

THE TRUST

THE AUSTRALIAN ELIZABETHAN THEATRE TRUST

NEWS

VOLUME 12

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OCTOBER 1988



WE'RE WAVING A NEW BANNER

To symbolise the revitalisation of The Trust the old logo that has served over the years has been replaced with a bright new emblem which is displayed for the first time at the head of this edition of The Trust News.

To keep alive The Trust's traditional role designer, Trevor Hyde, has placed the spotlight on the letter 'T' framed within a curtained arch. His use of a clean graphic technique emphasises our fresh, modern image and our new role in the Arts.

The new emblem will soon be associated with every facet of the performing and creative arts as The Trust widens its influence beyond the 600 organisations it already supports.

The Trust News will keep you up to date as new initiatives are made to encourage greater involvement by artists and audiences alike throughout Australia.

Grand Gala Theatrical Memorabilia Auction

*Pupils from Sydney's International Grammar School at large in the props room of The Trust's Hire Department. On October 15th the Department will be the venue for the **Grand Gala Theatrical Memorabilia Auction**. Turn to the back page for full details of this once-in-a-lifetime event.*

LET YOUR HAIR DOWN

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— The Show Biz Ball —

FIND OUT ALL ABOUT IT IN THE MEMBER'S DIARY ON THE BACK PAGE.



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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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TRUST MANAGEMENT

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STATE OF THE ARTS

STATE OF THE ARTS welcomes stories, anecdotes and news of actors and actresses, directors and producers, companies and theatres, art galleries, film makers, poets, sculptors, painters, writers — anyone and anything that contributes to Australia's artistic reservoir. Articles should be of no more than 350 words and typed double space. A crisp black and white glossy photograph is always welcome. Address material to The Editor, The Trust News, P.O. Box 137, Kings Cross, N.S.W. 2011.

This month we take a look at three highly successful production companies, each with a different philosophy and segment of the theatre market.

GORDON/ FROST PRESENTS

As co-producers with Essington Entertainment (which now incorporates J.C. Williamson) of *Big River**, 1989 sees Gordon/Frost entering its seventh and most challenging year to date. The privately owned, Sydney based theatre management and production company led by Ashley Gordon and John Frost began initially as an advertising, publicity and management consultancy to the entertainment industry.

The impressive list of publicity credits, apart from their own productions, includes *Torch Song Trilogy*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Beehive* and Richard Harris in *Camelot*.

With the acquisition in 1985 of Sydney's 640 seat Footbridge Theatre, Gordon/Frost entered the field of production when they presented the Pulitzer Prize play *Night Mother*. Since then, Gordon/Frost has brought Australian audiences a diverse range of quality attractions including *Agnes of God*, *Beach Blanket Tempest*, *Women Behind Bars*, *A Coupla White Chicks*, *Rents*, *Corpse!* and celebrated British actress Billie Whitelaw in *The Beckett Trilogy*.

A Trust Support "Trust members have always been supportive of our shows", says Ashley

Gordon, "and are an important component of any audience for live theatre." "We have found them to be discerning but loyal."

With the line up of attractions booked into the Footbridge for the remainder of 1988 and the first part of 1989, The Trust members can look forward to the Australian premiere season of Jeffrey Archer's record-breaking London hit *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*, starring its original London star Frank Finlay and directed by the original London director David Gilmore, from 11th November.

The hit musical *Blues In The Night* (about to be revived in New York after a successful London season) is to be presented by Essington Entertainment in the new year.

*See Book Now page 7 for full details.



Ashley M Gordon & John N Frost, producers of the multi-award winning musical *Big River* based on Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*.

PETER WILLIAMS TAKE ONE EMPTY HALL

Ten years ago producer/director Peter Williams took an empty hall in downtown Sydney and created the Phillip Street Theatre now one of Australia's most versatile performance places.

He not only owns & operates Phillip Street, which in addition to presenting international plays and theatre for the young is home to one of the best drama schools for children, but he is also Managing Director of Australian Creative Management, one of the country's top actor agencies and has set up professional theatre in Canberra and at The Forest Theatre Company in Sydney's northern suburbs.



Producer, director and theatre owner Peter Williams whose 1989 season plans include a revival of Noel Coward's 9 one-act plays, *Tonight at 8.30*.

