

PROPOSED YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S THEATRE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

NEWSLETTER

No. 1 DECEMBER 1973
 JANUARY 1974

Head Office: Australian Elizabethan
Theatre Trust,
153 Dowling Street,
POTTS POINT. 2011

Co-ordinator: Margaret Leask.

DECEMBER 17, 1973

Welcome to our first newsletter!

There is obviously a lot of activity going on which is not included - please let me know about it - either before it happens or retrospectively in a report or summary. Please submit suggestions for the newsletter and any material you feel others should know about. And tell the young people in your groups what is going on in their area!!

It seems necessary to report on the development so far of the proposed association to unite loosely youth and children's theatre groups in Australia. Many people have been worried by what appeared to be a fait accompli with regard to the setting up of an association. We apologise for any misunderstanding - a few assumptions were made to start the ball rolling - but the meetings called so far in N.S.W., S.A., W.A., QLD., and VIC., and Canberra have been exploratory - intended to get people together to talk about problems and needs in the field of youth activities in the arts and to discuss what an association could do to help.

Perhaps the best way to sum up the meetings is to record the resolutions passed by the people who attended.

At the N.S.W. meeting held on October 27, the following resolutions were passed:-

"This committee views with concern the proliferation of cultural and arts bodies and therefore it resolves to form a youth and children's theatre association provided that a qualified, full-time, paid, national youth director be appointed immediately to promote aims and activities of the association".

"The functions of the National Youth Director shall be:

1. The raising of standards of the performing arts for and by youth and children's groups
2. To publicise and seek support for the work of members of the association."

The South Australian meeting was held on November 10. The following is a summary of ideas expressed at that meeting.

It was felt it was necessary to get things going and together in S.A. before an association was formed. It was decided communication was needed but that it was too early to form an association. Christine Westwood was selected as co-ordinating person for information in S.A. It was resolved that another meeting be called as it was necessary for people to get together and talk.

The Queensland meeting was held on November 17. The following resolutions were passed.

"This meeting views with favour the proposed establishment of a National body. However, it is believed it would be better to work through the existing organisations of the State Education Department, the Qld. Theatre Company and the Arts Council of Queensland to explore, establish, and assemble at state level, information they regarded essential to the National body".

"That an interim committee of 5 - namely Murray Foy, John Devitt, Jennifer Blocksidge, Yvonne Hooper and Peter Dent, be formed to undertake the task of implementing the foregoing resolution with the three bodies named and report back to this meeting."

The West Australian meeting was held on November 24. The following resolutions were passed:-

"This meeting resolves to form a steering committee to meet within the next six weeks to investigate ways and means of establishing a state body - the aims of which shall include - the dissemination of information and talent, and to provide encouragement to organisations and individuals working in the field of children's and youth activities in the arts".

in the fields of youth and children's activities in the arts".

The meeting in Victoria took place on December 8. The following resolutions were tabled:-

1. "That this association facilitate the development of Youth and Children's Theatre that is inclusive rather than exclusive.
"That its members' activities be made available to as many children as possible, regardless of economic background
2. "To investigate and define areas of existing interest and potential development within the field, to look at the problems and needs of these areas and to act as an advisory body to the relevant authorities.
3. "That the functions of this advisory body do not extend to the evaluation of the work of individual companies and organisations.
4. "That a directory outlining the philosophy and activities of each member group be prepared as soon as possible.
5. "That regular communication between members of the association be seen as essential.
6. "That we form a committee today to investigate point 1 to 5"

The meeting in the A.C.T. took place on December 16. Those in attendance were enthusiastic to have an association to co-ordinate and disseminate information to reduce the feeling of isolation and lack of material in the field of youth and children's theatre activities.

From all these meetings there emerged a great need for information to circulate throughout Australia - so this newsletter is a first step towards that. Please place me on your mailing list for news and information - if you haven't time to write - please ring the Trust representative in your state and he will forward information to me in Sydney.

Rather than the newsletter just being a publicity sheet I would like to know results of productions and workshops - what worked, why, etc., and where scripts were obtained.

I will keep you informed of what develops with regard to the association - please let me have any ideas or thoughts. It is hoped further meetings will take place in most states in February. The next newsletter is planned for early March - please let me have information by the end of February.

Best wishes for the Christmas and holiday season.

Margaret Leask

Margaret Leask.

N.B. Errata. Letter sent to N.S.W. groups; with regard to a suggested name for the association there was a misunderstanding over a suggestion by Mrs. Valis of Sydney Magic Puppets - her suggestion should be read as ACTA (Australian Children's Theatre Association) not ACTOR.

VICTORIA - DIARY and NEWS

OPENING DECEMBER 31 for 2-week season PARRY-MARSHALL PUPPET THEATRE (formerly The Australian Puppet Theatre). at Bayside Shopping Centre, Frankston.

Following are one-week seasons at Boronia Shoppingtown and Parkmore-Keysborough Shopping Centre.

The Parry-Marshall Puppet Theatre also give performances for Christmas Parties during the holiday season. During the year Puppet Theatre performs in schools parks and shopping centres.

Further information - 77 Bowen Street, Camberwell. 3124 'phone 29.8810

DECEMBER - JANUARY

Australian Performing Group, Pram Factory, 325 Drummond Street, Carlton
'ph 34.77133

Pantomime by APG writer and director John Romeril and Tim Robertson, called WALTZING MATILDA will have 8 performances a week until mid-January. The pantomime is intended for children over 10 and young adults.

