

## Blood Brothers — Musical Melodrama or Folk Opera?

### BLOOD BROTHERS

by Willy Russell

Directed by Danny Hiller

Cast includes Chrissie Amphlett, Zoe Carides, Russell Crowe, Kris Ralph, Peter Cousens, Phillip Jones

*"A marvellously grainy, tough and very black show"* — Sheridan Morley, Punch.

*"Melodrama done with such intense belief in itself and, above all, such a wealth of good music that it carries one along with it in almost unreserved enjoyment"* — Michael Billington, The Guardian.

Set in Liverpool (the musical was first produced at that city's renowned Everyman Theatre in 1983) and perhaps best described as a Liverpudlian West Side Story, BLOOD BROTHERS is the story of two brothers brought up on different sides of the track without realising their fraternity.

A housewife with seven children and a defecting husband gives birth to twins — one she somewhat reluctantly hands over to her barren middle-class employer, the other she brings up herself. But Mickey, reared in the back-to-backs, and Eddie, granted all the benefits of bourgeois comfort, become sworn blood brothers at a tender age; and the story follows the course of their intertwined lives, with the former dwindling into a petty criminal and the other developing a successful career in public life. The strength of the piece lies partly in the genuine emotional relationship between the twins and partly in the achingly romantic songs which tell of grief and loss without the usual musical trivialities.



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Willy Russell

BLOOD BROTHERS is written by Willy Russell who is probably best known for EDUCATING RITA, another Scouse saga, this time of the working-class girl who tries to better herself through study at the Open University. The Australian production of BLOOD BROTHERS will star Chrissie Amphlett, lead singer with the Divinyls, in the leading role of the back-street mother, a role played in the London production by Barbara Dickson. The Australian production is directed by Danny Hiller, who was

responsible for the successful UK production.

#### BOOKING INFORMATION

York Theatre, Seymour Centre  
Wed Sept 7 to Thu Sept 22  
Mon to Thu at 8 p.m.  
Fri at 6 p.m. & 9 p.m.  
Sat 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.  
AETT \$30.90 (Mon to Thu & Sat mat)  
G.P. \$34.90  
Pens/Stud \$25.90  
Two AETT tickets per Member



## Dickens Adaptation

**HARD TIMES** by Charles Dickens  
Adapted by Stephen Jeffreys  
Directed by Mike O'Brien  
Designed by Tom Bannerman  
Costumes designed by Derrick Cox  
Cast: Kathleen Allen, Geoff Cartwright,  
Maureen Green and Brendan Higgins

In 1854 a critic in the London Examiner truthfully predicted that **HARD TIMES** was "a story . . . written 'for these times' . . . that will be acclaimed for future times".

Considered by many to be Dickens' masterpiece, **HARD TIMES** is set in a soulless industrial town in the north of England with personal dilemmas woven into the political scene and is a story of self-made men.

The four actors in Jeffrey's adaptation play more than sixteen characters from the original novel. Special dates have been set aside for Trust Members as listed below.

### BOOKING INFORMATION

Ensemble Theatre  
Wed Aug 10 to Sat Aug 27  
Tue to Fri at 8 p.m., Sat at 8.30 p.m.  
Sat & Sun at 5 p.m., Thu at 11 a.m.  
AETT \$16.00 (Aug 23/24), \$13.00  
(Thu mat), \$20.00 (Fri), \$18.00 (Mon,  
Thu and Sat/Sun mats)  
G.P. \$15.00 (Thu mat), \$22.00 (Fri/  
Sat), \$20.00 (Mon to Thu and Sat/Sun  
mats)  
Pens/Stud \$15.00 (except Sat evg)  
Two AETT tickets per Member