Continued page 9

BOOK NOW

Discounted theatre bookings can be made at your state A.E.T.T. office wherever a discounted price is shown in the booking information printed in this section. Alternatively, by showing your A.E.T.T. membership card discounted tickets can normally be bought at the theatre. If no A.E.T.T. ticket discount is available the normal public ticket price must be paid.

Unless otherwise stated there is a limit of 2 discounted tickets per show to each Trust member.

The information printed in The Trust News is accurate according to our best knowledge. The Trust accepts no liability for any inconvenience or loss which may be caused should this not be the case. We recommend that a final check is made with the theatre or concert hall to ensure that there have been no changes after the publication of The Trust News.

NEW SOUTH WALES

(02) 357 1200 MON - FRI 9AM - 5PM VISA/MASTERCARD/BANKCARD

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS FESTIVAL

The bold vision of Artistic Director Jonathan Mills 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 in the Australian performing arts. The Festival venues range from a 400 seat quarried sandstone amphitheatre on a Leura lookout with spectacular views of Mt Solitary & the Jamison Valley, to the peace of a bush sanctuary. A wide range of musical delights, including the Canberra Wind Soloists, Binneas String Quartet and David Helfgott, piano, are included in the full programme published in our August edition.

AT VARIOUS MOUNTAIN VENUES

27 Oct - 6 Nov

AETT: 10% discount on single & subscription tickets if booked prior to 7 Oct. Contact the Festival office for more detail on (02) 360 1051.

PINOCCHIO

A wonderful holiday entertainment for all the family but especially the children. A much loved classic by Australia's leading puppeteers. Close to the ferry and in the heart of The Rocks. Make a day of it.

THE MARIONETTE THEATRE
Ends 22 Oct
AETT Discount \$1 all shows



The Binneas Quartet (top clockwise) John Lynch, Siona Loughmane, Gabrielle Deakin and Miki Tsunoda who following the Blue Mtns Festival depart for Hungary where they will study at the Liszt Academy for three years.

BIG & LITTLE

by Botho Strauss

Director: Harald Clemen

The Sydney theatre Company with Robyn Nevin in collaboration with the Goethe Institute.

By one of Germany's leading contemporary playwrights BIG & LITTLE is an extraordinary portrait of a woman of courage in search of meaning. In a series of big & little scenes Lotte discovers that the big city offers little solace. Acclaimed German Director Harald Clemen with an all Australian cast.

OPERA HOUSE DRAMA THEATRE

Ends 29 Oct

Sat mat 2pm

AETT \$25 except Fri & Sat

Public \$28

Concession \$21 except Fri & Sat evenings

STRICTLY BALLROOM

Director Baz Luhrmann

Choreography Glenn Keenan

Set in the sub-culture world of ballroom dancing it tells the story of Scott Hastings and his struggle with the sensuality of the ballroom dance and the regulations of the all powerful Federation. This production earned the Director & Choreographer the highest honours at the International Theatre Festival of Drama in Czechoslovakia in 1986 where the press described it as 'breathtaking'.

THE WHARF STUDIO

Ends 29 Oct

Mon-Sat 8pm

Sat Mat 5pm

Fri late show 10pm

AETT \$16

Public \$17 Concession \$10

LES MISERABLES

Still no end in sight to one of the world's most successful musicals.

THEATRE ROYAL

Discounts available on selected nights.

AETT \$41 Public \$44

Concessions \$22 Wed mat only

A SMALL FAMILY BUSINESS

by Alan Ayckbourne

Director: John Krummel

Cast includes Peter Adams, Ron Haddrick, Barbara Stephens, Paul Bertram, Peter Whitford, Elaine Lee & Maggie Dence.

An Australian premier and perfect Christmas entertainment to boot. Hailed as the ultimate Ayckbourn masterpiece this epic comedy lifts the lid of suburbia. Unbusiness-like ways, (and worse,) are endemic to the family furniture firm.

Ends 22 Dec
 Tue-Sat 8.15pm
 Sat & Sun 5pm
 Wed mat 11am
 AETT: \$18.50 12-16 Oct only
 \$23.50 17 Oct-22 Dec
 Public: Fri & Sat even \$24.50
 other times \$21.50
 Concession: \$13
 AETT: Dinner & Show Wed 19 Oct
 6pm \$39

BENNELONG

Composer Barry Conyngham
 Libretto & Director Murray
 Copland
 The Australian Chamber
 Orchestra with Thomas Edmonds,
 Tenor & Beverley Bergen, Soprano.
 Musica Viva & World Expo '88
 have combined forces to present a
 national tour of The Australian
 Chamber Orchestra and Australian
 Elizabethan Theatre Trust mam-
 moth production of BENNELONG.
 Full of humour, fantasy, wit and
 irony — yet ultimately tragic —
 BENNELONG, a unique concept in
 puppet-opera. With over eighty life-
 size puppets and a host of other
 characters.

