

SUMMER EDITION 2004
DECEMBER/JANUARY/FEBRUARY

Riverside

UPSTREAM

RIVERSIDE THEATRES UPDATE

The Sydney festival comes to town!

"People say 'Are you taking the Festival out west?' I don't think of it like that. The demographic heart of this town is Parramatta, so we're taking the festival to Sydney" Brett Sheehey, Sydney Festival Director SMH 7 Nov 2003



This is a very busy time of year for us at Riverside Theatres; we have just launched the fantastic, fascinating and often funny Season 2004; The Sydney Festival once again returns to the heart of Sydney with 7 world-class events throughout January; The Big Laugh Festival programming is well underway and will be announced end of January; and of course many community events to keep the theatre constantly buzzing.

There is SO much to do this summer at Riverside so make sure you keep up to date with everything by logging on to the web site www.riversideparramatta.com.au

See you at the theatre soon - we're saving a spot for you!

Robert Love
Director, Riverside Theatres

What's on?

JANUARY

Riverside Theatres in assoc. with Sydney Festival

STONE SLEEPER

Date & Time: 6 – 10 January,
8pm each evening, plus 3pm Sat
Venue: Lennox Theatre

Riverside Theatres in assoc. with Sydney Festival

BREAKING THE CYCLE

OZOPERA: *Software*

Date & Time: 12 - 14 January, 10am (13 & 14 Jan only), 11.30am (12 & 13 Jan only), 2pm (12 & 13 Jan only)
Venue: Lennox Theatre

Riverside Theatres in assoc. with Sydney Festival

BREAKING THE CYCLE

MARGERY SMITH & CARLOS RUSSELL:

Sonicsphere workshops
Date & Time: 14 - 15 January, 10am - 5pm
Venue: Rafferty's Theatre

Riverside Theatres in assoc. with Sydney Festival

BREAKING THE CYCLE

FESTIVAL FORUM OPENING

Date & Time: 16 January, 6pm
Venue: Rafferty's Theatre

Riverside Theatres in assoc. with Sydney Festival

BREAKING THE CYCLE

MUSIC THEATRE SYDNEY: *Disgrace*

Date & Time: 17 January, 6pm
Venue: Riverside Theatre

Riverside Theatres in assoc. with Sydney Festival

BREAKING THE CYCLE

GOD BE IN MY MOUTH: *The Glass Garden*

Date & Time: 14 - 17 January, 8pm

Venue: Secret

Riverside Theatres in assoc. with Sydney Festival

BREAKING THE CYCLE

CHAMBER MANDE OPERA: *Phobia*

Date & Time: 15 - 17 January, 8.30pm

Venue: Lennox Theatre

Riverside Theatres in assoc. with Sydney Festival

BREAKING THE CYCLE

JUDY GLEN: *Melba and Moncrieff*

Date & Time: 17 January, 8:30pm

Venue: Riverside Theatre

Riverside Theatres in assoc. with Sydney Festival

BREAKING THE CYCLE

FESTIVAL FORUM SEMINARS: *Breaking the Cycle*
Date & Time: 17 & 18 January, 10.30am – 4:30pm (17th), 11am – 5pm (18th)

Venue: Rafferty's Theatre

Sydney Festival in assoc. with Riverside Theatres

Russell Simmon's DEF POETRY JAM

Date & Time: 16 January, 8pm

Venue: Riverside Theatre

Sydney Festival in assoc. with Riverside Theatres

TARAF DE HAIDOUKS

Date & Time: 22 January, 9pm

Venue: Riverside Theatre

Sydney Festival in assoc. with Riverside Theatres

The Flying Fruit Fly Circus in

SKIPPING ON STARS

Date & Time: 21 - 24 January, 7pm each

evening plus 1pm Fri 23 and Sat 24

Venue: Riverside Theatre

Sydney Festival in assoc. with Riverside Theatres

THROUGH THE WIRE

Date & Time: 22 - 24 January, 8pm

Venue: Lennox Theatre

Sydney Festival in assoc. with Riverside Theatres

KUSHTI BOK EVENING MUSIC

Date & Time: 22 – 24 January,

approx 10pm each evening.