A volunteer community workshop project, entirely supported now over several months by the APG will culminate just before Christmas in a procession, games and barbecue day, at the Langford Park Estate in a high rise housing commission area in Richmond. Work among the children there will continue during January and well into next year. At the moment there are three workshops a week run by 6 volunteers, 3 of which came to the APG offering their help after having worked with Ed Berman (Inter-Action) in the U.K.

APG also plan to arrange more impromptu improvisation and workshop seasons at playgrounds and parks.

JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 1

Monash University Summer School

CHILDREN'S THEATRE PROJECT

Hargrave Cafeteria, Monash University

An intensive children's theatre workshop, designed to work on and around the problems involved in creating theatre for the 8 to 15-year-olds by workshopping a specific script idea, using your own and the group's resources in a practical and creative way, building, enlarging, investigating and developing the original idea up to a stage where performance becomes a possibility.

The course aims for a balance between the practical elements (designing, building of sets, costumes), the creative elements (the workshop process) and the technical needs (movement, improvisation, energy) with the emphasis on a practical 'doing' approach to children's theatre. Those interested in group creative activity, active community leaders, student teachers, would be most interested in the course.

Additional tutors will be on hand and outside activity will be encouraged. Visits to theatres or other relevant places will be arranged, and as much liaison as possible with the allied arts will be made.

Tutor, Christine Mearing, trained at the Royal Ballet School and the London School of Contemporary Dance. She has been actively involved in children's theatre, most recently with C.A.T.S. (Perth) and the Carlton Community Centre. Founder of D.A.B.B.L.E., a loosely knit dancing group, she is also the

"The Fascination of Spain" - arranged and presented by Carmina with guitarist/singer Marcelo - Schools Tour 1974.

Arranged to display the traditional dances of Spain in the authentic costumes. Includes examples of classical, regional and flamenco dances, with explanations of the steps and movements, the costumes and the music, the technique of the castanets, hand-clapping and footwork. It involves the young audience in the great variety of rhythms of flamenco and in the steps which form the basic of folk-dance throughout the world.

The programme also illustrates the wide range of sound of which the guitar is capable and gives the audience an appreciation of the various forms of music which one associates with the Spanish guitar.

Carimina presents performances for school children of all ages and also special recitals in hospitals, penal establishments, and special schools.

Carimina is director of the Spanish Theatre Society, 25 York Street, South Caulfield. 3162, whose function is to encourage understanding and appreciation of Spanish dance and its allied arts.

ARGOSY FILMS PTY LTD - 78 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne. 3002

This company was formed in April of this year to provide better quality films both educational and entertainment, for children, generally under the age of 12 years.

ARGOSY FILMS have just been appointed agents for the Children's Film Foundation England. This means quality hour long films for the under 12's will be available. The company promotes films already available and imports and distributes 16 mm films.

A 16mm projection service is also available.

The aim of Argosy Films is to provide children with films they enjoy - films with a good storyline and plenty of action. Advice of offered to choosing film programmes and the cost of hiring a film ranges from nothing (generally documentaries) to approximately \$20.00 for a feature film. This means nearly any film seen on the commercial cinema screen.

MELBOURNE YOUTH ORCHESTRA - conducted by Mr. Eric Phillips returned recently from a 5 week European tour.

The 60 member orchestra, between the ages of 13 and 19, was conducted by Charles Mackerras from Sadlers Wells Opera and Robert Masters from the Yehudi Menuhin School, while in London.

The International Festival of Youth Orchestras will be held in Melbourne late in 1974.

AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S THEATRE - 77 Davis Street, Kew, Victoria

Founders and Directors Joan and Betty Rayner have written the following plays which are available from their office. These plays have been published by the English Theatre Guild, London.

PLAYS FOR 5 to 12 YEAR-OLDS - 50 cents each including postage.

MANKA AND THE KING. Czechoslovak. (about 30 minutes) 4 girls or 1 girl and 3 boys. Market crowd optional.

THE PUPPET THEATRE THAT WALKED. Chinese. (30 minutes). 4 girls or 1 girl and 3 boys. Street crowd optional.

TWO PLAYS (in one book)

THE TONGUE-CUT SPARROW. Japanese. (about 15 minutes) 2 girls or 1 boy and 1 girl.

THE GIRL WHO BECAME A BIRD. Australian. (15 minutes) 4 marionettes or dancers.

PLAYS FOR OLDER CHILDREN AND ADULTS

FOUR SHORT PLAYS. (in one book)

THE TALE OF THE OX. French. (about 10 minutes) 2 child or adult players (male)

CACHE-CACHE. French (about 10 minutes) 2 teen-age or adult players. (2f. or 1f and 1m).

A DEVIL SELLS OUT. Modern Morality. (about 10 minutes) 2 teen-age or adult players. (m or f)

HATS FOR CATS. A glove puppet comedy. (10 minutes). 2 teen-age or adult puppeteers capable of different voices.

THE NATIONAL THEATRE, cnr. Barkly and Carlisle Streets, St. Kilda, Victoria

The building will be completed in mid-1974 and proposals are at present being considered to stage drama for schools in the day-time in the completed theatre.

The company is a state government subsidised body and at present stages approximately 8 student drama productions a year in a studio theatre seating one hundred.

The Theatre to be completed next year will seat 781 and will have a full-size stage with a proscenium 35' x 19', acting area 35' wide and 40' deep, wing space of 27' each side and a full-size stage tower.

The use of the theatre for youth activities is strongly advocated by the Victorian Ministry for the Arts and (in the words of General Manager, John Cargher) "close collaboration with companies concerned with children's theatre" is anticipated.