Newcastle Town Hall 4* Oct
 Sydney Opera House 10**, 12*,
 16*, & 17* Oct
 Canberra School of Music
 11* Oct

*Part of Musica Viva subscrip-
 tion series.
 **Part of the A.C.O. concert
 series \$3 AETT discount for all
 shows. Call the AETT office for
 prices & performance timings.

KRAANERG

The Sydney Dance Company

For full details see Graeme Murphy story
 page 9.

OPERA THEATRE
 4 - 26 Nov 8.30pm
 12, 19 & 26 Nov 5pm
 AETT: \$32
 Public: \$36 Concession: \$31

CARMINA BURANA

by Carl Orff
 The Queensland Ballet
 Director: Harold Collins
 Choreographer: Jacqui Carrol
 'Truly innovative, exciting
 choreography with humour, sex,
 violence, tenderness & spectacle'
 writes The Australian. Rave reviews,
 packed audiences and standing
 ovations have been the common-
 place on the national tour of
Carmina Burana, and now it's
 Sydney's turn. You just have to see it.

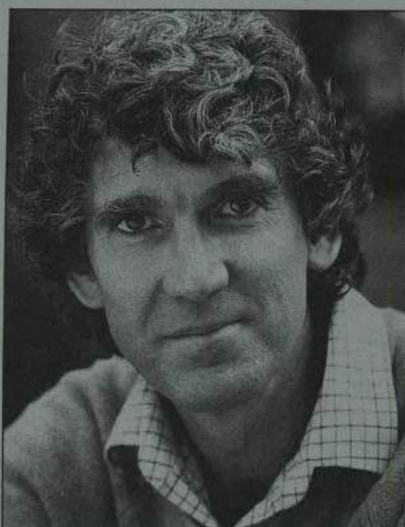
EVEREST THEATRE,
 SEYMOUR CENTRE
 Thu 13 Oct - Sat 22 Oct 8pm
 AETT: \$19 Family \$55
 Public: \$22 Concession: \$10



Captain Arthur Phillip goes ashore
 with Bennelong. A scene from the
 Australian Puppet Opera which world
 premiered in Holland last April and
 opens in Newcastle on 4 October



Belinda Giblin plays Mrs Markham
 in the zany comedy which opens
 at Glenn Street on 13 Oct.



David Williamson, author of *Dons
 Party* at the Playhouse Theatre from
 18 Oct.

MOVE OVER MRS MARKHAM

by Ray Cooney & John Chapman
 Director: Peter Williams
 With Belinda Giblin & Faye
 Donaldson

This English laughter hit of the
 year has delighted audiences world-
 wide. A zany, wild, free-for-all farce
 that is naughty nonsense at its very
 best. How the amazing Mrs
 Markham gets her man (her
 husband!) in an elegant London flat.
 A total riot that you would be mad
 to miss.

GLEN ST THEATRE

Thu 13 Oct-Sun 20 Nov
 Tue-Fri 8pm
 Sat 5pm & 8.30pm
 Sun 5pm
 Wed mat 1pm
 AETT: \$22.90 Tue-Thu & mats
 Public: \$23.90 Tue-Thu & mats
 \$26.90 Fri & Sat 8pm
 Concession: Pens. \$15.90 Wed
 mat \$17.90 Tue-Thu 8pm & Sat &
 Sun 5pm

DON'S PARTY

by David Williamson
 Director: Graeme Blundell
 With Steve Bisley, Nicholas Edie,
 Geraldine Turner, Hugo Weaving,
 Julie Nihill & Lynda Stoner.

DON'S PARTY — it's boozy,
 bawdy, riotously funny and as
 relevant today as it was when Labour
 seemed to be permanently in
 opposition. And with the benefit of
 hindsight DON'S PARTY is more
 than a satirical look at the
 permissive society of the late 60's.
 Power and how it works, from the
 kitchen to the Parliament, is
 Williamson's pervading theme and
 in DON'S PARTY Williamson
 dramatises the collision between
 ambition, power and the absurdities
 of its realisation with the catalyst an
 election broadcast.

