



Bartholomew John, Anna Lee, Amanda Muggleton and Dennis Olsen in *PRIVATE LIVES*

Timeless Coward — Two Great Achievements

PRIVATE LIVES and
BLITHE SPIRIT by Noel Coward

Directed by Peter Williams

Designed by Doug Kingsman

Gowns by Christopher Essex

Lighting by Roger Barratt

Cast (PRIVATE LIVES): Dennis Olsen,

Amanda Muggleton, Bartholomew John,

Anna Lee; (BLITHE SPIRIT): Carmen

Duncan, Paula Duncan, John Hamblin,

June Salter

Playhouse, S.O.H.

When Noel Coward died in March 1973, his work was playing to crowded theatres around the world. The tributes paid to him then testified to his pre-eminence in the theatre, and his plays and music have continued to attract young and old. Next year will see the revival of perhaps two of his greatest achievements — *PRIVATE LIVES* and *BLITHE SPIRIT*.

PRIVATE LIVES, which opens in February, is a dazzling, funny, gorgeous play which, since it first opened in 1930, has gone on to become one of the most popular and successful plays in the history of world theatre. The plot deals with Elyot and Amanda, once married, now honeymooning with new spouses at

the same hotel. They meet by chance, the old spark is re-ignited, and, impulsively, they elope. However, a few days after their reunion, they find once again their passion alternating between love and anger. The play is set in the romantic Art Deco '30s in the South of France and Paris, and stars Dennis Olsen and Amanda Muggleton in the lead roles.

BLITHE SPIRIT follows in April. This play opened at the Piccadilly Theatre, London, in 1941 when England had been at war for two years. It was Coward's brightest contribution to British morale. A treasure of the piece is Madame Arcati (to be played by June Salter), one of the most original and unforgettable theatrical characters.

Charles Condomine, the novelist, invites Madame Arcati to dinner to obtain information on psychic phenomena, but has no idea that the spirit of his late first wife will materialise. While the repercussions are disastrous to Charles and his second wife, they are hilarious for the audience. Peter Williams, the director, has persuaded Australia's most famous sisters, Carmen and Paula Duncan, to appear in *BLITHE SPIRIT*, the first time they have appeared together on stage. John

Hamblin completes the quartet of stars. Australian couturier, Christopher Essex, has designed the glorious Art Deco costumes.

Although *BLITHE SPIRIT* does not open until April it is offered to members now as bookings are expected to be heavy for the short season. \$9.00 discounts are available for Trust member performances of each production. Members may purchase as many AETT tickets as they wish at these special performances. We're planning a pre-theatre dinner for Thursday, April 2. Further details in February Trust News, but book for theatre tickets now.

BOOKING INFORMATION

PRIVATE LIVES

Thu Feb 19 to Sat Mar 28

BLITHE SPIRIT

Thu Apr 2 to Sat Apr 25

Mon to Sat at 8 p.m.

Wed at 11 a.m., Sat at 2 p.m.

AETT \$19.90 (Feb 19, 20 and Apr 2) at

8 p.m., Feb 20 and Apr 3 at 11 a.m.

\$27.90 (except Fri and Sat evg)

G.P. \$28.90

Pens/Stud \$19.90

Two AETT tickets per member (except Feb 19, 20, Apr 2 evgs and Feb 20, Apr 3 mats)

Legends on Stage

AREN'T WE ALL? by Frederick Lonsdale
Directed by Clifford Williams
Set design by Finlay James
Costume design by Judith Bland
Cast includes Rex Harrison, Claudette Colbert, John Diedrich, Madge Ryan, Lewis Fiander and Peter Collingwood
Her Majesty's Theatre



Rex Harrison and Claudette Colbert

Following seasons in Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth, Sydney audiences will have the chance to see two legendary stars of stage and screen — Rex Harrison and Claudette Colbert — in Frederick Lonsdale's comedy **AREN'T WE ALL?**

AREN'T WE ALL? takes its name from the final line of the play "Aren't we all bloody fools?" Set against the backdrop of London high society, the plot centres around Lord Grenham (Harrison), a wordly, witty aristocrat and his son and daughter-in-law who face a marital crisis. While he is trying to patch up their tangled affairs, he is also trying to fend off the charming Lady Frinton (Colbert), a widow who is pursuing him. Members are offered a \$4.00 discount during the first two weeks of the season followed by a \$2.00 discount for the remainder of the season. See Member Activities for pre-theatre dinner on February 4.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Tue Feb 3 to Sat Feb 28
 Mon to Sat at 8 p.m.
 Wed and Sat at 2 p.m.
 AETT \$36.00 (Mon to Sat evg),
 \$34.00 (Mon to Thu evg until Feb 14)
 \$31.00 (mats), \$29.00 (mats until Feb 14)
 G.P. \$38.00 (Mon to Sat)
 Pens/Stud \$25.00 (Mon to Thu evg)
 \$18.00 (mats)
 Two AETT tickets per member

AO Summer Season

The summer holiday season wouldn't be complete without the traditional Australian Opera season and we offer members the opportunity to purchase tickets for two G & S operettas and three main season works.

BOOKING INFORMATION

PATIENCE — Jan 8, 24 (mat)
MIKADO — Jan 7, 10 (mat), 29
 AETT \$34.00, \$31.00 (mats)
 G.P. \$38.00
 Pens/U 16 \$27.00 (mats)
DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT —
 Jan 21, 31 (mat)
I MASNADIERI — Feb 6, 9, 14 (mat)
EUGENE ONEGIN — Feb 13, 21 (mat),
 24
 AETT \$38.00
 G.P. \$46.00
 Pens/U 16 \$34.00 (mats)
 Two AETT tickets per member

STC 1987 Programme

The Sydney Theatre Company has an exciting and very varied line-up of plays for 1987 being presented at the Drama Theatre, S.O.H. and the Wharf. The season opens on February 25 at the Wharf Theatre with three one-act plays collectively titled **NO(h) EXIT**. They include **NO EXIT** by Jean-Paul Sartre, and **THE LADY AOI AND HANJO**, two modern plays in the Noh tradition by Yukio Mishima.

In April/May Judy Morris and Graeme Blundell will star in Michael Gow's play, **AWAY**. A romantic fairy tale about the voyages of Pericles, Shakespeare's **PERICLES**, opens in June. Also opening in June is **BLOOD RELATIONS** by distinguished Australian poet and novelist David Malouf.