NEW SOUTH WALES - DIARY and NEWS

DECEMBER 10 - 21

THE ALL-AUSTRALIAN MARK II DO-IT-YOURSELF PANTOMIME KIT - presented by Pact.

Come and help the Educated Horse, Fairy Futile and Professor Smallbot put on a Pantomime.

Join Cinderella at the Ball, perhaps you could be the Prince.

Help Red Riding Hood escape from Wolfgang the wolf and others.

Climb the Beanstalk with Jack and see what really is at the top !!!

at 264 Pitt Street, SYDNEY.

Every day at 1.30 p.m. (except Sunday)

IT'S FREE!!

DECEMBER 17 - 21

Dance Concert

Director: Margaret Walker

presents

MATINEES FOR ALL

Coppelia (Act 2)

Peter and the Wolf

Flower Festival pas de deux

Troika Wedding.

Bailey Hall, Willoughby Civic Centre

11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Adults \$1.70, Children, Pensioners, Students \$0.80

Bookings 412.4118 or 90.3873

P.O. Box 15, ROSEVILLE. 2069

Dance Concert is assisted by the Australian Council for the Arts and supported by Willoughby Municipal Council.

COMMENCING DECEMBER 22

PIED PIPER - adapted by David Bateson

produced by Peter Williams

Independent Theatre, North Sydney

Christmas, New Year season - Saturdays at 2 p.m.

A musical pantomime involving young audience\$

JANUARY 6 - 27

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S THEATRE WORKSHOP: An Arts Seminar for all ages.

Canberra College of Advanced Education

Director: Harriet Shaw

Three weeks of involvement in the arts for the whole family!

International artists and teachers will tutor in music, dance, drama, and art.

Maya Rao will lecture on and demonstrate Indian dance.

Sunil Kuman Bose, Indian scholar and musician, will contribute his knowledge and skill.

Bandem - Indonesian dance-drama teacher, whose speciality is Balinese music and dance, will conduct workshops.

Mike Morris, graduate of London E15 acting school, former director of the Tasmanian Youth Theatre will conduct drama workshops.

Vajira, considered one of Asia's best danseuses, and leading exponent of Kandyan dance (of Ceylon) will present her dances.

Dr. Wilfried Passow, lecturer in history and theory of theatre at Munich University will lead discussions on present trends of theatre based on Piscator and Brecht as well as seminars in the meaning of children's theatre.

Cokarda Agung Mas from Bali will lecture on Balinese music.

Classes may be attended for one week, two weeks or three weeks. Children, parents, professional theatre people, teachers and students are invited to participate.

For details of fees, accommodation etc. write to P.O. Box 238, Neutral Bay Junction. 2009 or contact Speech and Drama Division, Department of Education Loftus Street, Sydney. 2000

JANUARY 7 - 25

Young People's Theatre and Arts Centre, Newcastle. Enquiries 541091 or 453924
SUMMER VACATION ACTIVITIES

Venue: Hamilton Y.P.T. and Arts Centre, Cnr. Lindsay & Lawson Streets.

January 7 - 11

Short classes in Multi-media, Art, Drama, Jewellery Making, Sculpture and Marionettes.

January 14 - 18

The Re-Cycle Show, Week of Masks, All Day Art, Batik, Magic

January 21-25

Multi-media Art, All Day Art, Drama

For details of times, cost etc. ph. 615.345 during this period.

Venues: Belmont - Davis Hall - Multi-media Art, Grooming, Speech, Deportment, Macrame - Beginners.

Williamson Hall - Coyerwork, Batik, Spinning and Weaving.

Laxton Hall - Hand Pottery, Drama, Puppetry

St. Lukes Church - Guitar Playing and Singing, Advanced Macrame.

Macquarie Courts, Glover Street - Tennis Coaching

Sportsman's Club, Claude Street - Simple Gymnastics

For details of times, cost, 'phone 453.449 during this period.

Teachers and Craftsmen who have a specific committment in the arts, crafts, sciences are invited to submit a course for future programming both during school vacations, weekends, after school and evenings.

Forward submissions to William Ford, Hon. Director, Y.P.T. 39 Schroder Avenue Waratah. 2298

The Y.P.T. would appreciate the comments of students and/or parents about courses.

OTHER ACTIVITIES DURING 1974

Saturday classes will be conducted as usual at Y.P.T. Centre, Hamilton and Cantrell Hall, Broadmeadow. Term dates are the same as for Education Department schools. The programme includes: Theatre, Infants Drama, Art for all ages, Puppetry including marionettes, Magic.

Commencing December 14 (7 p.m.)

THE WIZARD OF OZ at Y.P.T. Centre - thereafter on Saturday afternoons at 2 p.m. (Performance also Friday 21 at 7 p.m.) The functions of the production and performance are carried out by students of the Theatre Activities, under minimal adult supervision.

The Y.P.T. have recently purchased premises and converted part of them into a small theatre seating 135 patrons.

JANUARY 14 - 20

TEACHERS WORKSHOP

Nimrod Street Theatre will conduct its annual Teachers' Workshop for teachers of English and Drama.

Classes will be held in movement, lighting, sound, voice, basic acting, basic directing, coping with school plays and school facilities.

Tutors will be Richard Wherrett, John Bell, Ken Horler, Peter Carroll, Alan Harvey, Gerard Allan and Larry Eastwood. Fee \$25.00 For application forms and further information contact the theatre at 10 Nimrod Street, Darlinghurst 2010 'phone 313754

JANUARY 2 - 30

THE OWL AND THE PUSSYCAT WENT TO SEE by David Wood and Sheila Ruskin. Presented by Australian Theatre for Young People at Bankstown Town Hall.