Venue: Riverside Courtyard

Information and Cultural Exchange presents

ELASTIC: STRETCHING BOUNDARIES

BETWEEN SUBURBS AND CENTRES

Date & Time: 22 – 24 January,

8.30pm daily and 6.30pm 23 & 24 January

Venue: Rafferty's Theatre

Sydney Festival in assoc. with Riverside Theatres

KUSHTI BOK SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Date & Time: 24 January from 2pm

Venue: Riverside Courtyard

FEBRUARY

Rocket City Present

DAVID STRASSMAN: *The Chuck Who? Tour*

Date & Time: 8 February, 5pm

Venue: Riverside Theatre

MARCH

Riverside Theatres presents

BEST OF JAZZ

Date & Time: 5 March, 8pm

Venue: Riverside Theatre

Riverside Theatres presents

THE BIG LAUGH COMEDY FESTIVAL

Date & Time: 12 – 27 March

Venue: Various

For all bookings phone (02) 8839 3399

For more information go to

www.riversideparramatta.com.au

Entertainment all year round!



Garry Van Egmond Enterprises
& Ross Mollison Productions
Defending the Caveman
By Rob Becker
16 - 18 March



The Bell Shakespeare Company
A Midsummer Night's Dream
By William Shakespeare
2 - 12 June



Sydney Theatre Company
Amigos
By David Williamson
18 - 21 August



Legs on the Wall & The Studio at
Sydney Opera House
Runners Up
7 - 10 April



Ensemble Theatre presents by arrangement
with Ambassador Theatre Group
Vincent in Brixton
By Nicholas Wright
8 - 12 June



Ensemble Theatre & Christine Dunstan
Flatfoot
By David Williamson
1 - 4 September



HIT Productions
Wallflowering
By Peta Murray
22 - 24 April



Studio Co. in association with Riverside
Theatres
Hamlet
By William Shakespeare
22 - 31 July



Sydney Theatre Company
The Wharf Revue
9 - 13 November



Perth Theatre Company in association
with John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library
Shadow of the Eagle
By George Blazevic and Ingle Knight
11 - 15 May



Company B Belvoir
The Underpants
By Carl Sternheim Adapted by Steve Martin
4 - 7 August



HKM & Griffin Theatre Company
Satango
By Stewart D'Arrietta & Justin Fleming
7 - 11 December

Subscribe by 16 January for your chance to win* a holiday!

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The Sydney Festival returns to Riverside Theatres



Riverside Theatres in association with Sydney Festival presents the World Première of **Stone Sleeper**



Joyous, soulful and haunting, *Stone Sleeper* captures the musical and spiritual heart of Slavic Europe with drama, mystery and lyrical beauty.

The mystery of medieval Bosnia, her period and her people, have been disputed by historians for centuries – particularly the origin of 500 medieval tombstones which lie on a hill near Sarajevo. These stones are inscribed with enigmatic symbols and mysterious texts and have managed to survive centuries of social and religious upheaval.

Now after centuries of silence the sleepers under the stones speak. Mirsad (Giga) Jeleskovic has composed joyous, soulful and rhythmically hypnotic music to accompany the lyrical beauty of Bosnian scholar-poet Mak Dizdar. Performed by Bosnian performers Gosia Dobrowolska and Andrew Siedlecki and sung by Eloise Elisabeth Evans and Nadya Golski, *Stone Sleeper* includes traditional Bosnian dancers featuring dancer Jasmin Imanovic and an a' Capella choir accompanied by eight musicians.

Venue: Lennox Theatre
Dates & Times: Preview January 6 at 8 pm
January 7,8,9 @ 8 pm, 10 January @ 3pm and 8pm
Prices: Preview \$32.50, Full \$39.50, Conc/Groups \$35.50

Riverside Theatres in association with Sydney Festival presents **Kushti Box Celebration**

Brightly painted caravans, flickering lanterns and the wild, passionate rhythms of gypsy music. Welcome to the Kushti Bok Celebration at Riverside.