PLAYHOUSE, OPERA HOUSE

18 Oct-1 Nov
 Mon-Sat 8pm
 Wed & Sat 2pm
 AETT: \$24.90 Mon-Fri \$16.90
 mats
 Public: \$28.90 Mon-Fri \$29.90
 Sat 8pm \$19.90 mats
 Concession: \$19.90 Mon-Fri
 \$16.90 mats

FILM

Concession vouchers which
 can be exchanged for tickets at
 selected cinemas can be
 purchased from the AETT. No
 handling fees are charged and
 members may buy as many
 vouchers as they wish. Conditions
 and prices vary state by state so
 please contact your local AETT
 office for details.

THE ARCHBISHOP'S CEILING

by Arthur Miller
Director: Sandra Bates
With Prue Bassett, Serge Lazareff & Brian Young

A room in a baroque palace. Tapestries, statues, exquisite rugs stared at by sightless plaster angels in the ornate ceiling above. A young man enters silently running his hand on the underside of tables, peering into the piano and into flowers. If there is a listening device it is not there but in the *Archbishop's Ceiling*.

THE ENSEMBLE THEATRE

26 Oct-24 Dec
Tue-Sat 8pm
Sat & Sun 5pm
Thu 11am
AETT: \$18 Tue Thu & Sat & Sun mats, \$20 Fri \$13 Thu mat
Public: \$20 Tue-Thu & Sat & Sun mats, \$22 Fri & Sat 8pm, \$15 Thu mat
Concession: \$15 except Fri & Sat 8pm
Special Trust Nights: \$15 Tue 1 Nov/Wed 2 Nov 8pm \$15

LOOT

by Joe Orton
Director: Richard Wherrett
With Mark Neal, David Frankl, Linda Cropper & Ralph Cotterill.
An extraordinary work of high comedy, low life and criminal activity. Twenty years after his death Joe Orton is more in the news than ever. A theatre classic that everyone should see at least once — now is the time.

THE WHARF THEATRE

1 Nov - 10 Dec
AETT: \$22 Mon-Thu 8pm and Sat 2pm
Public: \$24
Concession: \$19 Mon-Thu 8 pm and Sat 2pm

BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT

by Jeffrey Archer
Directors: Bill Marshall & David Gilmore
With Frank Finlay, Marie Redshaw, Brian Blain & Frank Wilson.

'A triumph ... a winner', The London Daily Express. A gripping courtroom drama with all the Archer hallmarks of suspense and storytelling. Keeps you guessing to the very end.

THE FOOTBRIDGE THEATRE

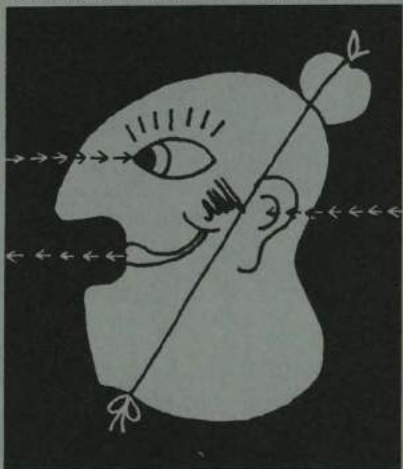
From 16 Nov
Mon-Sat 8pm Wed & Sat mat 2pm
AETT: \$27 Mon-Thu & mats
Public: \$32 Mon-Thu & mats \$35 Fri & Sat 8pm
Concession: \$22 all shows except Sat 8pm



The magic mix of Roger Climpson & June Salter to play in Ayckbourn's riotous comedy *Relatively Speaking*. The Everest Theatre from 23 Nov.



Jon English as Pap Finn and Cameron Daddo as Huck Finn in Roger Miller's Broadway Musical *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, which premieres at Sydney's Her Majesty's Theatre on January 7, 1989 with a National tour to follow.



The logo of The 1st National Arts Week which aims to remind all Australians that, as taxpayers, they are patrons of the arts. For full details of the Arts Week programme call (02) 251 4233.

RELATIVELY SPEAKING

by Alan Ayckbourn
Director: Peter Williams
With June Salter, Roger Climpson, Grant Dodwell and Sian Pugh.

After a sellout season at the Glen Street Theatre earlier this year the play opens at the Seymour to a chorus of critical praise ... 'a stunning piece of comic craftsmanship'. The casting of June Salter and Roger Climpson is a magic mix. The ultimate comedy of mistaken identity.