The Owl & the Pussycat ... is a musical fantasy based on the poems of Edward Lear. Cast includes Gordon Glenwright, Des Rolfe and John Cousins.

Directed by John Wilson and designed by James Ridewood.

JANUARY 7 - 18

HOLIDAY WORKSHOP - conducted by ATYP at Randwick Literary Institute.

JANUARY 21 - 26

TEACHERS WORKSHOP - Newcastle Teachers Training Centre.

Details from ATYP Box 1, Kensington. 2033

1974 ATYP YOUTH THEATRE & DRAMA WORKSHOPS

Programme planned towards 3 productions to be presented to the public. Workshops for young people between 12 - 20 years of age + Young Tote - a performing group between ages of 17-25. Workshops commence on February 9 and take place each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. til 4 p.m. at the Randwick Literary Institute.

Emphasis will be on the development of theatre skills although the elements of workshop drama will be integrated into the rehearsal periods. Drama workshops have been set up in various suburban areas in co-operation with

There will be a close tie with the Old Tote Theatre Company and the professional areas of the ATYP and there will be opportunities in the fields of design construction, stage management and choreography as well as that of acting.

The co-ordinator will be Robert Love and the Artistic Director, Raymond Omodei.

JANUARY 7 - 12

THE GHOST OF GREY GABLES - an Australian children's play by Mona Brand.
Presented at Australian Theatre - Cnr. Lennox and Probert Streets, Newtown.
Directed by John Barnard.

JANUARY 7 - 11

ARTS COUNCIL SUMMER SCHOOL - DRAMA FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

Director: Audrey Blaxland
Tutors: Michael Fuller, Peter Moore, Terry Wilson

All students will participate in sessions of movement, mime, improvisation story telling.

Experienced students will progress to the more disciplined techniques of stage craft required for scripted drama. Those actively involved in the presentation of school plays will benefit from practical work in communication, speech, characterisation, grouping and play production generally.

Individual strengths will be fostered, and all students encouraged to explore new ideas in both creative and practical drama activity.

Venue - Randwick Boys High School

Age+ 8 - 15 years

Fee - \$16.00 (includes cost of one theatre ticket)

JANUARY 7 - 11

ARTS COUNCIL SUMMER SCHOOL - YOUNG PEOPLE'S ART

Director: Lucy Hertz
Tutors: Lynette Woodger, Georgina Worth

Emphasis on creativity in two dimensional and three dimensional design. Introduction to constructions of a sculptural nature with relationship to space and environmental surroundings.

Venue: Avoca Street Annex of National Art School, Randwick.

Age: 10 - 16 years

Fee: \$15.00

Other Arts Council Summer Schools (minimum age 16 years) include spinning & dyeing, Poetry, writing for television, music, leatherwork, basic jewellery making, photography, production, painting, acting.

Details, P.O. Box 342, Darlinghurst. 2010

NEW THEATRE, 542 King Street, Newtown. 2042 'phone 519.3403, conducts regular after school programmes for young people.

Monday - Creative Drama for 12 yrs and over
4.30 - 6 p.m. Beginners
6.30 - 8 p.m. Advanced

Tuesday - International Folk Dance
4.30 - 6 p.m. Junior
6.00 - 7.30 p.m. Senior

Wednesday - Creative Drama (Under 12 years)
4.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Thursday - Puppetry for all ages
4.30 - 6 p.m.

The current children's production at the New Theatre, playing Saturdays and Sundays at 2.15 p.m., is YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN US ON VENUS by Stephen Gard. The production, a musical fantasy, involves only 2 adults - the rest of the cast are young people from the youth workshops.

New Theatre hopes to conduct a programme of activities for young people over the holidays. Details will be announced shortly.

THE ARTS AND THE SCHOOLS

The Arts Council of Australia (NSW Division) released in September 1973 a statement of policy entitled The Arts and The Schools. This 40-page document was prepared by the Schools Sub-Committee of the Executive of the Arts Council, intended to assist the proposed enquiry into the Arts in Education announced by the Prime Minister in May.

The report covers the following areas:-

1. The State of the Arts in Education in New South Wales
2. The organisation of School Tours
3. Suggested Basic Programme for Tours and related activities
4. Implementation of programme
5. Recommendation
6. Appendices - including extracts from relevant syllabuses, map of touring regions, analysis of 1973 tours, examples of tour costs, comments by schools on tours and typical school tour organiser's report.

On page 21 of the report the Council's objectives for a basic touring programme are stated as "Each pupil to be able to attend at least one production a year; tours to cover a variety of art forms in a two-year cycle; tours to meet requirements of different age groups; supplementary tours in each area of practising artists; a component of the budget to be spent on developmental activity; and the establishment of a Theatre Centre in Sydney".

On page 25 recommendations took the following form:

"Enquiry into the Arts in Education"

"This council believes that education in the Arts is a matter of urgent public concern.

"As it is a task in which many share responsibility, its improvement is a complex problem beyond the scope of any single agency.

The Council therefore recommends that the State Government conduct any enquiry into education in the Arts in New South Wales.

