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TRUST NEWS

AUSTRALIAN ELIZABETHAN THEATRE TRUST

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It is often difficult for the residents of one particular State, who are interested in the activities of the Trust, to realise just what we are doing elsewhere in the Commonwealth.

The reason for this pamphlet is to keep you in touch with our various activities and with the development of our policy.

The Trust was formed to encourage the development of theatre in Australia. Theatre cannot be developed without actors, writers, musicians, producers and technicians of one kind or another. Such people require training, experience, and a secure livelihood.

Theatre, too, requires an informed audience, and an audience requires attractive and stimulating entertainment.

Among the following activities, you will see some of the ways in which the Trust is endeavouring to carry out these tasks on a Commonwealth-wide basis.

SCHOOL OF ACTING

On February 23, the National Institute of Dramatic Art was opened at the University of N.S.W. This School offers a two-year full-time course to students of acting from all States in the Commonwealth. The School is managed by the Trust, the University of N.S.W. and the A.B.C.

SCHOOL PLAYS AND PLAYS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Young Elizabethan Players

The Young Elizabethan Players are a small touring Company who take specially condensed versions of Shakespearean classics to the Schools themselves. Last year they presented *HAMLET* and *HENRY V* throughout New South Wales. This year they are presenting *RICHARD II* and *THE MERCHANT OF VENICE* in the Melbourne area (commenced April 6) for a five weeks' season. The Company will then transfer to Sydney and present *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* and *JULIUS CAESAR* in N.S.W. and Queensland, in association with the Arts Council (N.S.W. Division).

Following a holiday break, the Company will recommence activities in South Australia under the auspices of the Adult Education Board of that State.

The Tintookies

LITTLE FELLA BINDI is still filling houses throughout the Commonwealth, following a most successful New Year Season at the Sydney Conservatorium.

This production is presented by the brilliant young Australian puppeteer, Peter Scriven, and has now moved to Perth for an eight weeks' season before returning to New South Wales to tour the country districts.

COUNTRY TOURS

The Doll

After completing record-breaking country tours in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, *THE DOLL* is now being toured into South Australia, where it is breaking new territory for the Trust, and is, in fact, breaking new theatrical ground generally. (It has just visited Woomera.)

We are being assisted generously in this tour by the Victorian Council of Adult Education, who have provided the transport, and the Arts Council (N.S.W. Division) who have provided the scenery. The Adult Education Board in South Australia is assisting us in the promotion of the tour.

The Barber of Seville

A production of *THE BARBER OF SEVILLE* has just finished a six weeks' country tour of Victoria under the auspices of the Council of Adult Education, who report a possible small profit on this ambitious and expensive venture.

The Opera is now being toured for six weeks in New South Wales under the management of the Arts Council (N.S.W. Division).

THE BARBER is produced by the Trust, and we are giving financial assistance to the Arts Council for the tour in New South Wales.

DRAMA IN THE CITIES

Trust Players

March 11 marked the opening of a new theatrical company, The Trust Players, at the Elizabethan Theatre, Newtown. In a series of five plays spread over twenty-one weeks, two completely original Australian plays are being produced. These are *THE SLAUGHTER OF ST. TERESA'S DAY* by Peter Kenna, the prize-winning play of the General Motors Holden Theatre Award Play Competition, and *THE BASTARD COUNTRY* by Anthony Coburn, which has already been acquired for production in London.

Other plays in the repertoire include Shaw's *MAN AND SUPERMAN*, *JULIUS CAESAR*, and a play yet to be announced.

THE SLAUGHTER OF ST. TERESA'S DAY has been warmly received by the audiences, although the critics' reception was variable. The performance has, however, confirmed the Trust's judgment that in Peter Kenna we have a young playwright of unusual capacity.

The cost of giving professional presentation to new plays is high and the Trust cannot hope fully to recover its outlay on pioneering work of this kind in every instance. We believe, however, that this policy is fully justified by the opportunity it gives for creative theatrical work.

OPERA

Although the Trust has been forced, for financial reasons, to postpone its annual Grand Opera Tour for 1959, the following presentations have already been staged this year, in addition to *THE BARBER OF SEVILLE*, as mentioned above.

Western Australia

DALGERIE, an original and most successful Australian opera by James Penberthy, was specially presented for the Perth Festival with the Trust's assistance, together with a production of *PAGLIACCI*.

Rehearsals are now in progress in Melbourne for a new production of *MADAME BUTTERFLY*, which is to be presented jointly by the National Theatre Inc. and the Trust in Western Australia.

Tasmania

With the assistance of the Trust, *THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO* was presented by the National Theatre and Fine Arts Society in February, and a production of a second opera is being planned for the end of the year.

FESTIVALS

Negotiations are proceeding in Brisbane for the participation of the Trust in the Centenary Celebrations in August, and other negotiations are in progress for the participation by the Trust in the Adelaide Festival in March, 1960.



In all these activities, we hope you will see the pattern of our policy in the training and development of theatre artists and writers, and for the entertainment of as wide a public as possible.

This policy is being carried out both through our directly sponsored activities, such as the Trust Players, and in co-operation with other educational and theatrical organisations, such as the School of Acting, Country Tours and Festivals.

We look forward to supplying you with further news of our activities from time to time, and, in future issues, in addition to the general survey, we propose to feature one particular aspect of our work or policy, so as to provide you with as much detail as possible. Perhaps you would be interested in passing this News Bulletin to your friends and encouraging them to interest themselves in our activities.