Kate Fitzpatrick stars in the William Wycherley restoration comedy, **THE COUNTRY WIFE**. **RIVERS OF CHINA** is a new work by Australian playwright Alma de Groen.

"Brilliant black humour" is how Alan Ayckbourn's **WOMAN IN MIND** has been described in the London Press. It will star Robyn Nevin. The final play for the year is **SIESTAS IN A PINK HOTEL** by Jennifer Claire. It is a sharp, witty comedy of Sydney manners starring Sandy Gore.

Members wishing to subscribe to the season should contact the STC on

250 1777. Bookings for individual plays will be offered to Trust members throughout the year once the requirements of subscribers have been met.

A Lady of Note

Mary Gilmore had an immense vitality and zest for life. Her achievements — poet, journalist, social reformer, feminist, champion of peace and Dame of the British Empire attest to that. Born in 1865, she lived a long and very active life until her death in 1962. In **TO BOTANY BAY ON A BONDI TRAM**, using the letters, poetry, recollections, articles and private papers of Mary Gilmore, the Melbourne actress Beverley Dunn recreates the work of this distinguished Australian. A one-woman show, **TO BOTANY BAY** is directed by Bruce Myles at the Marian Street Theatre. See Member Activities for pre-theatre dinner on Thursday, January 29.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Marion Street Theatre
 Sun Jan 25 to Sun Feb 8
 Tue to Sat 8.15 p.m.
 Sat and Sun at 5.00 p.m.
 Wed at 11.00 a.m.
 AETT \$15.00 (Tue to Fri and mats except Jan 28)
 G.P. \$18.00 (Tue to Thu),
 \$19.00 (Fri to Sun)
 Pens/Stud \$9.00 (except Fri and Sat evg)
 Two AETT tickets per member



Beverley Dunn

Musical Feast

Celebrate the festive season by joining some of Australia's leading musical

performers at the Seymour Theatre Centre. Rita Hunter and The Song Company sing Victorian ballads and traditional carols; Lauris Elms sings in a programme of Berlioz "Summer Nights" and songs by Franz Liszt; while Winsome Evans, the Renaissance Players and Erasmus the Clown finish the season with a slice of Christmas pudding!

BOOKING INFORMATION

Rita Hunter: Wed Dec 17 at 8 p.m.
AETT discount \$3.00
Lauris Elms: Sat Dec 13 at 8 p.m.
AETT discount \$3.00
Winsome Evans: Fri and Sat Dec 19, 20
at 8 p.m. Sat Dec 20 at 2 p.m. (spec.
children's perf.)
AETT discount \$2.00 (Fri only)
Bookings on 692 0555

James Dean Double

NOW THERE'S JUST THE THREE
OF US by Michael Weller, and
LINE by Israel Horovitz

Directed by Richard Brooks

*Cast: Miles Buchanan, Nicholas Eadie,
John Higgins and Rebecca Dines
Bondi Pavilion Theatre*

Bialystock and Bloom, a theatre company formed by Sydney actors, are presenting two cult comedies of the 'sixties in a double-bill dedicated to James Dean. Both plays are hard-hitting comedies. They are bold, frank, tough and explicit and star two of Australia's brightest names. Miles Buchanan comes to the part fresh from starring roles in BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS and ADRIAN MOLE, while Nicholas Eadie, who is playing opposite Anne Tenney in AND A NIGHTINGALE SANG, will be familiar to TV audiences for his portrayal of Bill Lancaster in THE LANCASTER/MILLER AFFAIR.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Tue Jan 6 to Sat Jan 24
Tue to Thu at 8 p.m.
Fri and Sat at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.
Sun at 5.30 p.m.
AETT discount \$2.90
Bookings on 30 7211

New Dance Company

Feelance Dance Company was formed in January this year by its artistic director, Ann Butt, and molds together elements of modern dance and contem-

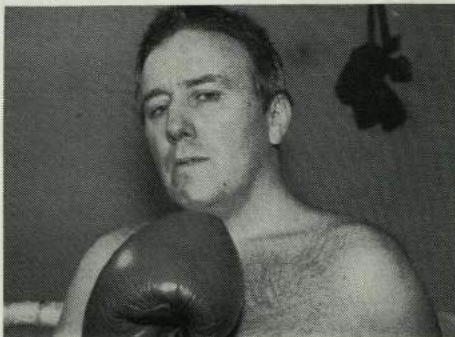
porary dance. The company of ten dancers have already played in Orange, Bathurst and Dubbo and had their first Sydney season at the Bay Street Theatre in August. Their return season at the Bay Street Theatre between December 3 and 7 will include WHITE SHADOWS, a dramatic ballet in two acts, and JEUX DE GENS, a one-act comedy about social behaviour and people's interactions at various stages in life.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Wed Dec 3 to Sat Dec 6 at 8 p.m.
Sat 6 and Sun 7 at 3 p.m.
AETT discount \$2.00
Bookings on 692 0977, 747 3020

Sydney, then N.Y.

The AETT is presenting the Tide Theatre Company's production of Daniel Keene's new play ANGELS TOMORROW at the Performance Space in December. In March 1987 the company will take the production to New York. Set in a dingy bedsit, ANGELS TOMORROW is the story of ex-boxer Joey Dillon, who, having reached his lowest ebb, is confronted by phantoms of his past.



Linzee Smith

The Tide Theatre was seen at the Space earlier in the year with two other plays by Daniel Keene — ISLE OF SWANS and THE NIGHT BEFORE MY BROTHER DIES, which has also been televised by the ABC. Audiences will again be able to enjoy the astonishing performances of Rhonda Wilson and Linzee Smith, who have been described as "generating a heat, an intensity of obsession which scorches like a flame".