EVEREST THEATRE, SEYMOUR CENTRE

23 Nov - 17 Dec
Tue-Fri 8pm
Wed/Thu mats 1pm
Sat 5pm & 8.30pm
AETT: \$26.90 Tue-Thu 8pm
\$22.90 mats \$20.90 Special Trust night 29 Nov. No ticket limit.
Public: \$27.90 Tue-Thu 8pm
\$23.90 mats \$29.90 Fri/Sat evgs.
Concession: \$23.90 Tue-Thu evgs \$19.90 mats

ANGELS

by Tobsha Learner
Directors: Katerina Ivak & Catherine Martin
With The Ensemble Group of Players.

A contemporary satire which explodes the concept of paradise and its inaccessibility. A hilarious portrait of the Australian middle class plus the devil, God, crystal worship and powermongering. An energetic performance.

THE WHARF STUDIO

12 Nov - 10 Dec
Tue-Sat 8pm Fri late show 10pm
Sat mat 5pm
AETT: \$16
Public: \$17
Concession: \$10

BIG RIVER

Music & Lyrics by Roger Miller
Director: Michael Grief
With John Bell, Cameron Daddo, Jon English and Drew Forsythe

The show that scooped every major category at the 1985 Tony Awards. 'One of the finest musicals in recent years, Chicago Tribune. Written & composed by Roger 'King of the Road' Miller, the story of Huck Finn on Mark Twain's Mississippi is bluegrass, Tin Pan Alley, Nashville & Broadway brass all rolled into one. Don't dare miss it.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE

Opens 7 Jan
Mon-Sat 8pm
Wed/Sat mat 2pm
AETT: \$34.50 Mon-Fri & mats
Public: \$39.50
Concession: \$26.50 Under 15's at mats \$19.50

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*Regular client & member
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Country & Interstate.*

*An extensive range
of special effects.*

**Call The Trust
357 1200**

'HALFTIX' HITS \$1 MILLION

In just over 2 years of operation HALFTIX has returned one million dollars back to the Sydney theatre & entertainment industry.

HALFTIX has two outlets, in Martin Place and at 450 Victoria Street, Chatswood.

At HALFTIX you simply purchase tickets on the day of the performance at half the adult price plus a small service fee. Tickets cannot be booked in advance or by phone.

This marvellous service, which is part of The Trust's energetic audience development pro-

gramme, gives the opportunity to many who could not perhaps afford to go to the theatre and helps theatres and promoters fill seats which might otherwise go unsold.

New Theatre Goers HALFTIX has been most successful in bringing new people into our theatres. Eighty percent of all tickets sold are taken by tourists.

HALFTIX offers tickets for most entertainment from live theatre, opera, ballet, music, drama and occasionally, sporting events.



Trust Chief Executive Adam Salzer hands over a symbolic \$1 million cheque to the Hon. Peter Collins, N.S.W. Minister for the Arts. In expressing his thanks the Minister noted that it was a pleasant change to be receiving money rather than giving it away. With him are The Trust Chairman, Mr Andrew Briger A.M. and Mr Lloyd Waddy QC, a Trust Director. The \$1 million mark was celebrated with a colourful ceremony in Martin Place. The Sinfonietta heralded the event with a fanfare whilst Trust members in period costume handed out Cabaret Chocolates kindly donated by our HALFTIX sponsor, Red Tulip.

State of the Arts from page 4.

None of this success would come as a surprise to Peter Williams who arrived in Sydney in 1972 with one simple aim — to become one of this country's top directors.

Over the past 16 years he has produced & directed over 200 productions, touring nationally and winning copious awards for actors & designers en route.

Noel Coward Sell Out Amongst the many memorable plays have been *Look Back in Anger*, *Under Milkwood*, *The Removalists*, *The Mating Game*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Whose Life Is It Anyway* and the musicals *Chicago* and *Hello Dolly*. More recently Peter produced *Death of A Salesman* and *Educating Rita* although probably his most acclaimed season was the sellout performances of Noel Coward's *Private Lives* and *Blithe Spirit* which was transferred from the Opera House to the Glen Street Theatre where it was the flagship for the newly formed Forest Street Theatre's inaugural season of plays. Peter Williams' productions of *Move Over Mrs Markham** opens at the Glen Street Theatre on 13 October and *Relatively Speaking** at the Seymour Centre on 23 November.