Riverside Theatres' courtyard will spring to life when the curtain closes in the theatres with skirts tossing and feet stamping as the violins, accordion, clarinet, guitars and percussion fuse in a thrillingly sensuous three-day musical feast.

Over three evenings Kushti Bok Evening Music will bring you the sounds of the Balkans with the Karpatsky Gypsy Guitars and singer Kira Alexander; Monsieur Camembert and the 101 Candles Orchestra.

On Saturday 24 January bring the family for an afternoon with gypsy storyteller Brian Hannerford as he tells his tales of the Romany (gypsy) peoples' travels. Accompanied by live music, puppets and dancing demonstrations this day event is for all the family!

"Rippling guitars, accordion swirls and ridiculously fast rhythms lend themselves beautifully to the gypsy-flavoured tunes...." THE AGE

Venue: The Courtyard at Riverside Theatres
Dates & Times: 22 – 24 January approximately 10pm (check times with Box Office)
Sat 24 Jan storytelling @ 2pm, 3:30pm and 5pm
Prices: Evenings \$10 or FREE with a ticket to another Sydney Festival show at Riverside Theatres for the same evening. Saturday afternoon FREE



Sydney Festival presents the Australian Premiere
Taraf De Haidouks

"They have flabbergasted foreign audiences literally dizzy with delight."

THE GUARDIAN

Taraf de Haidouks are a 12-piece Romany gypsy band which once earned a living playing weddings and funerals. Looking for all the world like a bunch of elderly extras from a Fellini movie in their pinstripe suits and porkpie hats, *Taraf de Haidouks* have now taken the world music scene by storm.

Venue: Riverside Theatre
Dates & Times: 22 January @ 9pm
Prices: A reserve \$65, Conc \$5, Under 30 \$59

Sydney Festival and Riverside Theatre present
Flying Fruit Fly Circus in **Skipping on Stars**

The Story of Con Colleano – Australia's Greatest Circus Artist

Celebrating their 25-year anniversary The Flying Fruit Fly Circus has created *Skipping on Stars*, a show that captures the grand circuses of yesteryear while interweaving a poignant narrative of the greatest tightrope artist the world has ever seen. Little did they know Con Colleano was an Indigenous Australian Cornelius Sullivan, from Moree, New South Wales.

Venue: Riverside Theatre
Dates & Times: 21 - 22 January @ 7pm
23 - 24 January @ 1pm & 7pm
Prices: Full \$30, Concession/Groups \$20

Sydney Festival presents the Australian Premiere of Russell Simmons' 2003 Tony Award winning
Def Poetry Jam

Winning the 2003 Tony Award for the Best Special Theatre Event, *Def Poetry Jam* is the brainchild of rap-recording guru Russell Simmons – the man who bought us the Beastie Boys. *Def Poetry Jam* has become a phenomenon on Broadway, breaking traditional theatrical moulds and earning critical acclaim. The show recently wowed critics and audiences alike at the 2003 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

"Exuberant, powerful and electric. Thrilling and revolutionary – totally unmissable."

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Venue: Riverside Theatres
Dates & Times: 16 January @ 8 pm
Prices: Full \$53, Concession/Groups \$43, Under 30 \$48



Music Theatre Sydney, Sydney Festival and Riverside Theatres present
Breaking the cycle



Riverside Theatre is host to seven days of new music theatre by some of Australia's most promising and established talents, including five productions, daytime activities as well as a two-day forum, *Breaking the Cycle*.

Venue: Riverside Theatre and around
Dates & Times: 11 - 18 January
Prices: Prices vary, please check festival website or guide.

The Big Laugh Comedy Festival is coming

Here's a sneak preview of the festival and an insight into the world of comedy from Festival Director – John Pinder

In three years The Big Laugh Comedy Festival has become a major attraction on the Riverside Theatres calendar. From four days to three weeks and from about a dozen shows to more than 100 performances, the festival has grown to become an important part of the image of Riverside and a focus for comedy in Western Sydney.

In 2004 Riverside will literally be bursting at the seams. Some days there will be four shows in each of the theatres. About 30,000 people will cram the three theatres and the courtyard from March 11 to 26.