BOOKING INFORMATION

Thu Dec 4 to Sun Dec 21
Wed to Sun at 8.00 p.m.
AETT discount \$1.00
Bookings on 699 5091

The Final Exchange

A ONE-MAN PROTEST

by Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Sandra Bates

Designed by Tom Bannerman

*Cast: Gillian Axtell and Brian Young
Ensemble Theatre*

A ONE-MAN PROTEST is the final play in the series of four of Alan Ayckbourn's INTIMATE EXCHANGES currently being staged by the Ensemble. If you haven't yet seen the third, A CRICKET MATCH, you have until December 27. The fast-talking English comedies have been a marathon for actors Gillian Axtell and Brian Young who each play up to four or more roles in each play, with amazing dexterity. A ONE-MAN PROTEST will open on January 3 and run till the end of the month.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Sat Jan 3 to Sat Jan 31
Tue to Sat at 8 p.m.
Thu at 11 a.m. Sat and Sun at 5 p.m.
AETT \$14.00 (Tue to Fri), \$10.00 (mats)
G.P. \$16.00 (Tue to Thu), \$18.00 (Fri
and Sat evg), \$14.00 (Sat/Sun mat),
\$13.00 (Thu mat)
Pens/Stud \$12.00 (Tue to Fri)
\$11.00 (Sat/Sun mat), \$10.00 (Thu mat)
Two AETT tickets per member

Barnstorming

THE CHOIR by Errol Bray

Directed by Errol Bray

Design by Monita Roughsedge

St. John's Hall, Paddington

A new theatre and arts events group, Barnstorm, will present the acclaimed Australian play, THE CHOIR, as their first production in mid-January. The group, which includes theatre professionals with a wide variety of skills, plans to put emphasis on theatre productions, community and youth theatre, festivals, scripting and workshops. THE CHOIR was first produced by Nimrod in 1981 and is set in an orphanage where the boys in the choir are castrated to preserve their soprano voices.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Fri Jan 16 to Sat Jan 31
Fri and Sat at 7 and 9 p.m.
Sun at 5 p.m.
AETT discount \$2.00
Bookings on 356 2431



Opening Soon

King of Country

This is about people who love their country and country music. The family is Australian. Dad is divorced, both from his wife and his showbiz past and deeply regrets his move to the city with his family. He decides to return to the scene of his country music days and to the girl he left behind him. So back to Tamworth they go, taking along the grandfather who is still angry about the loss of his farm in the depression. The music and lyrics are by Tim Gooding. KING OF COUNTRY features Terry Donovan and Jodie Gillies, last seen in SONDHEIM, and the Three Chord Wonders, rated in Tamworth as "the hottest outfit around". Members are advised to book during January as December performances are heavily subscribed.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Wharf Theatre

Wed Dec 3 to Sat Jan 31

Mon to Sat at 8 p.m.

Sat at 2 p.m.

AETT \$18.00 (Mon to Thu and mat)

G.P. \$20.00

Pens/Stud \$15.00 (Mon to Thu and mat)

Two AETT tickets per member

Emerald City

A new David Williamson play will be a treat in store for the New Year. Opening on January 1, EMERALD CITY is the latest work from Australia's most successful and certainly most prolific playwright. The story concerns a Melbourne film and TV scriptwriter who moves to Sydney, the hedonistic Emerald City of Oz. How will it's brashness affect his work after the "sodden rectitude" of Melbourne? Much of the plot is autobiographical, for Williamson was a Melbourne writer who moved to Sydney and the play's hero, Colin, scripted movies and wrote a TV series on a Prime Minister's downfall — as did David Williamson. Richard Wherrett directs a cast which includes John Bell, Ruth Cracknell, Max Cullen and Robyn Nevin.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Drama Theatre, S.O.H.

Thu Jan 1 to Sat Jan 31

Mon to Sat at 8 p.m.

Sat at 2 p.m.

AETT \$22.00 (Mon to Thu and mat)

G.P. \$25.00

Pens/Stud \$22.00 (Mon to Thu and mat)

Two AETT tickets per member

Nunsense

Poor Little Sisters of Hoboken, twenty-two of their members have been poisoned by the convent chef, but after burying eighteen, the money ran out and the remainder are languishing in the 'fridge! To make things worse the Department of Health is about to descend. To raise the burial money, they decide to put on a variety show and the five Sisters bounce through a hilarious toe-tapping show. Directed by Barry Creyton, choreography by Dolores Dunbar, musical direction Michael Tyack.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Footbridge Theatre

Tue Jan 6 to Sun Feb 1

Tue to Thu at 8 p.m.

Fri at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Sat at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Sun at 5 p.m.

AETT \$22.50 (except Fri 9 p.m. and Sat 8 p.m.)

G.P. \$26.50 (Fri 9 p.m. and Sat 8 p.m.)

\$25.50 (Tue to Thu and mats)

Pens/Stud \$19.50 (except Fri 9 p.m. and Sat 8 p.m.)

Children \$15.50 (except Fri 9 p.m. and Sat 8 p.m.)

Two AETT tickets per member

Dialogue

by Carole Long, Membership Manager

As you're wandering through David Jones stores this Christmas take time out to stop and admire the white toy bears on display in their toy departments. The Trust's costume hire department made costumes for them — all 774 of them. They're dressed in circus costumes all designed by Trust staff — there's the strong man, trapeze artists, ring master, stilt clown and polka dot clown. It took eight people six weeks to complete the job. Just one of the intriguing contracts regularly undertaken by the department's made-to-order service.

We are very much aware of the need to continually review and upgrade our services to members and I do appreciate the suggestions we receive from

members from time to time. One service we've been wanting to introduce for some time is phone bookings, and I'm delighted to be able to announce the start of this service on December 1 (see details p. 5). What has prevented us offering the service before was the limited switchboard capacity and the staff to handle the work involved. The first problem was resolved when The Australian Ballet vacated our premises and the second problem is being resolved with the help of an increased band of volunteers. This will mean that apart from a charge of 50c per booking to cover return postage and envelope we can offer the service to members free of additional charges. Please assist us by having all your booking details — membership number, credit

card number, performance details — to hand BEFORE you ring.

This is the last edition of Trust News for 1986 and covers both the December and January period. We'll be back in print with our first edition for 1987 at the end of January. In the meantime I'd like to thank our many members for their continuing support throughout the year and to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Carole Long

It's Christmas holiday time soon (as if you didn't know!) and for the guidance of parents and grandparents alike we list the main theatrical offerings for young people. Because of the low ticket prices involved, an AETT discount does not normally apply.

GOLDSLOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS was never like this! At **Phillip Street Theatre**, director Peter Williams is setting his Australian version on the road to Gundagai where Goldilocks is part of a travelling circus. The traditional Christmas panto combines all the fun of the circus with the fairy tale itself. As usual there's lots of audience participation. Performances are being given right through to January 24 at 10 a.m. and 12.30 Monday to Friday and 1.30 and 3.30 Saturdays. It's ideal for preschoolers and infants. Bookings on 232 8570.

Northside Theatre Company at Marian Street continue their happy holiday tradition with a new play by Helen Martin. Called **CRYSTAL CAVE**, it's a fantasy set in an Australian bush setting. The children journey into a strange world with mythical characters such as the wombotham (who has a passion for collecting things) and the nuffin (because he is a bit of a "nuffin"). It's suitable for 3- to 9-year-olds and will be presented Monday to Friday at 10.30 and 1 p.m. from January 5 for three weeks. Saturday performances continue until the end of February. Bookings on 498 3166.