Peter's plans for 1989 include *Bedroom Farce* by Alan Ayck-bourne, Richard Harris' comedy of the year, *Stepping Out* and a 4 month season of Noel Coward to celebrate the Masters 90th birthday. This programme will include a return of *Private Lives* and, for the first time in Australia *Tonight at 8.30*, the 9 one act plays Coward wrote for himself and Gertrude Lawrence which will be played over three consecutive nights, a delight for country members who can take a break in Sydney and see them all in one hit.

*See 'BOOK NOW' page 6 for full details.
Continued page 11.

Contributions on any subject of interest to the arts industry and its supporters are very welcome as is constructive criticism to improve the value of the magazine to its readers.

Write to The Editor,
The Trust News, Box 137,
Kings Cross, N.S.W. 2011.

GRAEME MURPHY'S GREATEST CHALLENGE

And we don't mean 'Vast'



Photo: Bob Frame

A scene from *Kraanerg* the monumental new ballet set to the Music of Iannis Xenakis by choreographer Graeme Murphy. Opera House from 4 November.

As Artistic Director Graeme Murphy has choreographed and produced one major full length work for The Sydney Dance Company every year for the last eleven. 1988 is to be different: this year it will be two.

In addition to *Vast*, the National Bicentennial Dance Event which toured the country earlier in the year, he now moves to probably his most demanding production of Iannis Xenakis' ballet score, *Kraanerg*.

Clive Barnes, the formidable critic of the New York Times, has described the score as "... enthralling, and one that grips the mind and the heart. Indeed, even at a single hearing I would say that it is one of the major ballet scores of the century."

Murphy began the creation of *Kraanerg* in late August following the Company's return from Europe.

Guaranteed to be highly theatrical, Murphy has not revealed the direction it will take only that it will evolve during the intensive rehearsals of his 22 member company.

The production has been born out of a unique collaboration between its choreographer, Roger Woodward its music director, the design team and the dancers themselves, as always the ingredients of the Sydney Dance Company's greatest successes. As designer Murphy has invited interior designer/architect George Freedman to make his theatre debut. Freedman's powerful artistry has transformed such Sydney landmarks as The Powerhouse Museum, Kinselas, & The State Bank. *Kraanerg* opens at The Opera Theatre on November 4th.

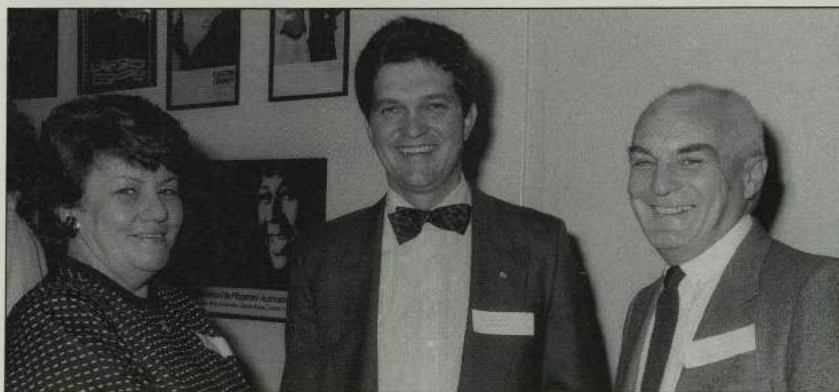
*See 'BOOK NOW' on page 6 for full details.



Shirley Hay, Vice President, Governors of The Trust and President of the Sydney Committee with Patrick Steer, Councillor of the Sydney Eisteddfod Foundation.



Sandra Bates (r) of The Ensemble Theatre is confident of a successful season for *'The Archbishop's Ceiling'* which opens on October 26. With her is Eva Siwinska of the Zenith Theatre, Chatswood.



Kevin Hanily, Manager of the Seymour Centre (r) with Kathy O'Connor & Adam Salzer. *Relatively Speaking*, *Double Shuffle* and The Queensland Ballet's Sydney Season are part of his theatre complex programme for 1988.



Geoff Jones, Chief Executive of the Eisteddfod Foundation with Angela Corkeron of The Australian Chamber Orchestra.

**Re-establishing
a strong bridge** between
The Trust and theatre
administrators, producers
and entrepreneurs is a major
aim of Chief Executive
Adam Salzer.
Many of them met The Trust
recently to lay firm
foundations for the future.