"Terms of Reference"

"The enquiry should take into consideration such matters as:-

- The place of the Arts in the curriculum in all stages of education.
- The development of new courses in the Arts.
- The aims and objectives in the study of the Arts.
- The organisation of activities in the Arts.
- The role of the Arts in the training of teachers and the further education of teachers.
- The provision of advisory services.
- Accommodation needs for Arts education.
- The provision of suitable equipment.'
- Existing opportunities for young people to witness live performances.
- The development of satisfactory touring programmes.
- The organisation of touring programmes.
- The special needs of disadvantaged schools, and schools in isolated areas.
- The establishment of theatre centres for young people.
- The encouragement of other activities which further education in the Arts.
- Community involvement in Arts education.

AUSTRALIAN FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL -

2 Help Street, Chatswood. 2067

The Film and Television School has now been established by Parliament as a College of advanced education. The School's Foundation Director, Professor Jerzy Toeplitz, took up his appointment in August this year.

The School's first three year course for students will begin in 1975. In the meantime, 1974 will be a year devoted to "open school" activities for people in the film and television industry and in education. The first large scale activities on the industrial front include a visit to Australia by film director Joseph Strick and a pilot training programme for film and television actors. Joseph Strick was brought to Australia by the Film and Television School at the end of November to work with students of the School's Interim Training Scheme and during November 1974 will lead a series of intensive talks in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth for producers, directors, writers, actors and editors. The proposed pilot programme for actors arose out of a request from Actors Forums throughout Australia for some form of actor training in Film and Television.

In educational areas the Film and Television School sees one of its most important responsibilities as that of training in the field of media education. During the 1973-74 Christmas holiday period the School will be conducting a training workshop for a group of media tutors. The object is that these tutors will in turn conduct basic film-making courses at evening colleges for groups of school teachers, during the first term, 1974. This is a pilot for what is hoped will be an expanding series of workshops both within N.S.W. and other states.

ENSEMBLE THEATRE - 78 McDougall Street, Milson's Point. 2061

The Ensemble Theatre have a Theatre Appreciation, Lecture - Demonstration Programme for Teachers and Senior students which has been conducted since 1969.

The Demonstration evening has 3 parts

1. Lecture demonstration
2. Evening meal
3. Performance of current production

4 different lecture-demonstrations are offered, so the same group of students can come to different presentations without repetition.

The 4 programmes are:-

1. Introducing the Actor
2. Light and Sound
3. Turning words into Theatre
4. Characterisations

Each session involves discussion, demonstration and question time.

These evenings are available to student groups every Monday and Tuesday during the school year.

The Ensemble also conducts a Training School - Ensemble Studios - where approx. 100 students over age of 17 study acting techniques, movement, voice and speech.

SYDNEY MAGIC PUPPETS - 4 Cook Street, Croydon Park.2133

Have published a small booklet on their activities which is worth mentioning. It contains a synopsis of current productions, length of performance time and suitable audience age. It also contains children's comments on productions and a price list of performances available.

Most useful perhaps is a description of the stage equipment and size, enabling potential audiences to arrange a suitable space for performance.

JANUARY 23 - 26

TRADITIONAL INDONESIAN PUPPET THEATRE

The Australian Museum, College Street, Sydney. Hallstrom Theatre.

The performance includes a section of the traditional Javanese "Shadow Play" with an introduction in English explaining the plot, the significance of each movement, the music etc.

The puppet play is accompanied by gamelan music - another traditional form of Indonesian entertainment. This presentation will also be featured at the forthcoming Festival of the Arts in Perth.

Performances 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily.

Enquiries The Australian Museum Society, 6-8 College Street, Sydney. 2000

WESTERN AUSTRALIA - DIARY and NEWS

JANUARY 14 - 25

C.A.T.S. (Children's Activities Time Society)
30 Museum Street, PERTH.

SUMMER SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Dolphin Theatre, University Campus, Hachet Drive, Perth.

Possible courses for the "over 8's" in Pottery, Fabrics (silk screening, batik, tie dye, weaving, macrame), show business (theatre visits, workshops, make-up own plays), Film, Movement, Mime and Dance, Creative Writing, Jewelry, Graphics (painting, drawing, poster design, cartoons).

Programmes for 4 - 8 age groups.

"All in Tumble About" - build cubbies, paint, trips to river to swim, kite-flying, blowing bubbles, explore the University, nature trips, watch a film, join in a play.

Planning also for various outside groups to visit the summer school to perform - ballet, plays, storytellers and films.

C.A.T.S. will be working with co-operation from the Extension Service of the University of W.A.

C.A.T.S. have been in existence for 9 years - aim to involve young people in participation in the creative arts.

C.A.T.S. are also involved in a project which hopes to explore the "alternative education" possibilities by a new concept of Leader experience training. Informal meetings have taken place with individuals from the Community Recreation Council, Progressive Teachers' Association, community schools, University of W.A. Guild, W.A.I.T. Guild etc.

Hope to devise a scheme to give potential playleaders an imaginative and informed approach to initiating activity for young people.

The first step was a weekend camp entitled "Learning Unlimited" held at Hawkvale Leader Centre Nov 30 - Dec 2 - to talk and think out how this scheme could be developed.

JANUARY 7 - FEBRUARY 7

SUMMER 1974 COMMUNITY PROGRAMME (ALL ROUND TRYING SOMETHING!)

Art Workshop for children,
21 Vincent Street, Mt. Lawley and 6 Hickey Street, Ardross. W.A.

Courses - 4 days of 2-hour periods morning and afternoon. Involving 5-16 year olds and over.

7 - 10 Jan.

"Sounds to Make Music" : 5-7 years

"Art Expression" : 6-10 yrs

"Simple Esperanto" : over 8's

"Natural Wood Sculpture" : over 8's

Adult Evening - "Natural Wood Sculpture" over 16.

14 - 17 Jan.