Circus Oz is back in town! The sight of the big top in the grounds of the Seymour Centre is now becoming a familiar sight in January. They'll be performing from



Circus Oz

January 2 (Wednesday to Saturday with matinees on Thursdays and Saturdays). But don't go expecting animal acts or you'll be in for a surprise. What you'll get is a much more thrilling display of acrobatics, balancing routines, aerial trapeze acts, unicycling, plate spinning and juggling. Bookings on 692 3511.

Shopfront Theatre in Carlton will be presenting their own adaptation of Lewis Carroll's classic **ALICE** for three days only (January 5 to 7 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.). It is a gigantic musical production with a cast of 60, a large orchestra, and hundreds of outrageous costumes. Bookings on 588 3948.

High school students and adults alike will enjoy the Kathy Lette play **GROM-MITTS** being presented by **The Australian Theatre for Young People** at the Rocks Theatre between January 6 and 24 (Tue to Sat at 8 p.m. and Wed at 2

p.m.). But the play is a Dickhead Free Zone, so be warned. Jodie is a waxhead whose passion, besides Whacker, is to make the boys' touch footy team. Whacker's a bong brain who loves the waves and babes and hates bull dykes. Need we say more . . . Workshops for juniors and intermediates are also offered by ATYP at their Rocks headquarters, Mosman, Parramatta, Sutherland and Moorebank. Bookings for the show and workshops on 251 3900.

PACT Co-operative down at the Corn Exchange, 173 Sussex Street, are presenting their student production of **MARMADUKE BUNYIP AND THE WISHING WELL** from January 19 to 29 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The story revolves around characters in the 1860s and their descendants in the 1980s. Workshops for 3- to 9-year-olds and teenagers are also held between January 5 and 29. Bookings on 29 8239.

Making the Most of your Trust Membership

TELEPHONE BOOKINGS

We are delighted to announce the introduction of a telephone booking service for members from December 1. This means that members have three alternative ways of advance booking and two ways to book at short notice. The various options are detailed below:

THREE WAYS TO ADVANCE BOOK

1. Fill in the Trust Member Booking Coupon enclosed with Trust News and return it to the Trust with a stamped addressed envelope. Payment can be

made by cheque, Bankcard or MasterCard.

2. Pay by cash by bringing your Trust Member Booking Coupon into the Trust during normal office hours.
3. Use the Trust's phone booking service (357 1200) between 10 and 12 a.m. or 2 and 4 p.m. daily. Please have ready your membership number, selected dates, number of tickets and credit card number (MasterCard and Bankcard only) *before ringing*. No charge is made for this service (other than 50c for s.a.e.) so please help by being as brief as possible.

TWO WAYS TO BOOK AT SHORT NOTICE (within two weeks)

1. At the theatre or Bass outlets in person. Show your membership card to receive the AETT discount. There are one or two shows (e.g. CATS and The Australian Opera) which do not offer AETT discounts at the theatre but this is always indicated in Trust News.
2. By phone to the theatre or Bass using a credit card. The phone number of each theatre is given in Theatreguide attached to your T.M. Booking Coupon. Quote your membership number to obtain the AETT discount.

Spotlight

The 1987 Festival of Sydney

Theatrical events from the U.K., the U.S., Eire and Australia form the centrepiece of the Sydney Festival's arts programme with numerous Sydney-based companies taking part in umbrella events. The principal events of the theatre programme are covered here along with the ever-popular Mostly Mozart series. Space prevents us covering the full range of musical events which as usual includes the Opera in the Park (this year starring Joan Carden in *MADAMA BUTTERFLY*) and the Symphony in the Park. Full details are in the Festival programme which is available from Mitchells Bass.

Michael Clark

NO FIRE ESCAPE IN HELL, presented by Michael Clark and Company at this year's Festival of Sydney, follows hot on the heels of their highly successful season at the Sadler's Wells Theatre, London and, subsequently, at the Next Wave Festival, New York, where Clark was the first British choreographer invited to attend. This three-act work commemorates the loss of the innocence and optimism of the 'sixties. Clark is an enfant terrible of the new generation of talent in British fashion, dance and rock music, marked by such new wave designers as Bodymap, Charles Atlas and Australian-born Leigh Bowery (who creates Clark's sets and costumes). He is never still and careers through what could loosely be termed a musical revue, with jokes, solo turns, chorus routines and spectacular theatrics. You will be surprised!

BOOKING INFORMATION

Everest Theatre, Seymour Centre
Fri Jan 16 to Sat Jan 31
Mon to Sat 8.30 p.m.
AETT \$26.00 (except Fri and Sat),
\$23.00** (Jan 17, 19)
G.P. \$28.00
Pens \$18.00, Stud \$22.00
Two AETT tickets per member (except
Jan 17, 19)

**This special discount price is only available on tickets ordered prior to December 24. Members may purchase unlimited tickets at this price.

Grin and Tonic



Bryan Nason and Erin Murphy in *DESDEMONA AND OTHELLO*

This Queensland-based theatre company is presenting *DESDEMONA AND OTHELLO*, one of Shakespeare's greatest plays, but with a new twist. In renaming the play, Grin and Tonic focus on the full depth and potential of Desdemona's character and free any preconceptions of the play. Here, they show that the tragedy of the play was not just in Othello's loss of a partner, but in the death of a woman who was able to inspire all around her. The characterisations question the traditional interpretations; Iago is not necessarily the villain of the piece, Othello is as much to blame for the outcome as he. It is set in Cyprus, in a war-torn Mediterranean, which illustrates, even more sharply, Shakespeare's abiding theme of the balance of order in chaos. Bryan Nason plays Othello, Erin Murphy, Desdemona and Stephen Clark, Iago. Robert Arthur and Bryan Nason direct.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Broadwalk Studio, S.O.H.
Sat Jan 3 to Sat Jan 17 (no perf. Fri Jan 9)
Mon to Sat 8 p.m. Sat mat at 2 p.m.
AETT \$18.00 (except Fri and Sat evgs),
\$15.00** (Jan 5, 6)
G.P. \$20.00
Pens \$12.00, Stud \$15.00
Two AETT tickets per member (except
Jan 5, 6)

The American Dream

LYDIE BREEZE is one of John Guare's quartet of plays on the American experience. In them, the author has been creating a romantic, extravagant vision of the American dream. In the first play Lydie Breeze and three young Union soldiers in the Civil War form a Utopian commune on Nantucket Island. In his second play, he shows how their high hopes were dashed in violence. In *LYDIE BREEZE* he takes his saga to the twentieth century and while Lydie Breeze is long dead (suicide) her spirit of adventure and aspiration continues through her two daughters. They rekindle the lost dreams and legacies of the failed Utopia.

