Government	4,000	
		75,800
MANAGEMENT FEES RECEIVED		2,840
INVESTMENT INCOME		3,306
SURPLUS ON REALISATION OF INVESTMENTS		544
SUNDRY INCOME		637

£92,321