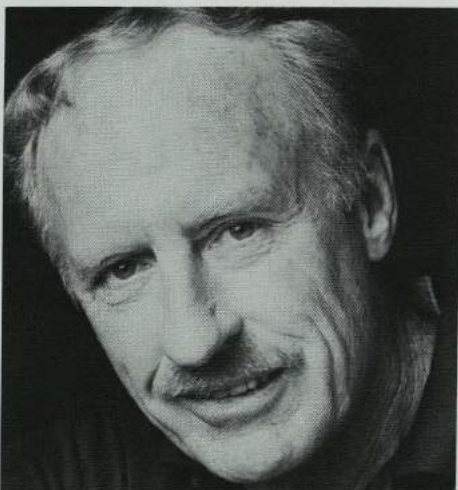
## Willy Loman Returns

**DEATH OF A SALESMAN** by Arthur Miller

Directed by Peter Williams  
Designed by Deidre Burges  
Lighting designed by Roger Barratt  
Cast includes Don Reid and Judy Ferris

**DEATH OF A SALESMAN** opened on February 10, 1949 to reviews that acclaimed it a major new play. The play received the Pulitzer Prize, New York Critics Circle Award and the Tony Award. The central character, Willy Loman, is a perfect example of someone who feels betrayed because he can't achieve the financial goals society

has conditioned him to strive for. He worships the goddess of success, but he doesn't have the talent or the temperament to be a salesman — his chosen career. When he fails as a salesman, no other measure of success — the love of his family, his talent as a carpenter, and so on — can comfort him. Peter Williams is mounting a new production of the play for Glen Street Theatre. Don Reid will play the leading role of Willy Loman. The production will play in repertoire with **EQUUS**.



Don Reid

### BOOKING INFORMATION

Glen Street Theatre, Frenchs Forest  
Mon Aug 1\* to Sat Aug 27  
Mon, Tue 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.  
Sat at 5 p.m. and 8.30 p.m.  
Sun at 5 p.m.  
AETT \$21.90 (Mon, Tue and mats)  
G.P. \$23.90  
Pens/Stud \$17.90 (except Sat evg)  
Two AETT tickets per Member  
\*Modified performance times apply  
week one

## Jane Street Reborn!

**COWGIRLS AND INDIANS** by Nell Schofield

Directed by Martha Follent  
Designed by Grant Ovenden

**CONVERSATIONS WITH JESUS** by Hilary Bell

Directed by John Clark  
Cast: Gail Watson, LeVerne McDonnell, Rebecca Frith, Janet Stanley, Isobel Kirk and Ritchie Singer

Remember the heady days of the 'seventies when N.I.D.A.'s Jane Street Theatre was the nursery for some of today's most prominent playwrights

and actors, and where plays such as **THE LEGEND OF KING O'MALLEY**, **DON'S PARTY** and **ON OUR SELECTION** first saw the light of day?

Jane Street is back in the form of the Jane Street Company which is presenting a three-week season at the Parade Theatre, Kensington (Jane Street Theatre was sold in 1981), before moving on to Expo.

The programme consists of two new one-act plays under the title of **TWO FOR THE ROAD**, and performers are all N.I.D.A. graduates. Both plays were from last year's Playwrights' Studio. **COWGIRLS AND INDIANS** is an entertaining blend of country music, rival twins and transcendental meditation at the Tamworth Country Music Festival. Hilary Bell produces a gentle comedy of family life and commercial hype based on Jesus' expected second coming at Balmoral Beach in 1921 in her **CONVERSATIONS WITH JESUS**.

### BOOKING INFORMATION

Parade Theatre, Kensington  
Fri Aug 12 and Sun Aug 28  
Wed to Sat at 8 p.m.  
Sun at 5 p.m.  
AETT discount \$2.00  
Bookings on 697 7600

## Theatrical Montage

**AS MUCH TROUBLE AS TALKING**  
compiled by Pamela Brown and Jan McKemmish

Directed by Helen Grace

Cast: Eva Sitta and Katrina Foster

Poet Pamela Brown and fiction writer Jan McKemmish have used writers and sources as diverse as Sylvia Plath, Germaine Greer, John dos Passos and Robyn Williams as the basis of their montage at the Belvoir Street Theatre. It covers a wide field of subjects — love, science, war, beauty, politics, the future, and much more besides.