Bruce Pollack (c) and Hope O'Connell brief Adam Salzer on up & coming events at The Seymour Centre.



Theatre legends Don McPhee, General Manager of Her Majesty's & Pat Boggs, General Manager of The Theatre Royal with producer/director Peter Williams of The Phillip Street Theatre. *Big River*, *Les Miserables* and *Move Over Mrs Markham* are major events in their 1988/9 seasons.



Beris Tomkins of Sydney's Theatre Royal with The Trust's Public Relations Manager, Margaret MacKenzie-Forbes.

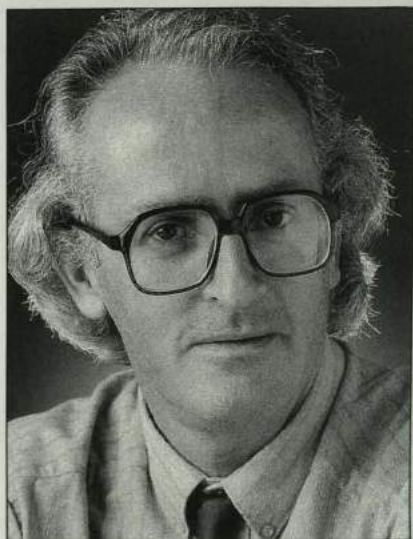
GARY PENNY: I'LL STAY LEGIT

Gary Penny Productions is expanding, fast: three major openings in October in three cities and the announcement of his 1989 subscription season just about to be made.

In the four years that Penny has been producing on his own he has moved from one or two productions a year to a subscription season at Sydney's Playhouse Theatre.

His latest three openings, David Williamson's *Don's Party*, a co-production with Kinselas and Hocking and Woods at Sydney's Playhouse on 18 October, *Orphans* at the Athenaeum Theatre, Melbourne on the same night and *Ladies' Night* in Perth a week later prior to a big NSW country tour, each signal something about Gary Penny's future directions.

*Don's Party** is the first Australian play Penny has produced. "About time!" he laughs. There will also be one, maybe two Australian plays in his 1989 season.



Lawyer turned theatre producer Gary Penny. His three productions of *Don's Party*, *Orphans* and *Ladies' Night* open in Sydney, Melbourne & Perth respectively within a week of each other.

Penny came to production via law. David Ratner who started the law firm Penny headed until last year was an actor in the 1930's at the Independent and was Doris Fitton's lawyer. When Ratner became ill in mid-1970's Penny took over his theatre clients and found he was enjoying that area of work far more than the law.

No More Law Travelling overseas he saw *Agnes of God*, liked it, bought it, and mounted it himself in 1984.

"Simple as that", he says. After a few joint ventures he began on his own scoring an extraordinary hit with David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross* in 1986. He was firmly on the theatrical map and last year resigned from the law firm to become a producer full time.

Three-D Chess Penny finds producing totally stimulating.

"It's like three-dimensional chess", he says. "There's never a day when you can sit back: the show changes, the box office changes, problems occur that you hadn't anticipated. You've got to reassess all the time. Theatre is seizing an opportunity. That's the beauty of it. You must make quick decisions."

Penny's 1989 subscription season is still to be announced but will, he says, have the same texture and balance as the previous two with a new emphasis on Australian productions, touring & co-production.

Penny doesn't see himself producing forever: other ideas are already fermenting, but, for the next three years anyway he is totally committed to the three-dimensional chess game they call theatre.

*See 'BOOK NOW' page 6 for full details.

THE GREAT COSTUME COMPETITION CAPER



Like to be King or Queen, Don Juan or a Kangaroo for a day. Send us your idea of the most original dinner party at home wearing fancy dress. Free 48 hour hire of six costumes to the winner so that you can play out your fantasy with your friends. Send your entry in 50 words or less to 'Costume Comp', A.E.T.T., Box 137, Kings Cross 2011. Closing date 31 October.

Winner may collect & return costumes from any of the Trust Costume Shops at Strand Arcade, City, 235 0605; Chatswood 411 6695; Parramatta 689 1767; Potts Point 357 1200.

MEMBERS

MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY

Members activities are hosted by Shirley Hay O.A.M., President of the Sydney Committee. For tickets and enquiries phone Carol Martin on **357 1200**.

*See BOOK NOW on page shown in brackets for full details.

