

**ALR's guide  
to what's on,  
where to  
see it,  
where  
to eat,  
where to  
buy it ...**

**Yes, folks, in case you hadn't noticed it already, the Bicentenary is proving to be a hazard area for those of a leftish disposition seeking a good night out.** All those interesting looking evenings seem to have the fateful word somewhere at the top of the ad, rather like the gateway to Dante's Hell. But just think of that even more ideologically sound friend seeing you coming out of the event afterwards — shame! It's a dilemma we'll leave to you. Meanwhile, here are a few of January and February's attractions which aren't sporting ABA logos ...

**When you see the phrase Godfather of Soul, you know it can mean only one thing — James Brown is in town.** And yes, the great man himself, whose achievements in sartorial kitsch are second only to those of his music, will be growling at the Hordern Pavilion in Sydney on Friday, Feb 5 at 8pm. But with tickets at \$30 a throw, the style conscious will have to forego quite a few capuccini. DB

**Circle Path Meander: Central Australian paintings from the Carnegie Collection.** National Gallery, Canberra, until March 20. Aboriginal artists from the **Papunya art movement** are creating stunning paintings which reflect traditional and significant motifs and symbols and challenge definitions of abstract and modern art. LC

**Melbourne Music Show, Royal Melbourne Showgrounds, Feb 13-21.** A nine day extravaganza with more than 200 performances by rock, country, folk

and jazz artists, as well as big bands, comedians, exhibitions, music workshops, industry seminars, hi fi and record fairs, and more. Drawcards include **John Farnham, Icehouse, Jimmy Barnes, The Angels** and **The Hoodoo Gurus.** LC

**The Sydney Morning Herald thought it 'one of the freshest, most intelligent films of the year'. The Face thought it would have Joe Orton 'wanking in his grave'. Whatever your verdict, the film version of Prick Up Your Ears, the playwright's biography, has been packing them in in Sydney and Melbourne.** And the denouement may persuade you never to steal an idea again. **Prick Up Your Ears** is showing in Sydney at the Roma, George St, City and the Academy Twin, Oxford St, Paddington; and in Melbourne at the Longford Cinema, South Yarra and the Capitol, Swanston St, City. But have dinner **after** the movie.

**If you like seeing white people with shoe polish on their faces, Dancing In The Street: The Motown Story, may be for you.** One of a rash of Motown revival items in the last few years, it's directed by Graeme Blundell, and written by Bob Hudson (who should really know better). It's showing at Kinselas in Sydney from January; tickets are \$15 from the usual outlets. DB

**Shiatsu Acupuncture Therapy. Basement 12 McKillop St, Melbourne. Mon-Fri 11-7.** \$18 a session. It's more than a Japanese massage. Based on manipulating and massaging various bodily 'pressure points' — like acupuncture minus the needles. Phone for appointments (03) 670 1266. LC

**If you've ever wondered at the inability of men to leave the toilet seat down, Born To Clean may come as a revelation.** The play, by NZ playwright Renee, stars three Amandas in a celebration of triumph over the domestic drudgery of floor polish and toilet ducks. "Gonna make my kitchen shine for Jesus!" sings one of the Amandas in a rhapsodic moment: don't miss it. **Born To Clean** is playing at the Belvoir St in Sydney until Jan 31.

**The San Francisco Examiner waxed lyrical: 'Astonishing, ethereal, enthralling, unexpected and bizarre — Circus Oz defies gravity'. Circus Oz are on their tenth anniversary world tour, and if**

**you've never seen them this may be the time.** They're jumping, rolling and bouncing at Wentworth Park, Glebe, from early January: tickets are \$18, \$12 concession, \$8.50 for kids and \$44.60 for families. DB

**Melbourne Comedy Festival. A Myriad of events at numerous venues through most of March.** Let's hope the second repeats the success of the first festival, so that Melbourne's title of Comedy Capital of Australia will remain undisputed. All of Australia's funny people will be in town for an orgy of laughs. Watch the media for details. LC

**Two thirds of the wine drunk by Australians is white, but more than three quarters comes from casks.** And in fact quality bottled whites — particularly Chardonnays and the newly fashionable Sauvignon (aka Fume) Blanc — **do** seem expensive. Whatsmore, given the popularity of Asian and Indian cuisines, a lot of white wine bought for going out can be a waste. Often all that can be tasted for those hard earned dollars is a dull wash.

The solutions to these dilemmas aren't, however, too far to seek. With spicy or Asian cuisines (except for seafoods), give the classy dry whites a miss and try a medium sweet or even sweetish style — traminer or traminer riesling, through to the German Auslese or Spaellese styles (oh, and a glass or two of water). **Orlando** has a range of these styles at around \$6; the popular Traminer Riesling choice is **Wyndham Estate's** reasonable TR2 at about the same.

**And for a lighter meal out, when the bank balance is low, skip the vogue styles and try one or two of the nicer Rhine rieslings.** From **Hardy's** and **Leasinghams'** at under a fiver, through **Tollana's** gorgeous 1983 at \$6, up to **Pewsey Vale's** lightly wooded 1987 and **Orlando's St Helga** at \$8, you can try some of the best (and some of the more average) rieslings money can buy. Or, if it **must** be chardonnay, **Orlando's RF** and **Seppelt's** are very palatable if not exactly exciting at around \$6 each.

**Oh, and last but not least, be absolutely sure to see and be seen at ALR's own Not The Bicentenary bash at Sydney's Harold Park Hotel, January 28, 6pm** (see the ad elsewhere in this issue). **ALR t shirts and shades are recommended but not obligatory.**