"Natural Wood Sculpture" over 8's
"Painting, Printing, Decorating fun" 6-12 years
"Chess for all"
"Creative Weaving and Wallhangings" 6-10 years
"Wax Figure Modelling" 6-10 years

21-24 Jan.

"Community Pottery" 6-10 years
"Chess for All"
"Designs for Cloth" 8-16 years
"Puppets are Born" 8-14 years
"Young Actors Unite" 6-12 years
"Community Pottery" 6-10 years
"Wall Decorations" 8-16 years
"Sounds to Make Music" 5-7 years
"Plaster Sculptured Plaques" 6-15 years

29 Jan - 1 Feb.

"Community Pottery" - over 9's
"Modelling Wax Figures" 6-10 years
"Creative Weaving and Wallhangings" over 8's
"Painting Decorating Fun" 6-14 years
"Puppets are Born" 8 - 14 years
"Community Pottery" over 9's
"Designs for Cloth" 8-16 years

4 - 7 Feb.

"Plaster Sculptured Plaques" 6-14 years
"Designs for Cloth" 8-16 years
"Plaster Sculptures" over 9's
"Clay Modelling" 6-8 years
"Young Actors Unite" 8-16 years

Details and times : Mrs. M. Clarke
21 Vincent Street, Mt. Lawley. 6050

Art workshop for children has just moved into a new home for youth arts activities. In existence since 1970, Art Workshop for children conducts term craft activities after school and vacation activities and has provided so far for over 4,000 children from 3 to 16 years of age.

Melville City Council and the Australian Council for the Arts have assisted this activity intended to involve the whole community.

Art Workshop publish a newsletter regularly - CREATIVE ART NEWS.

PETER SCRIVEN, the man behind "Tintookies" visited Perth during December for meetings with the members of the teaching profession, the Education Department, the Puppetry Guild of W.A. Inc. and the Australian Puppetry Guild.

Mr. Scriven is puppetry consultant to the Puppetry Committee of the Theatre Board of the Australian Council for the Arts.

W.A. PUPPET THEATRE and "Bonza the Clown" - Box J661 G.P.O. Perth. 6001

QUEENSLAND - DIARY and NEWS

UNTIL DECEMBER 22

Twelfth Night Theatre, 4 Cintra Road, Bowen Hills. QLD.

THE MAGIC APRON - by Tony Morphet, directed by Rick Billingham.

It has a bushland setting and a cast of animal characters (a dumb blond ewe, a ram with crooked horns, a sleepy wombat, a cowardly drow, a dingo pack and a bunyip.)

The story centres around the bunyip's magic apron which allows animals to talk to children and the attempts of the dingo king to gain possession of it.

For pre-school, infants and primary children.

VACATION SCHOOLS.

JUNIOR MAWD - 17th to 21st December. For under 13 year olds.

SENIOR MAWD - 14th to 18th January. For 13 year olds and over.

Subjects - music, art, writing, drama and dance

9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Monday to Friday

Fundays - for 4, 5, 6 year olds

January 7 - 11 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Monday to Friday

Creative workshop - incorporating theatre games, costume and make-up, movement and all aspects used in adult theatre training which help stir the imagination and develop awareness.

DECEMBER 11 - 22

Arts Theatre, 210 Petrie Terrace, Brisbane.

BEASTIE AND THE BEAUT." - 10.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. Presented by the Brisbane Children and Youth Theatre under direction of Gloria Birdwood-Smith.

January 5 - 19

THE WONDERFUL ADVENTURES OF BRER RABBIT - by J & Y Productions.

January 21 - 25

ARTS THEATRE VACATION SCHOOL. Principal - Yvonne Hooper, Senior Lecturer in Drama, Kedron Park Teachers College.

Age Groups 8 - 11 years "Let's discover drama, art, music, puppetry"

Tutors: Phil Armit (N.I.D.A. graduate and primary school teacher) and Eugene Hickey (author of children's plays and teacher)

12 - 15 years - art of theatre and film making - Tutors, Alan Denby and Cath Sparks.

DECEMBER 15 - 28

REMNETTES Marionettes and Puppet Productions, 124 Boundary Street, Tingalpa. 4173
"Concert at Chingdon Castle"

(Original script) at McDonnell and East Department Store, George Street,

December 29 - January 11

CASTLE FOR SALE - a follow up programme.

Both productions run for approximately 25 minutes and will involve 70 puppets - marionettes, rod-puppets and hand- puppets.

Remhettes Puppet Productions are anticipating preparing a new production for the Queensland Festival of Arts in May and the proposed National Puppetry Festival in Melbourne, also in May.

JANUARY 7 - 11

Children's Creative Activities Group - CREATIVE WORKSHOPS at Petrie Terrace State School, Moreton Street, Paddington. QLD

Director of the school will be Ian Reece - subjects will include painting, pottery, sculpture, puppetry, weaving and film make-up

Enquiries - P.O. Box 141, Paddington. 4064

JANUARY 14 - 18

January Vacation Cultural Centre - Mount Gravatt East State School, Mount Gravatt.

Classes for children will include drama, arts & crafts, copper enamelling, pottery, bark picture making, origami, jazz ballet, elementary bushcraft, chess, gymnastics, and fun and safety in the outdoors.

Enquiries - 9 Tantallon Street, Mount Gravatt. 4122

JANUARY 14 - 18

Ipswich Cultural Centre.

Children's Vacation School for children 8 years and over. Drama, jazz ballet, painting, pottery, weaving, print making and puppetry.