OCTOBER

FRI 14 *The Show Biz Ball* and celebrity entertainment in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton-Wentworth, 8 pm to 2 am. Fancy dress or black tie. Tickets \$60. Make up your own table or ask to join a table of Trust members. Come and kick up your heels. Fancy dress prizes for Most Original, Most Topical, Most Theatrical, Best Male & Female, Best Couple, Best Group and Queen of the Ball.

SUN 16 *Bennelong Puppet Opera*. The Australian Chamber Orchestra with soprano Beverley Bergen, tenor Thomas Edmonds and eighty life size puppets in a dazzling and unique theatre experience. Tickets 'A' Reserve \$23. Opera House Lunch 1 pm plus ticket \$42 inclusive.

WED 19 *A Small Family Business* (BOOK NOW 5) Have dinner in the Northside Theatre Restaurant, Marian St, Killara and see a great comedy. \$39 inclusive.

SAT 22 & SUN 23 *The Scone Weekend* Once more by popular request. Lunch at famous 'Belltrees Station', home of Trust Governor Judy White: see the chapel, original store & White Cottage dating back to 1836. Dinner at 'Turanville Homestead' and morning tea at 'Nabinabah'. On Saturday we visit Jerry's Plains and lunch at the Arrowfield Winery and see the million dollar horse stud complex. \$185 all inclusive. \$20 single supplement.

THU 27 *Visit the Powerhouse Museum & Darling Harbour* & enjoy lunch. Starts 11 am. \$18.

FRI 28 - MON 31 *Expo '88 Tour* Fly to Coolangatta Fri 8.30am and stay at the fabulous International Gold Coast Hotel at Surfers. Travel by our own coach on 28, 29 & 30 to enjoy the closing ceremonies. On Monday 30 we visit Sanctuary Cove and take a cruising lunch to Stradbroke Island returning on the 6.30 pm flight to Sydney. \$790 includes flight, Expo ticket, accommodation, breakfast and the lunch cruise. Single supplement \$240. **This is your last chance to see Expo.**

NOVEMBER

FRI 4 *Luncheon at The Pitt Club* (Market Street, next to The State Theatre). Judy White of 'Belltrees Station', Scone will talk on 'Australian Heritage'. \$20.

SAT 5 & SUN 6 *Blue Mountains Music Festival* Laze at the luxurious Fairmont Resort at Leura, visit the Mt Tomah Gardens & Reg Livermore's garden at Wentworth falls. Glorious music too.

Includes lunch at the Victoria & Albert, dinner at Fairmont and Sunday lunch at the Wentworth Falls Hotel. Cost \$240. Single supplement \$90.

TUE 29 *'Relatively Speaking'* (BOOK NOW 7) Have dinner and enjoy the show. \$45 inclusive. All at the Seymour Centre.

JANUARY '89

THU 5 *Picnic in the Park & Mozart* concert at the Opera House. Details in our next issue.

MON 9 *'Big River'* (BOOK NOW 7) Special Trust members night. Supper with the cast after the performance. \$39.

A.E.T.T. TO HOLD UNIQUE AUCTION

34 Years of Theatre History Under the Hammer

In another forward step The Trust is making a major upgrading in their vast inventory of hire equipment & costumes. To make way for new stock they are getting rid of much of the old at a once-in-a-lifetime auction to be held at Dowling Street on Saturday 15 October starting at 11.30am.

The auction catalogue contains hundreds of items, some of which are theatre history and date back to 34 years.

Amongst the props are thrones, coffins, masks, a variety of chairs — Bentwood, rocking, wheel, even bath! There's also a collection of vessels of all kinds from goblets & glasses to trunks and hat boxes.

Lighting equipment includes followspots, mirror balls, colour wheels and a 24 channel theatre light desk.

Fancy dress buffs have a wide choice of formal, period & folk dress as well as animal costumes and heads, space suits, even wedding outfits. General pre-viewing is on Friday 14 Oct and pre-auction on Saturday 15 Oct. Other viewing times can be made by contacting The Trust on 357 1200.

A great opportunity for theatre groups and schools to add to their wardrobes and equipment and for theatre lovers to pick up a piece of memorabilia.

HELP!

Preparing for our Auction on 15 October is a mammoth task, so if you can offer a hand for a day, even a few hours, we would really appreciate it.

We also need help in the archives and the library and occasional typing and mailing 'workbees'!

Please call Chris Wright on

357 1200

who will tell you more.