Other fascinating statistics are that Big Laughers will consume 50,000 beers, 75 kilometres of bog rolls, very few will wash their hands, and according to national averages at least seven couples will get caught snogging in the disabled toilets. Sorry I made some of those up.

Comedians are natural contrarians. They believe that going the opposite way to everyone else serves a vital purpose in our increasingly dull and conformist society. It's their job to point out that just because everyone is going THAT way doesn't mean there aren't other options. Furthermore it's not the comedian's job to give directions. Merely to create confusion is a noble function.

Veteran Rod Quantock is the only comedian to perform at all four Big Laugh's. Being contrary has always come naturally to Rod. When he was an architecture student he once took all his fellow students on a bus trip from the hallowed halls on Melbourne University to visit his project. He dumped them in the far west of Melbourne and suggested they check out the scenery find their own way home. Then drove off in the bus. That was the project. Buses became Rod's favourite kind of Theatre and in 2000 he led audiences and locals a merry spontaneous ride through Parramatta in one of our most memorable shows in the first year of the Big Laugh.

Contrary and Spontaneous make for great comedy and in our first year Rove McManus also created mayhem when he invaded a huge Italian wedding reception taking place at the hotel across the street from Riverside between his two shows. He joined in the wedding and made a speech about the bride and groom (whom he had never met before) Then told the second show audience about what he had done. Most of them thought he had made it up until Riverside's trusty doorman Wayne Park corralled three of the bride's uncles and brought them onstage during the show.

A very surprised Rove wasn't sure whether the three elderly men in dark suits, dark shirts and silver ties were planning revenge or up for

a laugh! He introduced them to the packed house. They confirmed the speech-making story, bowed and went back over the road to the wedding having brought the house down. Standing in the wings when this kind of madness happens is what make live comedy special.

Practical jokes, and moments designed to create spontaneous mayhem sometimes get a bigger laugh than the most carefully prepared gags. At a comedy club I used to own many years In Melbourne a couple of unknown comics called Wendy Harmer and Richard Stubbs did a sketch about sitting in deckchairs at the beach as an old married couple. The show ran for weeks and weeks and Richard and Wendy got bored with the script. So every night they improvised in an attempt to crack each other up. The sketch got longer and longer and funnier and funnier as audience watched hilarious competition onstage. After three months there was not one line of the original sketch left. This nightly battle dragged waiters and waitresses out of the staffroom every night to watch in amazement.

These moments are comedy gold.

The members of Monty Python once toured the antipodes in a student comedy show called Cambridge Circus. Growing up in small town New Zealand I had gotten myself a job backstage in the local theatre where they played. The show's director was Humphrey Barclay who went on to become a big time BBC comedy producer. Young Humphrey had spent the day at the beach, wearing his very cool 1950's sunglasses. He came into the theatre to check the lights and kept insisting we needed more light. Finally we had every light in the theatre turned up to 11 and he still wasn't satisfied. The cast stood onstage waiting. The audience was waiting in the foyer. Finally someone worked out the problem. I think it was a very young John Cleese who finally said "Humphrey take off your fucking sunglasses" Problem solved!

Technicians in comedy often fancy themselves as funny. And sometime if they watch the same jokes night after night they go a little mad! My favourite piece of Technicians mischief was in a UK comedy show that brought actor Richard Piper to Australia. For some reason he had a stuffed Parrot on a stand) in the act. (Nothing to do with Monty Python's dead parrots) In the last five minutes of the final night with brilliant timing, the parrot exploded! It brought the house down. Then every time Piper moved something else onstage blew up. There were exploding bits of scenery and props everywhere. He was terrified and the audience thinking it was all part of the act was going off. The stage manager had just completed a course in stage explosives!

Community Events

Elastic: Stretching boundaries between suburbs and centres

Elastic is a program of ten-minute dramas by six new writers who have drawn their inspiration from the complexity and diversity of life in Sydney's vast western suburbs.