### BOOKING INFORMATION

Downstairs at Belvoir Street Theatre  
Wed Jul 27 to Sun Aug 14  
Tue to Sat at 8 p.m.  
AETT \$14.00, G.P. \$16.00  
Pens/Stud \$10.00  
Bookings on 699 3273



## Mountain Festival

The inaugural Blue Mountains Festival will take place between October 27 and November 6. Artistic Director Jonathan Mills' bold vision to weave together the majestic charm of the Blue Mountains, with dynamic performances by some of Australia's most outstanding musicians and ensembles, is an exciting development for music in this country.



The Amphitheatre at Leura

The Festival venues range from a quarried sandstone amphitheatre perched on a Leura lookout with spectacular views of Mount Solitary and the Jamison Valley to the peace of a bush sanctuary and the gracious Carrington Hotel. Full details of the Festival programme are included in the enclosed brochure as well as the various subscription options being offered. Trust Members receive a 10% discount on the purchase of *single-performance* tickets. Please quote your Trust Member number on the application form. See Member Activities (p. 4) for details of a weekend tour to the Festival.

## Marionette Play

Opening on August 13 at the Rocks Theatre is a new production by The Marionette Theatre of Australia, SYDNEY COVES. Written by Richard Tulloch, one of Australia's leading writers for children and young people's theatre, it explores the colourful background of the Rocks area.

SYDNEY COVES is a script written in contemporary idiom that embodies common elements of the works of the Nineteenth Century. The plot is such as one may have seen performed in the theatre of the past with characters based upon standard archetypes of the

period — the greedy, lecherous villains, the young, naive but resourceful hero etc. The company will use splendid metre-high marionettes, costumed in the style of the period, operated from above by sturdy rods rather than by the usual delicate strings. This will allow a suitable "knockabout" style of presentation.

### BOOKING INFORMATION

Sat Aug 13 to Sat Sept 10  
Tue to Fri at 10 a.m. and 12 noon  
Sats at 12 noon and 2.15 p.m.  
AETT discount \$1.00  
Bookings on 27 3274

## Return Season

EQUUS by Peter Shaffer  
*Directed by Peter Williams*  
*Designed by John Studholme*  
*Lighting designed by Roger Barratt*  
*Cast includes Elaine Lee, Kim Knuckey, David Wenham, John Paramor and May Turner*

Following a sell-out season in 1987, EQUUS returns to Glen Street for a season to play in repertoire with DEATH OF A SALESMAN. Written by AMADEUS playwright Peter Shaffer, the play tells the extraordinary story of a boy and his obsession for horses — the play unfolds the boy's secrets, the parents who love him, the woman who cared about him, the girl who wanted him, and the doctor who untangled the puzzle. Elaine Lee stars as the magistrate.

### BOOKING INFORMATION

Glen Street Theatre, Frenchs Forest  
Wed Aug 10 to Fri Aug 26  
Wed to Fri 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.  
AETT \$21.90 (Wed/Thu and mats)  
G.P. \$23.90  
Pens/Stud \$17.90 (except Fri evg)  
Two AETT tickets per Member

## At Parramatta

The Australian Chamber Orchestra comes to Parramatta on Friday, August 26 to present a celebration for Double-String Orchestra in the Riverside Theatre. The concert will be directed by Carl Pini with Charmian Gadd as solo violinist. The programme includes works by Mozart, Bach and

Tippett's Concerto for Double-String Orchestra.

Corporate advertising and "health" products are in for light-hearted ridicule when QUACKS IN THE CEILING comes to the Lennox Theatre this month. The show is a crazy mixture of comedy, original music, circus, illusion and dance, featuring The Conway Hiccups Orchestra and Legs on the Wall.

### BOOKING INFORMATION

Australian Chamber Orchestra  
Fri Aug 26, AETT discount \$3.00  
Quacks in the Ceiling  
Mon Aug 1 to Sat Aug 13  
Tue to Sat at 8.15 p.m.  
Sat at 2 p.m., Sun at 5 p.m.  
AETT discount \$2.00  
Bookings on 683 6166



Elisabeth Burke in OSTRAKA

## Ostraka Returns

Entr'acte Theatre's acclaimed production of OSTRAKA will be given three Sydney performances before being taken on tour to Britain and France. OSTRAKA is a dramatic synthesis of movement, music (by Colin Offord) and design based on the legend of Agamemnon who on return from the Trojan War is slain by his unfaithful wife Clytemenestra. OSTRAKA focuses on the act of murder, the passions that led to it, and the guilt that followed. The murder is re-enacted in a terrifying dream sequence.