LYDIE BREEZE is presented by one of the most exciting theatre companies in the U.S. today. The Steppenwolf Theatre Company has the likes of Meryl Streep, Sam Shepard and Albert Finney on its advisory board. Here, one of the company's members, Rondi Reed, makes her directorial debut.

BOOKING INFORMATION

York Theatre, Seymour Centre
Wed Jan 21 to Sat Jan 31
Mon to Sat 8 p.m. Sat mat 2 p.m.
AETT \$23.00 (except Fri, Sat evg),
\$20.00** (Jan 22, 23)
G.P. \$25.00
Pens \$16.00, Stud \$20.00
Two AETT tickets per member (except
Jan 22, 23)

Theatre South Returns

Following its successful appearance at The Wharf with *TONIGHT WE ANCHOR AT TWOFOLD BAY*, Theatre South now presents *TRUMPETS AND RASPBERRIES* by Dario Fo. This is the story of a terrorist kidnapping gone horribly wrong. An attempt to capture Agnelli, the head of the Fiat corporation, is foiled by one of his workers, Antonio. Following the attack, Agnelli requires reconstructive surgery, and is later mistaken for his rescuer; it is here that the mad confusion begins. Here, also, the author shows that, in his opinion, laughter and joy are the best arguments for hope amidst anarchy.

TRUMPETS AND RASPBERRIES was one of the very successful plays presented at the 1985 Edinburgh Fringe Festival and its author is one of the most admired political humourists of the day. Directed by Des Davis, Peter Corbett plays the dual roles of Antonio and Agnelli with Faye Montgomery as Antonio's deserted wife, Rosa.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Wharf Studio

Wed Jan 7 to Sat Jan 24

Mon to Sat at 8 p.m. Sat at 2 p.m.

AETT \$18.00 (except Fri, Sat evg),

\$15.00** (Jan 8, 9)

G.P. \$20.00

Pens \$14.00, Stud \$17.00

Two AETT tickets per member (except Jan 8, 9)

A Touch of Blarney!

Full of the Irish gift of the gab, and the curse of drink, **CONVERSATIONS ON A HOMECOMING**, by the Irish-born Tom Murphy, was first staged at the Performing Arts Festival in New York. It received warm critical acclaim. Tom Murphy is not only a writer of enormous talent, he is also the founder of the Druid Theatre Company (one of Ireland's leading companies). Garry Hynes directs the company, which is making its first tour of Australia.

CONVERSATIONS ON A HOMECOMING is set in a pub (where else) in Galway during the early '70s where a group of idealistic Irish buddies are drowning their sorrows after the death of John F. Kennedy. Welcomed back is Michael, an actor returning to his hometown after living in America during the Kennedy era. It is clear, however, that time has wrought changes among his friends, particularly Tom, the disillusioned schoolteacher, would-be actor.

The play brings a new meaning to the age-old theme of "homecoming". It has moments of great comedy and is the winner of two Irish Theatre awards.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Belvoir Street Theatre

Thu Jan 8 to Sun Jan 25

Tue to Sat 8 p.m. Sun 5 p.m.

AETT \$23.00 (except Fri, Sat),

\$20.00** (Jan 9, 10)

G.P. \$25.00

Pens \$16.00, Stud \$20.00

Two AETT tickets per member except Jan 9, 10

An Incomparable Trio

In **THE REGARD OF FLIGHT** and **THE CLOWN OF BAGATELLES**, Bill Irwin, Doug Skinner and Michael O'Connor present a satire on the "new theatre" (to which, incidentally, Bill Irwin belongs). The antics of Bill Irwin bring to mind images of Buster Keaton, Marcel Marceau and Charlie Chaplin. He is a mime, acrobat, musician, singer, juggler, tap dancer; in fact, almost a one-man band, except that he is ably assisted by Doug Skinner's straight-man antics, and Michael O'Connor, who plays the assaulting critic. Irwin was the first performing artist to be awarded a MacArthur Foundation of Chicago prize and also an Obie. **THE REGARD OF FLIGHT** and **THE CLOWN OF BAGATELLES** promises to be a very amusing evening.



Bill Irwin

BOOKING INFORMATION

York Theatre, Seymour Centre

Fri Jan 9 to Sat Jan 17

Mon to Sat 8.30 p.m. Sat mat 2 p.m.

AETT \$23.00 (except Fri and Sat evgs),

\$20.00** (Jan 10, 12)

G.P. \$25.00

Pens \$15.00, Stud \$20.00

Two AETT tickets per member except Jan 10/12

Mostly Mozart

As usual there's a marvellous **Asmorgasbord** of music at the **MOSTLY MOZART** concerts. Appropriately enough, the series open on Jan 3 with an all-Mozart programme performed by the Australian Chamber Orchestra and Sydney Philharmonia Choir under the direction of Christopher Hogwood. Hogwood returns with the orchestra on January 6 for another all-Mozart concert with soloists Geoffrey Collins (flute) and Gordon Skinner (bassoon). On the 5th William Reid conducts the Elizabethan Sydney Orchestra in a Mozart/Beethoven programme (Robert Johnson, horn). The series ends on the 7th with St. Philip's Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Michael Dyer. It's a family concert, ending with Handel's Royal Fireworks. See Member Activities for Picnic in the Park.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Concert Hall, S.O.H.

Sat Jan 3 and Tue Jan 6 at 8 p.m.

AETT \$16.00, G.P. \$18.00

Mon Jan 5 at 8 p.m.

AETT \$13.00, G.P. \$15.00

Wed Jan 7 at 8 p.m.

AETT \$7.00, G.P. \$10.00

Two AETT tickets per member

Don't Miss the Bus!

The 21A runs between Minneapolis and St. Paul. It's a bus ride to the bizarre. It might well be sub-titled "The Fruitcake Express" or "A one-man band", for it's written by American Kevin Kling, driven by Kevin Kling, who also, you've guessed it, plays the seven passengers! He even manages to play Gladys, one of the regulars on the trip, who boards the bus loaded with cat food, to feed, one suspects, not only her cats, but also her husband. Directed by Steven Dietz, Kevin Kling is a master storyteller, stand-up comic, country philosopher and a keen observer of the human condition.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Downstairs Theatre, Seymour Centre

Mon Jan 5 to Sat Jan 24

Mon to Sat 8.30 p.m.