As a collaboration between Information + Cultural Exchange Inc.(ICE) and Parramatta Riverside Theatres, *Elastic* is the fifth 10x6 initiative. Since 1996 the 10x6 initiative has been nurturing new work by emerging writers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and providing audiences with exciting contemporary theatre. *Elastic* (10x6 2004) has restaged three works from previous years and commissioned three new works. The 2004 program features:

Living Room by Thao Nguyen

Mi Tango by Alejandra Martinez

How Things Change by Jonathan Nanlohy

Flypaper and/or Inertia by Andrew Ma (from 10x6 1996)

Conversations through the Wall by Paschal Berry (from 10x6 1997)

Sleepwalking in Lakemba by Lena Nahlous (from 10x6 2000)

This project is funded by Parramatta City Council and the NSW Government through the Ministry for the Arts

Venue: Rafferty's Theatre
Dates & Times: 22 January @ 8.30pm, 23 & 24
January 6.30pm & 8.30pm

Further Information: 9897 5744



GWS Jazz Bands Inc presents

BEST OF JAZZ

A star studded evening featuring James Morrison, Emma Pask, Dan Barnett and The James Morrison Band set in the streets of New Orleans brings together the music of some of Australia's best known jazz artists.

These artists are supporting Sydney's most famous Youth in Jazz - Zooo International Big Band - who have, for the fourth time, been invited back to perform at the prestigious Montreux Jazz Festival and on the European jazz circuit in France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

Date & time: Friday 5 March 2004 @ 8pm

Prices: Full \$39.50, Concession/group/students \$35.50

Go behind the scenes... with Charlie Little

We're delighted that they're back again in 2004 – and so is the man who leads them – our very successful Theatre Appreciation Program conducted by Charlie Little, one of this country's major talents in all areas of stage performance. Charlie has had a career of over 40 years as actor, playwright director, designer and NIDA lecturer. As you would imagine, over that time he's picked up a great many stories and first hand experiences and he brings all of those to this entertaining, informative, funny and (at times!) scandalous look behind the scenes of the performance world.

This is an opportunity for people to learn about the performance arts and the people who practice them from the inside, to visit special performances, to better appreciate what they see on our Sydney stages, to enjoy the company and share the experience with others who share the interest.

The 2004 Program commences on Thursday 12th February 2004 at Riverside Theatres and runs each fortnight from 1.30-3.30pm – and the cost is only \$7! How's that for value?

So come along, enjoy the program, enjoy the company and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits (all included). Welcome to the (inside) world of the Theatre!

Rock City presents

DAVID STRASSMAN: The Chuck Who? Tour

The rivalry is heating up between Ted E. Bare and Chuck Wood when comic genius David Strassman brings his sidekick characters Chuck Wood and Ted E. Bare head to head on their 2003/04 Australian tour 'The Chuck Who? Tour'.

The hilariously dysfunctional family of Strassman characters includes all his lovable (and not so lovable) animated creatures: the twisted, and demented Chuck and lovable, and cuddly Ted E. Bare will join Sid the hack comic Beaver, and Ted E. Bare's crazy and forgetful, Grandpa Ted E. Expect the unexpected!!

Strassman has just finished a sell-out season at the Golden Nugget Hotel in Las Vegas and a highly successful run at the Coronet Theater in Los Angeles, proving that his caustic wit and ingenious array of side-kick characters are a universal success.

Don't miss STRASSMAN LIVE, 'The Chuck Who? Tour' – he's about to get up to some naughty business!

Date & Time: Sunday 8 February @ 5pm

Prices: Full \$39.90, Conc & Groups of ten or more \$34.90



Riverside

Information

RIVERSIDE THEATRES

Corner of Church and Market Streets, Parramatta

Bookings – 8839 3399

Tickets may be purchased in person at the Riverside Box Office located in the foyer of the theatre or credit card telephone bookings may be made through the Riverside Box Office on 8839 3399 (All cards accepted except Diners Card).

Opening Hours

9.00am – 5.00pm Monday – Friday

9.30am – 1.00pm Saturday

And one hour prior to the advertised start of a production.

Riverside Theatres wishes to thank the Riverside Partners



and the Friends of Riverside



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