### BOOKING INFORMATION

Performance Space  
Thu Aug 4 to Sat Aug 6 at 8 p.m.  
AETT discount \$1.00  
Bookings on 699 5091



## One Extra Season

Sydney's remarkable contemporary dance company, The One Extra Company, will present a season of *SIX CHAPTERS OF A FLOATING LIFE* at Belvoir Street Theatre as part of Carnivale. Based on an autobiographical work by a Chinese poet, Shen Fu, in 1809, the work is interpreted in movement, dance, mime, drama, speech and music.

Referring to the company's director, Jill Sykes wrote in *Dance Australia* earlier this year "*the imagination of Kai Tai Chan never ceases to amaze*". He



Kai Tai Chan in *SIX CHAPTERS*

brings his skills as an architect-designer, his knowledge of both Eastern and Western cultural heritages, his training and experience as a dancer/choreographer/director, and his sensitivity and compassion as a human being to all his works with One Extra. Kai Tai Chan will also perform in the Belvoir Street season.

### BOOKING INFORMATION

Belvoir Street Theatre  
Thu Sept 1 to Sun Sept 18  
Tue to Sat at 8.30 p.m., Sun at 5 p.m.  
AETT discount \$2.50  
Bookings on 699 3273

## Member Activities

### ENGLISH SHAKESPEARE TOUR

Canberra, September 24/25

At the time of going to press, a few places remained for our two-day visit to Canberra to see the English Shakespeare Company's production of *Richard III*. The tour includes an inspection of the new Parliament House and the National Gallery. Tickets are \$220, which includes bus travel, accommodation, meals and your theatre ticket.

### WOLLONGONG DAY TOUR

Saturday, August 13

There are still places available on our full-day tour to Wollongong which includes South Coast scenic highlights, lunch at the Beach House restaurant and a late-afternoon performance of *THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP* at Theatre South's new Bridge Theatre. The play is a parody of the Gothic horror movies. Tickets, which includes bus travel, meals and theatre tickets, are \$72.00.

### I SOLISTI VENETI

#### DINNER AND CONCERT

Monday, September 5 at 6 p.m.

As part of the Veneto Government's Bicentennial contribution, one of Europe's major chamber music orchestras, I Solisti Veneti, will present a

single Sydney recital at the Town Hall on Monday, September 5. Their programme will include works from the baroque repertoire. The Trust has set seats aside to hear this outstanding orchestra and you are invited to join us for dinner beforehand at the Hilton Hotel. Tickets are \$60.00, which includes dinner *and* the concert.

### BLUE MOUNTAINS FESTIVAL

Saturday, November 5 to Sunday, November 6

Advance notice that Shirley Hay is organising a visit to the Blue Mountains to enjoy this exciting new music festival and some of the scenic attractions the mountains have to offer. Further details in September Trust News. See enclosed brochure for programme details.

### RATTIGAN PLAYS DINNER

Central Plaza Hotel

Wednesday, September 14 at 6 p.m.

Join us for dinner at The Central Plaza Hotel before the performance of the Rattigan plays (starring Paul Eddington) at Her Majesty's. The restaurant is only a hop, skip and a jump from the theatre, so it's an ideal pre-theatre venue. Tickets are \$54, which includes both dinner *and* your theatre tickets.

### RACE DAY AT RANDWICK

Wednesday, September 28 at 11.45 a.m.

Members of the Trust (and their friends) have always been treated with special privilege by the AJC being able to hold their luncheon in the Members Stand with its prime view of the race-track. It makes for a very special day which has resulted in "house full" signs. So if you'd like to attend, make your booking soon! Tickets are \$36.00 each, which includes entry to the Members Stand as well as the luncheon.