Details - 59 Whitehill Road, Ipswich. 4305

JANUARY 14 - 25

Children's Activity Groups Association

2 Vacation Schools - Sherwood State School, Sherwood.

6 - 12 years - 14 - 18 January

12 years and over - 21-25 January

Courses will include Pottery, puppetry, drama, weaving, painting, batik, Let's Make a Book, Let's Make a Car, photography and music.

Details: 8 Moore Street, Milton. 4064

APRIL 26 - MAY 4

AUSTRALIA THEATRE WEEK

Gatton Mercury Theatre, Mercury Children's Theatre, P.O. Box 54, Gatton. Qld. 4343

Director: Mrs. Min Dawson

10th Annual Essay Competition - THE POWER OF THEATRE. Open to all students at schools, colleges or universities in 3 divisions.

18 years and under - max. 500 words

15 years and under - max 300 words

Special primary school section - max. 250 words.

Closing date: April 1

Enquiries: Mrs. Davson.

ROCKHAMPTON LITTLE THEATRE, P.O. Box 519, Rockhampton. 4700

Has published a collection of experiences, devised by children from the junior group, entitled THE UNIVERSAL CHILD. 30 children between the ages of 9 and 16 developed six aspects to show their world - happiness, need for friends, loneliness, fear of the unknown, the environment and innocence.

The project began with six weeks of drama lessons based on the themes, which created the atmosphere for poetry writing. The six producers collected the poems, considered and evaluated them, and, faced the challenge of creating a dramatic presentation. Music, creative dance, and improvised dramatic situations were chosen to suggest the feelings the poems sought to convey.

The whole project took 4 months to write, correlate, direct and present - the result is a small book containing the words and directions of each presentation and photographs of the young people in "performance".

THE UNIVERSAL CHILD, printed by the Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education, Rockhampton shows the achievement of this group of children and their leaders in devising programmes suitable for the Australian child.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA - DIARY and NEWS

MARCH 3 - 10

A young writers' workshop for prose writers and poets 25 years and under will be held at Goolwa, South Australia.

Tutors will be Barry Oakley, R. A. Simpson and Peter Mathers.

15 writers will be accommodated for the workshop. Details are available from the Department of Adult Education, the University of Adelaide.

ADELAIDE FESTIVAL - March 9 - 30 - Young People's Activities

The "Almost Free Spaces"

Under the overall theme of "come out" the children's programme will feature Almost Free Spaces. Designed in the form of light, flexible, easily erected colourful modules, these "spaces" will provide young people with workshop areas during the day and theatres by night.

The modules will be assembled in a city park. Daytime activities will include plays performed by children, but mainly drama, music, dance and applied theatre arts workshops will be conducted.

"Come Out" - brochure giving details of attractions planned for children will be distributed by the Festival office in February.

TALES FROM NOONAMEENA

The Marionette Theatre of Australia will present its all-Australian production at the Prince Alfred College Theatre on March 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

This original musical play is by Hal Saunders, designed by Kenneth Rowell and directed by Joanne Priest. TALES FROM NOONAMEENA is currently being performed at the Music Room, Sydney Opera House.

CHESKOO RAREE-SHOW

A clown festival from England. Pantomime based on the old English form of street entertainment when actors travelled from market place to market place to perform.

Mark Furneaux (Cheskoo) recently conducted workshops in Australia.

THE NATIONAL THEATRE OF THE DEAF and the

ABREU BROTHERS

Will also give special performances for children. Further details from Festival office.

CHESKOO RAREE-SHOW

The Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust is co-ordinating a national tour early next year by the Cheskoo Raree-Show from Great Britain. This children's pantomime show is a combination of improvisation, after the style of the Old Italian Comedy (Commedia Dell'arte) and traditional English Clowning. This results in each separate playing area and respective audience being treated individually and has great flexibility. The Show ideally plays in parks and town squares although it can play in a theatre situation. For this reason it is ideally suited to Festival situations and in fact will be playing at the Perth, Moomba and Adelaide Festivals.

The format includes juggling, fire-eating, stilt-walking, miming and clowning, acrobatics, instrumentalists and a gorilla in a tutu called Gloria.

There is a plethora of paper flowers, magic dust rains down, cream pies and slapstick. Musical instruments are handed out at the end of the performance for all to play.

Following appearances at the Festival, the Show will tour South Australia under the auspices of the Arts Council and hopefully will be seen in Wollongong, Canberra, Newcastle, Sydney (at the Royal Easter Show) and in the Northern Territory.

The company of four is directed by John Trigger. Also included in the troupe is Mark Furneaux who has been in Australia recently. The troupe is supported by the British Council and has given performances all over England, including an appearance at the Leeds International Children's Theatre Festival, Europe and Scandinavia, including the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

YOUTH THEATRE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

by Mrs. Eva Rehorek

"In Czechoslovakia there are about 20 fully professional children's theatre, fully subsidised by the government. They perform drama, pantomime and puppetry, with the audience ranging between 4 - 12 years. Then there are four youth companies, caring for 12-18 year olds and 3 University student's groups, who play for adults and children as well. Apart from that, there are amateurs who perform on weekends only, pioneer houses and children's groups.

Every summer there is a festival of amateur theatres, and in autumn, of professional groups. They all bring the latest or best performance and while the morning sessions are sold to schools, the evenings are for other members only. There are discussion groups and lectures provided by University staff and professional tutors. The plays, ideas and even producers and members are exchanged. Always there are 1-2 overseas companies present.

Every 2 or more years there is an international meeting, where all European countries are presented. There is an open market for plays and international invitations and co-operation.