AETT \$16.00 (except Fri, Sat),

\$14.00** (Jan 6, 7)

G.P. \$18.00

Pens \$12.00, Stud \$14.00

Two AETT tickets per member (except Jan 6, 7)

Member Activities

PICNIC IN THE PARK

Monday, January 5 at 6 p.m.

The Mostly Mozart series is one of the highlights of the Sydney Festival and of special significance to the Trust is the concert presented by the Elizabethan Sydney Orchestra. Members and their friends are invited to join us both at the concert and at a picnic dinner in the Botanical Gardens beforehand. Tickets are \$25 which includes both the concert ticket and the picnic dinner.

DINNER AND OPERA

PATIENCE — Thursday, January 8

The Australian Opera's summer season will shortly be upon us and we invite members to join us for dinner at The Phantom of the Opera restaurant in the Rocks prior to a performance of PATIENCE at the Opera House. Tickets are \$54.00 each, which includes both dinner and opera tickets — a bargain at the price!

MARIAN STREET DINNER

TO BOTANY BAY ON A BONDI TRAM — Thursday, January 29

It's a while now since we had a dinner in Marian Street Theatre's delightful north-

side restaurant. So we thought we'd set that right with a dinner before their New Year production of TO BOTANY BAY ON A BONDI TRAM (see A LADY OF NOTE p 2). Tickets are \$33 each which includes both dinner and theatre. As we'll be sitting in the theatre as a group, singles are particularly welcome to join us.

SCONE WEEKEND

Saturday, March 14/Sunday, March 15

The Heritage Series of musical evenings at historical homes will include a recital at Belltrees Station on March 14 and it seems a perfect excuse to spend a weekend in the delightful Scone district. With echoes of Glyndebourne, there'll be a picnic on the lawn before the performance (to be held in the Belltrees woolshed) and supper afterwards. There'll also be an inspection of the property. Sunday will be spent visiting the Barrington Tops area with luncheon on a property at Gloucester. Reserve your place now! Tickets are \$175, which is fully inclusive of bus travel, accommodation, meals and entries.

AREN'T WE ALL DINNER

Cyren's Restaurant — Wednesday, February 4

Our SUGAR BABIES dinner at popular Cyren's seafood restaurant was such a success that we've decided to make a return visit there prior to a performance of AREN'T WE ALL? (see story p. 2). Tickets are \$58 each which includes both dinner and the theatre.

Fancy Dress Hires

When it comes to costumes for that fancy dress party (or a Santa Claus outfit for the kids' Christmas party) remember that the Trust has over 10,000 costumes available for hire at reasonable rates. And with four outlets throughout Sydney it should be possible to find a convenient place to shop. Our main collection is housed at the Trust's Kings Cross office but we also have costumes in the City (2nd floor, 411 Kent Street, tel. 29 6019), Parramatta (Suite 4, 1st floor, 60 Horwood Place, tel. 689 1767) and Hurstville (Suite 2, 1st floor, 245 Forest Road, tel. 570 2634). As a bonus, members receive a 20% discount on hires.

What's On in New York...

by Irvin Bauer

As you may have noticed, Broadway is not being deluged with new amazing pieces du entertainment. But . . . if you venture a bit up town to Lincoln Center you can enjoy the best musicals seen anywhere in a long time . . . Beverly Sills, amazing lady that she is, has made the New York City Opera a consistent delight and audiences throng nightly to each new inspiration. I saw a splendid production of THE NEW MOON with music by Sigmund Romberg. The book and lyrics, originally by Oscar Hammerstein II, were revised for this production by Robert Johanson, who did a wonderful job of directing and choreographing as well. It has colourful swashbuckling adventure, high romance and complicated plot and is played for all it's worth. But what really makes it memorable is the Romberg score: "Stouthearted Men", "One Kiss", "Wanting You", "Lover Come Back To Me", "Softly, As in a Morning Sunrise", all in the same show. It was

splendid. A happy audience for a change . . . applauding . . . cheering . . . smiling . . . nice. Shortly after I went back to see MEFISTOFOLE with music and libretto by Arrigo Boito. Directed imaginatively by Tito Capobianco, it is a remarkable work; impressive, bold, theatrically and musically superb. A very exciting evening in the theatre. John Cheek sang and acted the title role, a tour de force, with great verve and abandon. Terrific stuff.

Now the most imaginative work I've seen lately in the theatre . . . LOS TRIOS RINGBARKUS, playing at odd times, late in the evening at the American Place Theatre in the heart of Broadway's theatre district. I had heard a great deal about them, word of mouth . . . so I went. I must say I wasn't prepared. The whole show is comprised of a cast of two . . . Neill Gladwin and Stephen Kearney, and they come from Melbourne. They are simply terrific. Neill, a Stan Laurel personification, straight sad face with a

great glint in his eye, and the rubbery legged Stephen Kearney, who doesn't seem to have a joint in his body, are very very funny. They are also original, which in itself is a novelty. They involve the audience to a great, a chaotic degree . . . juggling rolls which find their way into the audience and then back again in rapid fire, missiles propelled every which way with hilarious results. Messy, a junk-strewn stage, but oh so funny. I have no idea what the title or name means but with two such funny fellows who cares. I wish them every success . . . and am sure I'll see more of them if we are lucky enough to keep them here. It's one time when your loss is our gain. I hope we can send you something equally amusing in return.

Irvin S. Bauer is a Playwright-Producer based in New York where he heads THE DEVELOPMENT STAGE, a place where the Writer is encouraged to fulfil the potential of his work.

THE ASSAM GARDEN directed by Mary McMurray
 Screenplay by Elisabeth Bond
 Starring Deborah Kerr, Madhur Jaffrey, Alec McCowen and Zia Mohyeddin
 Opening December 19 at the Academy Twin, Paddington

The role of the former Indian mem-sahib seems to belong by right to Deborah Kerr. Who could forget her magnificent performance in the telemovie "Staying On", about the couple who chose to remain in an Indian hill settlement after independence. In **THE ASSAM GARDEN**, Helen and her husband Arthur have returned to England where Arthur has spent his retirement creating an Assam jungle garden, a rarity in England (as the film-makers found); a nostalgic hangover from the days of the British Raj.