### EXPO TOUR

Friday, October 28 to Monday, October 31

Our tour to Expo in June was such a success that Trust Governor Shirley Hay is arranging a second visit to include the closing ceremonies. We'll be staying at the new Gold Coast International Hotel, with a bus at our disposal to ferry us back and forth to Brisbane. The tour will include a full day on the Gold Coast visiting Sanctuary Cove and having a lunch cruise on the Broadwater and river. The remaining three days will be spent at Expo. Price for twin-share, which includes airfare, accommodation with breakfast, river cruise and transfers to Expo and entry tickets, is \$790 (single supplement \$240).



## Focus on Films

**THE GLASS MENAGERIE** directed by Paul Newman  
from the play by Tennessee Williams  
*Produced by Burt Harris*  
*Starring Joanne Woodward, John Malkovich, Karen Allen and James Naughton*  
*Opening August 12 at the Academy Twin*

The year 1945 was a landmark for theatregoers when Tennessee Williams' first play, **THE GLASS MENAGERIE**, opened on Broadway. Although it was followed by a string of other successes, **THE GLASS MENAGERIE** is considered Williams' best and most poetic work. It was made into a movie in 1950 with Gertrude Lawrence, Jane Wyman, Kirk Douglas and Arthur Kennedy, and later as a telemovie with Katherine Hepburn. Joanne Woodward has appeared on stage in the play both as the daughter Laura and as her mother, Amanda.

Like all Williams' plays, it is set in the deep South; the story of a determined mother who tries to form her shy reclusive daughter into her own outgoing image. As Laura's older brother, Tom, John Malkovich plays a man torn between his concern for his sister and the need to find a life of his own — a choice which makes him feel a deserter.

### BOOKING INFORMATION

Concessional vouchers can be purchased from the AETT for \$6.00 (Village, Hoyts, G.U.) and exchanged at cinemas for tickets. The vouchers are open dated but some Saturday/Public Holiday restrictions apply to their use.

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), the Cremorne Orpheum (\$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.

**SEPTEMBER** written and directed by Woody Allen  
*Produced by Robert Greenhut*  
*Starring Denholm Elliott, Mia Farrow, Elaine Stritch, Jack Warden, Sam Waterston and Dianne Wiest*  
*Now playing at Greater Union theatres*

"**SEPTEMBER** is Woody Allen's 16th film and as with most of his earlier films it explores the subtle and delicate relationships and feelings in a small and intimate group of people. It is set in late summer in a country house in Vermont, owned by Lane (Mia Farrow) and occupied by Lane's mother (Stritch), the man she lives with (Warden), Lane's best friend (Wiest) and a writer who is beset by doubts about himself (Waterston). Denholm Elliott plays a neighbour who greatly admires Lane. A major theme is mother/daughter and father/daughter relationships.

## Opening Soon

### Fiddler On The Roof

It's sad news that popular Hayes Gordon has had to step out of his lead role in **FIDDLER ON THE ROOF** because of ill health, but fortunate that Max Gillies was able to take his place. The Australian Opera's production of the favourite musical is at the Opera



Max Gillies

House for a return season. Directed by Jerome Robbins, **FIDDLER** is the story of the milkman Tevye and life in his Russian village; who could forget the hit "If I Were a Rich Man"? Trust Members are advised to give an alternative choice of dates as bookings are expected to be heavy. Trust tickets are available for the performances listed below.

#### BOOKING INFORMATION

Tue Aug 9, Wed Aug 10, Thu Aug 11  
AETT \$38.00  
G.P. \$44.00  
No pens/stud price  
Two AETT tickers per Member

### Serious Money

Corporate raiders, insider trading and futures are terms we have become only too familiar with in the

past few years and London playwright Caryl Churchill has turned the stockmarket scene into entertainment in **SERIOUS MONEY**, which won the Olivier Award for best play of the year in 1987. Simon Phillips is directing the joint Sydney and Melbourne Theatre Companies production at the Wharf Theatre, and the cast includes Jane Menelaus and Robert Menzies.

Guardian critic describes the play as "a vigorous verse picture of a society where greed is sexy, sleazy whizkids publicly honoured and human feeling tarnished".