Everyone knows in detail the financial, artistic and human relationship conditions in every theatre in the country with the rough knowledge of foreign companies in all countries around.

The texts are published by the state publishing company or by the theatrical agency Dilia which deals with payments of rights, translations and other matters.

There are two periodicals, informing monthly about all new productions, products and other news in all Europe.

The University provides courses for actors, puppeteers, designers, musicians, technologists, producers and dancers for all companies.

The children's theatre is a part of education and 3 - 4 visits per year are compulsory for every child, in the city as well as in country areas.

The size and possibility vary from one-man shows to huge companies of 40-60 paid employees.

Special care is given to mentally retarded, crippled children and adults and minorities such as gipsies. Health centres provide their own shows, factories, kindergarten, enterprises and army have their companies. There is a special group in TV and some independent companies such as Black Theatre groups and others.

However, there was only one professional group before 1950, while some of amateur groups exist for 60 or more years, with famous sculptors, painters and writers working for children's theatre. The governments regard the art as extremely important part in education of children.

This trend is now being sought by some other governments, like America, South Africa, etc., not to speak about Asia where the theatre is part of their lives.

Australia has a big advantage in starting with a blank page, with the possibility of learning from errors made before. Good luck to all of you."

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S THEATRE IN DENMARK - by Wenzel de Neergaard

It is not without reason that one of the most important points in the Minister for Cultural Affairs' new bill for a revision of the Theatre Act is a considerable improvement in conditions for Youth and Children's Theatre.

A completely new theatre life has emerged during the last five years - in many ways the most progressive branch of Danish Theatre. Today, there are about thirty professional children's theatres and theatre groups. There are three permanent theatres, two in Copenhagen and one in Aarhus, and there is a steadily increasing number of travelling and visiting theatres which play all over the country, at school's nursery schools, youth centres, libraries and at high schools. It is essential for these theatres to appear in the children's own environment, so that the children experience the theatre as part of their own daily life. And a form of theatre, which is based on direct contact with the audience, is mutual to all these theatres. The performances for the youngest children (3-8 years) are built up on the basis of the children's reaction and participation to such an extent that they are almost a dialogue between the children and the actors. For this reason the audience is restricted to a maximum of 50 - 60 children so that the greatest contact can be made. Also the performances for the middle age group (7-13 years) and the real youth performances (12-18 years) are frequently a very deliberate proposal to debate in an artistic form - either as an integrated part of the performance or as a discussion following the performance on the problems and characters' behaviour presented in it. This strong activation of the audience stretches from the children helping a beautiful princess against a wicked magician, to youth performances, where the audience are arbitrators in a political event.

This obviously places heavy demands on the dramatical and psychological background of the performance and to those participating whether as actors or debators. Therefore it is not just coincidence that children's and youth theatre is characterised by a rich and fruitful experimental activity, where each individual theatre and theatre group has attempted to improve its effective methods and work itself forward to a position in which it finds it easiest to establish intimate contact with the audience. Another common characteristic of many of the children's theatres has been their very humble economic conditions. The enormous demand for performances and a desire to give children an opportunity to see theatre regardless of where they live, has made the theatre workers reduce salaries to an absolute minimum in order to produce

promised increase in subsidies to children's theatre in the new Theatre Act, from the present 2.4 million Kroner in 72/73 to 7.5 million in 76/77 will permit a reasonable improvement of conditions for those involved in children's theatre, and an increase in production.

Children's theatres' share of the total theatre subsidies amounts to 2.1% but as children form 17% of the total population it is the children's theatres' aim that 17% of the subsidies should go towards children's and youth theatre.

The approximately 25 travelling theatres played a total of 2800 performances all over Denmark in the 71/72 season. In 72/73 the number of performances will exceed 3500. In spite of this, most of the theatres have totally sold their performances six months in advance and the permanent theatres are now experiencing their second year with 100% full houses throughout the season.

Every children's theatre producer wants direct and close contact with the "customers" - nursery schools, schools etc. They have therefore been unwilling to establish a central intermediary organisation, but with a view to wide informative coverage, the Ministry for Cultural Affairs has made the "Committee for Co-operation between the Travelling Theatres" responsible for a number of duties:

A complete repertory catalogue including details of all the theatre's various performances and information concerning these; actors, the length of the play, the size and age of a suitable audience, the price and dates of availability, is to be issued each season.

Furthermore "The Children's Theatre Newspaper" is to be distributed, free of charge, to all interested parties; three times a year, containing an orientation on children's and youth theatre conditions, the theatre's aims and work, news concerning repertory and debatable articles, etc. This newspaper is a great success and has aroused considerable interest. It now has a circulation of 13,000.

Finally, festivals of children's and youth theatre have been organised. The last one took place in November 1972 in Nykøbing, Falster, where 70 theatrical performances were held in the course of a weekend. 18 theatres and theatre groups took part with 33 various pieces. Admittance was free of charge and the festival was attended by at least 8,000 young people, who each saw an average of 3-4 performances. The aim of the festival was to demonstrate children's and youth theatre in all its many aspects, puppet shows, children's comedy, pantomimes, classroom plays, theatre bus, debate theatre, etc. At the same time it gave teachers and educationalists an opportunity to see the various theatre groups and thus gave them a better basis for choosing the performances they want played in their own environment at nursery schools and schools. Furthermore, it gave the theatrical participants a chance to see each others performances - which was to mutual inspiration. The Children's Theatre Festival 72 in Nykøbing, Falster was the strongest demonstration to date of the increasing influence children's theatre has on Danish theatre.