As the film opens, Helen blames Arthur's death on his work in the garden, but when it is suggested that the garden may be included in a book of famous English gardens, she takes on the gigantic task of putting it in order for the inspection. Unexpected help comes from a homesick Indian woman, whose family has no desire to return to India. The garden is one of the stars of the film, with its constant demands and its effects on those who care for it.

THE MISSION directed by Roland Joffe
 Screenplay by Robert Bolt
 Produced by Fernando Ghia and David Puttnam
 Starring Jeremy Irons, Robert De Niro, Ray McAnally, Ronald Pickup, Daniel Berrigan and Liam Neeson
 Opening December 4 at the Pitt Centre (G.U.) and Double Bay (Village)

Set in South America in the mid-seventeen hundreds, **THE MISSION**'S background is the convoluted power-play in the Catholic Church at that time, with the Spanish and Portuguese kingdoms attempting to weaken the power of the Jesuits in South America and so damage their influence in Europe. Among the dangerous Indian tribes up-river, the lives of two very different men become closely linked; Father Gabriel (Jeremy Irons) is searching for the crucifiers of a Jesuit missionary; the mercenary Mendoza (Robert De Niro) is buying slaves. Back in the city of Asuncion, Mendoza kills the younger brother he loves in a brawl over a woman.



Madhur Jaffrey and Deborah Kerr in **THE ASSAM GARDEN**

Desolate, he is visited by Father Gabriel and to expiate his guilt, he makes an arduous journey to the up-river mission. There he helps run the mission with Father Gabriel and becomes a priest. When the church decides to close the missions, the two men are faced with an agonising choice; to obey their superiors or to save the local tribes from the slave traders.

AN AMERICAN TAIL directed by Don Bluth
 Created by David Kirschner
 Screenplay by Tony Geiss and Judy Freudberg
 Produced by Steven Spielberg, David Kirschner, Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall
 Music by James Horner
 Opening December 18 at the George Complex (G.U.)

One for the young and young-at-heart. Steven Spielberg's first venture into animated movies, **AN AMERICAN TAIL** is the story of a family migrating to America late last century, but with a dif-

ference; it's a family of mice. Our hero, Feivel Mousekewitz's arrival in New York is unorthodox; he is swept overboard en route and is washed up in a bottle on the shores of his new home. Determined to find his family, he faces the perils, opportunities and adventures of a new world. But like all good heroes he makes good.

The film uses classical animation and meticulous accuracy in its details and sets, plus state-of-the-art techniques. There are some delightful characters; Tiger, a bad cat with a heart of gold and the voice of Dom Deluise; Gussie Mausheimer, the richest mouse in New York (voice of Madeline Kahn); Papa Mousekewitz who promises that America is a land "where there are no cats" and "the streets are paved with cheese" (soon to be disproved); Henri the French pigeon (Christopher Plummer); the fast-talking con Warren T. Rat and Digit, a calculating cockroach. Tony Geiss and Judy Freudberg, who wrote the screenplay, were the Emmy Award-winning writers for "Sesame Street".

BOOKING INFORMATION

Concessional vouchers can be purchased from the AETT for \$5.50 (\$2.00 saving) and exchanged at Hoyts, Greater Union and Village cinemas for tickets. The vouchers are open dated but some Saturday/Public Holiday restrictions apply to their use. See vouchers for details.

No handling fee applies to film vouchers and

members may purchase as many as they wish. Please specify which cinema chain you require.

Discounts are also offered at the Dendy Cinema, Martin Place (\$2.50), and the Academy Twin, Paddington (\$2.50), at all performances except after midday Saturday. Members should present their membership card at the box office. Discount available on one ticket per member.

Now Playing

After a very successful Sydney season earlier this year DAGS is back. Although designed specifically for young people, DAGS seems to have struck a responsive chord among teenagers and their elders alike — and that's a difficult thing to do! It isn't easy being a teenager and feeling that, perhaps, you're ugly or that you're the kid everyone is nasty to. Perhaps it does help though to know that it happens to others and that there is truth in the saying "a trouble shared, is a trouble halved". DAGS was written by Debra Oswald (Palace of Dreams) and the production is mounted by the **Toe Truck Theatre**, one of Sydney's leading theatre-in-education teams. At Belvoir Street Theatre from November 28 until December 21.

AETT discount \$3.00

Bookings on 699 3273

Alan Ayckbourn seems to be the playwright of the moment both in Sydney and London. At the **Ensemble A CRICKET MATCH**, the third in the **INTIMATE EXCHANGES** series, continues until December 27. Brian Young plays the now familiar roles of headmaster Toby, his stodgy friend, Miles, and the groundsman, Lionel, but they are joined by a new character, Reg Schooner, a hearty cricketing type. Gillian Axtell again plays the headmaster's wife and their maid but also takes the role of the wife's mother and Miles' femme fatale wife, Rowena. Where do they get the energy?

AETT discount \$2.00 (Tue to Fri and mats)

Bookings on 929 8877

One good thing leads to another, they say, and at the **Nimrod**, **ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL** is doing just that. This is the final play in the series being presented at the York Theatre, Seymour Centre, along with **SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER**, **THE MERCHANT OF VENICE** and, returning in December, **WILD HONEY** with John Bell. **ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL** is one of Shakespeare's lesser-known works. It deals with a woman who battles class prejudice and sexual discrimination to win the man she loves: a surprisingly modern character for Shakespeare's time. Ruth Cracknell plays The Countess, and the play is directed by Richard Cottrell. Until December 20.

AETT discount \$2.00 (Tue to Fri)

Bookings on 692 0555

It's hard not to have a good time at **SUGAR BABIES**, for this is a zany, high spirited piece of nonsense, done with style, slapstick and stand-up comedy. Great for this time of the year! It is a slice of Americana nostalgically revived with beautiful girls and comics galore. Eddie Bracken, from the U.S. production, plays the first comic, Garry McDonald another; Joan Brockenshire (some of the best legs in the business) is their perfect foil. Presented by the AETT until January 25 at Her Majesty's.

AETT discount \$7.00

Bookings on 212 1066



Garry McDonald in *SUGAR BABIES*

Christmas is coming and **NOTTA LOTTA SERIOUS BITS** is helping to celebrate it. **Kinselas** is staging this fun show, which is a pot-pourri of skits, jokes, sketches, songs, parodies and satire (whew!), until Jan 3. Penny Cook plays the Virgin Mary, Graeme Blundell manages to play the entire N.S.W. legal profession and there's a farewell appearance by Nifty (you know who) as the ghost of Christmas past. See the show only, or make a night of it with dinner, the show and disco.