#### BOOKING INFORMATION

Wharf Theatre  
Tue Aug 9 to Sat Aug 27  
Mon to Sat at 8 p.m.  
Wed and Sat mats at 2 p.m.  
AETT \$22.00 (except Fri/Sat evg)  
G.P. \$24.00  
Stud/Pens \$19.00 (except Fri/Sat evg)  
Two AETT tickets per Member



# Dialogue

by Carole Long, Retiring Membership Manager

It's been a year of dramatic change for the Trust. With the financial crisis faced by the Trust earlier in the year now overcome, with the purchase of the Independent Theatre as a new home for the Trust and the appointment of Adam Salzer as Chief Executive, Members can look forward to a period of strong development for the Trust as programmes are set in place to carry the Trust forward in its role of fostering the arts in Australia.

It's proven to be a time of change for me on a personal level too. After fifteen years with the Trust, I've decided it's time to move on to new experiences and to make way for someone with fresh ideas to take membership in new directions. They've been very rewarding years for me. It's been great to have been part of the Trust as we've seen membership grow to an all-time high and the support of Members for the Trust manifest itself in such a strong

commitment to our Donor Programme which we established last year. We now have over 600 donors who have contributed over \$45,000 to Trust programmes.

Any decision to leave after such a long period is inevitably tinged with regret and for me it will be the loss of the personal contact I've developed with so many of you over the years, and in particular the dedicated team of volunteers who come in each week to keep the wheels of membership turning. I'd like to pay a personal tribute to their fine work and also to that of Carol Martin who, as membership secretary, has performed an outstanding job for the past four years looking after your ticketing requirements.

The incoming membership manager has promised me she'll look after my "baby" well and I'm confident that membership couldn't be left in more capable hands. Margaret Mackenzie-

Forbes comes from a family who have shown a long-standing commitment to



Margaret Mackenzie-Forbes

the Trust. Her mother, Mrs. Cathleen Mackenzie-Forbes, was created a life member of the Trust earlier this year. Margaret trained as an opera singer at the New South Wales and Queensland Conservatoriums of Music and for the past ten years has been enthusiastically promoting Manly as a tourist venue as Tourist Promotions Director. I am sure she will bring equal enthusiasm to her new position. I wish her every success. Please make her welcome!

## Now Playing

Offspring of the Sydney Theatre Company **Six Years Old** have put their heads together and come up with a show called **HAIR-CUT** that compares the culture of the late 'eighties with that of the "hair" generation of the 'sixties. It is at the Wharf Theatre throughout August. AETT discount is \$1.00. Bookings on 250 1777.

Soon-to-be-an-Aussie actor Warren Mitchell is playing the lead in **ORPHANS** at the Drama Theatre, S.O.H until August 20. Recently released as a movie, **ORPHANS** tells of a con man who brings comfort and affection to two boys who are living on their wits in a shabby house. **ORPHANS** has been a hit, both in London's West End and in the US. AETT discount \$3.00 (Mon to Thu and mats). Bookings on 2 0525.

A phenomena of the 'thirties with its all-woman cast, Clare Boothe Luce's play **THE WOMEN** is back and is at the **Genesian Theatre** until August 27. The plot is set in a hairdressing

salon and has roles for 40 women! AETT discount is \$3.00. Bookings on 267 7774.

At Marian Street, the **Northside Theatre Company** is presenting **DAMES AT SEA** throughout August. It's a toe-tapping musical about the big film musicals of the 'forties, with roles based on the big stars such as Ruby Keeler, Dick Powell, Joan Blondell. Nancye Hayes is directing. AETT discount is \$3.00 (until August 7), then \$1.00 (except Fri/Sat evg). Bookings on 498 3166.

It couldn't be a smooth passage when you put authors, composer and stars of a musical comedy on board a trans-Atlantic liner. Tom Stoppard's **ROUGH CROSSING** stars Dennis Olsen, Henri Szeps and Ronald Falk. It's at the S.O.H. Playhouse through August. AETT discount \$3.00 (Mon to Fri and mats). Bookings on 2 0525.