AETT discount \$2.00 (Mon to Thu show only, Mon/Sat show and dinner)

Bookings on 331 3100

AND A NIGHTINGALE SANG, a cheerful yet sentimental play by C. P. Taylor, deals with the resilience and spirit of an eccentric British family during World War II. Anne Tenney plays the lead role of Helen, club-footed and, in her opinion, unattractive. She has an eccentric father, a mother pre-occupied with the church, and a sister with a wandering eye! At the Playhouse, S.O.H. until November 29.

AETT discount \$3.00 (except Fri/Sat evg)

Bookings on 2 0525

The final production of the year at the **TQ Theatre**, Penrith, is a family musical. Set in the 1880s **TARANTARA** weaves the magic of Gilbert and Sullivan's music and songs around the highlights of their careers and that of Richard D'Oyly Carte. This musical was last presented in Sydney over ten years ago at which time *The National Times* wrote "If you have forgotten what great entertainment is like, then you need look no further". Until December 15.

AETT discount \$1.00

Bookings on (047) 21 5735

There's Christmas cheer a'plenty at Marian Street Theatre where the **Northside Theatre Company** is presenting **ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR** by Alan Ayckbourn (for cryptic crossword fanatics, that means "Silly Me"!). Set on Christmas Eve over three successive years, it is a funny behind-the-scenes look at Christmas party disasters. Lots of laughs with underlying pathos. Directed by John Tasker, it continues until January 17.

AETT discount \$1.00 (except Sat evg)

Bookings on 498 3166

Set among Philadelphia's high society, **THE PHILADELPHIA STORY** concerns the romances of one, Tracy Lord. Divorced from one husband, she is about to embark on another, when the first one re-appears! While all good fun, it also provides a moving commentary on human nature. The **Sydney Theatre Company** production continues until December 17 at the Drama Theatre, S.O.H.

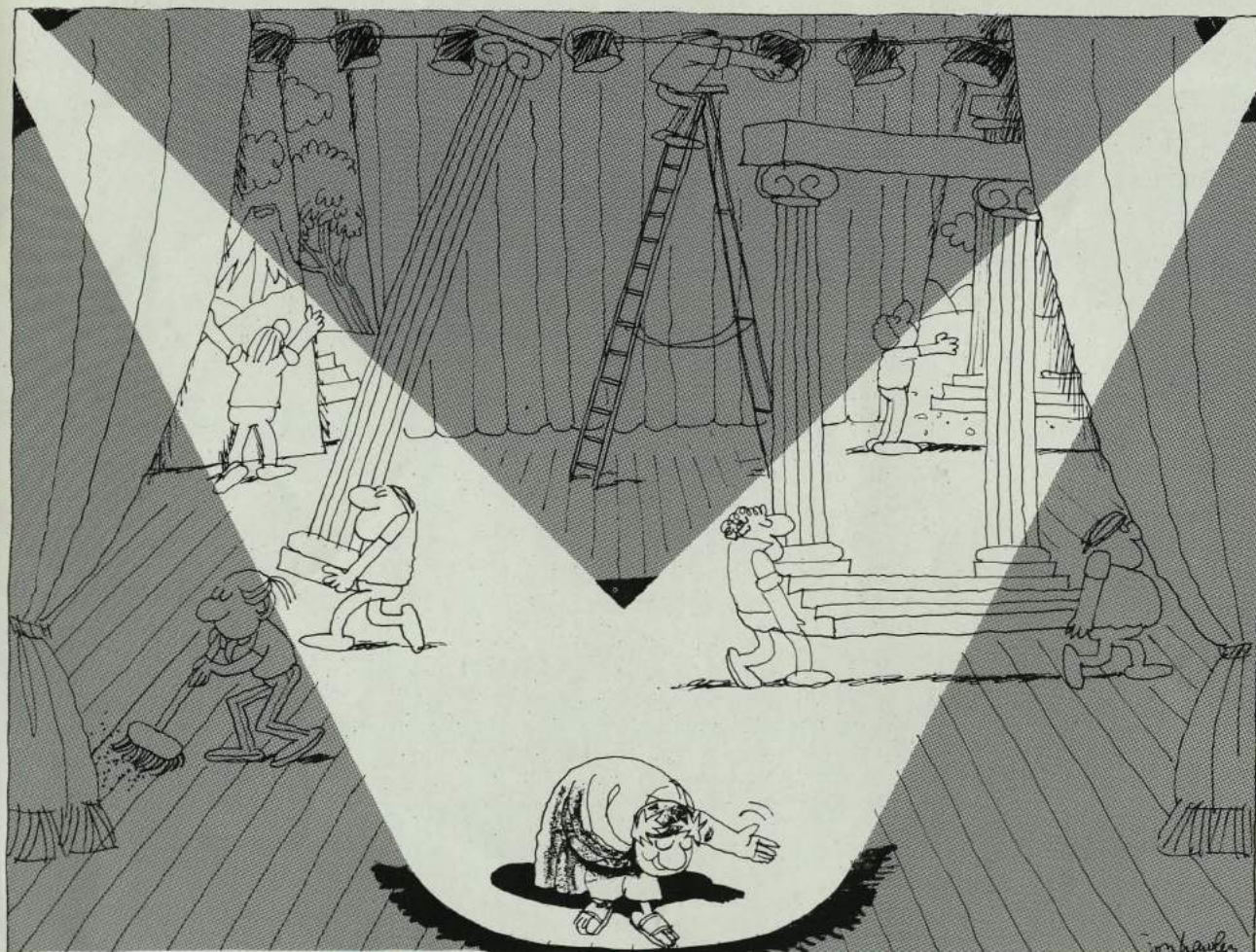
AETT discount \$3.00 (except Fri/Sat evg)

Bookings on 250 1777

Remember those marvellous cameo performances of Joyce Grenfell's? The jolly hockey-stick mistress in *The Happiest days of Your Life*, Policewoman Gates in *St. Trinian's*, the gawky, tweedy, horsy ladies, the radio critic and so many others. Her one-woman shows of monologues, sketches and songs were a hit here, in Britain and the United States. Tracy Harvey, with Phillip Nicholls at the piano, recaptures the star of these shows in **JOYCE!** Tracy Harvey is well known for her many appearances in the *Gillies Report*; the director is Adam Bowen. At the **Belvoir Street Theatre** until December 21.

AETT discount \$3.00

Bookings on 699 3273



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