The winter season of **The Australian Opera** runs until October, with discounts for AETT Members of \$6.00 for all productions except **THE**

**MASTERSINGERS**. Please ring the Trust on 357 1200 for further information.

The rock'n'roll musical **BEEHIVE** is at the Footbridge Theatre through August. It's a fun send-up of the era and its stars, who are played by three talented black singers from the USA, supported by Australians Maureen Elkner, Kitty Silver and Margi de Ferranti. AETT discount is \$5.00 (Mon to Fri). Bookings on 692 9955.

Box-office hit of the year **LES MISERABLES** is still waiting for you if you haven't yet seen it. It is at the Theatre Royal, with a discount of \$3.00 on certain nights for Trust Members. Phone 357 1200 for more details.

Australian playwright Martin Buzacott has based his first play **DRUMS OF THUNDER** on two Brecht plays, **BAAL** and **DRUMS IN THE NIGHT**, in each of which the leading character destroys himself. **DRUMS OF THUNDER** is directed by Mark Gaal and is at the **Belvoir Street Theatre** until August 21. AETT discount \$3.00. Bookings on 699 3273.



Actresses Judi Dench and Geraldine McEwan have made their directoral debuts with *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* and *AS YOU LIKE IT* respectively for the Renaissance Company, a new spirit in touring theatre dominated by the imaginative young actor Kenneth Branagh. Both productions, which will be seen in London in late August, have been praised for their "romantic intelligence, briskness and warmth" and for their straightforward approach to the text and characters.

Meanwhile, Sir Peter Hall, leaving the National to work in the commercial theatre, has shown he has lost none of his perception and energy despite the hours spent on non-creative battles for one of the major subsidised companies. In a gruelling test for any company, he has prepared three Shakespeares in tandem, opening on three consecutive nights in the Cottesloe Theatre. The plays are in repertoire through the summer, with actors like Tim Pigott-Smith (Leontes), Michael Bryant (Prospero)

and Geraldine James (Imogen) earning high praise for their sensitive and intelligent contributions to such a project.

Simon Gray's new play *THE COMMON PURSUIT*, which he also directs, at the Phoenix Theatre, has Rik Mayall and John Sessions heading the cast in a tough, compassionate, sardonic comedy about failure, played out over a period of 20 years. Also in the West End are Michael Blakemore's production of Chekov's *UNCLE VANYA* at the Vaudeville Theatre with a formidable cast, including Michael Gambon, Jonathan Pryce and Greta Scacchi.

No look, however brief, at London's current theatre would be complete without a word on David Freeman's ambitious production (at the Lyric Hammersmith) of Goethe's *FAUST* (Parts One and Two) with Simon Callow as Faust facing Peter Lindford's Mephistophenes in a set which requires great physicality and dexterity on the part of a youthful company literally stretched and strung up and tightrope

walking throughout this long and virtually unplayable drama. Considerable admiration is extended from the audience to the players for this marathon — a theatrical feat unlikely to be repeated very often — and very much in keeping with former Australian Freeman's style and reputation!

However, the theatrical highlight for me has to be Peter Brook's *THE MAHABHARATA* — I joined many other theatregoers recently on a weekend pilgrimage to Glasgow's former Transport Museum and spent the nine hours transfixed by the epic scope and sheer theatricality of such a story. Part of me was thrilled to know that this experience had recently been available to Australian audiences — a kind of shared experience which is the lifeblood of the theatre.

Margaret Leask is a former editor of Trust News now resident in London where she is an artists' agent.



## Tell a Friend About AETT Membership!

Next time someone complains to you about the cost of theatre tickets, how hard it is to get good seats or how frustrated they are to hear about a great show just as it's due to close, tell them about Trust membership. You'll be doing them a favour!

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# Trust News

is a publication of the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust which is produced exclusively for its 10,000 members throughout Australia.

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(incorporated in the A.C.T.)

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Theatre of the Deaf Administrator:	Liz Marshall
Ticket Services Manager:	Richard Ricci
Building, Props and Electric Supervisor:	Wayne Kellett
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