

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

There's still heaps of time to enjoy riding bicycles before the Melbourne wind and rain sets in. I dragged my treddy out of my mother's garage yesterday and took it straight to **Jim Brun's Bicycle Shop** in Johnstone St, Fitzroy, east of Nicholson St. Jim is a distant relative (uncle actually) and I thought he needed a bit of advertising. He'll fix or sell, at a price that's hard to beat. And he can put you on to hot videos, too. JG

"Don't miss it 'cause wogs do it better" runs the arresting blurb for **Wogs Out Of Work**, just starting its Sydney stint after a spectacular Melbourne run. (See ALR 102). You'd better book soon, though, because the show is rapidly selling out through to mid June. Billed as the 'ethnic laugh spectacular', it takes the piss out of Anglo attitudes at a very appropriate time. At the Enmore Theatre, till who-knows-when. Tickets 550 3666. DB

The State Film Centre (1 Macarthur St. East Melbourne) is hosting another exciting 'local history' type film, **The Pursuit of Happiness** from March 24 for two weeks. Directed by US-born Australian Martha Ansara, it's set in Freemantle in the leadup to the America's Cup finals. A middleaged woman re-enters the paid workforce as a suburban journalist. She becomes embroiled in various lazy embroglios in a journey discovering the extent of US military involvement in our country. The film is a mix of realpolitik

footage and ordinary scene acting. People play themselves. JG

Culture in Sydney's west? Parramatta's Cultural Centre, corner of Church and Market Streets, is set to prove that life doesn't stop at Annandale. At present, however, the diet is staple stuff: **Leonard Teale** stars in **The Men** (sic) **Who Made Australia**, and **June Bronhill** stars in a musical comedy version of **The Sentimental Bloke**. (Perhaps **Wogs Out Of Work** could make a trip west?) There are sizeable discounts for groups of ten or more. DB

'Whistling in the Theatre' is the guest company at the Anthill Theatre, South Melbourne, producing **Ship of Fools** from March 23 to April 9. Written by Australian Andrew Bovell and directed by Robert Draffin, the play takes up the medieval practice of locking the 'criminally insane' on ships and casting them adrift without a destination. The status of the secondary labour force is the contemporary parallel. 'Whistling in the Theatre' is fresh from the **Adelaide Fringe Festival** and sports a highly talented but largely unfeted crew. JG

The **Hermitage Museum in Moscow** is almost empty, according to its curator. You can see part of the reason why at the Art Gallery of NSW, where the exhibition **Masterpieces From The Hermitage** is showing until May 1. Other attractions include **The Artist and the Patron: Aspects of Colonial Art in NSW** (also till May 1) and the second annual **Moot of Chandon** touring award for bubbling young artists, until May 13. Hours are Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5. There is no entry fee. DB

Sometimes a beer just can't quench a thirst. When you're at the pub with friends and you don't feel like alcohol, a good one is bitters, lime and soda, which is the same price as a beer and very refreshing. JG

The Hip Hop Club, in Oxford St. Paddington, is definitely one of the places for Sydney's smart young things. If that sounds like you, try sparking to the **Electro Groove Dance Club**, Wednesdays; relive **1968** at the **Acid Daze Dance Club**, Thursdays; assault your child (no, that can't be right) at the **Beat Baby Beat Dance Club**,

Fridays; or turn cartwheels at the **Stephen Ferris Club**, Saturdays. But please, no flares. DB

In the tangled undergrowth of wine snobbery, much the most dangerous creepy-crawly for the idle passerby is the obsession with what is known as 'boutique' wines — wines from small, serious minded wineries where exclusivity, rather than consistency, is the key. But for the wine drinker on a budget it's the big company wines which promise the best quality at an affordable price. The ultimate 'boutique' rhine riesling is **Petaluma's** at \$13 or so; **Tollana's** 1983 (\$6) is a very different but comparable quality wine. Most boutique chardonnays sell for between \$15 and \$18 (**Leeuwin Estate's** for \$25), but **Wynn's** 1985 Coonawarra or **Rothbury's** 1987 Hunter or Cowra Chardonnays are two different styles of a high quality for around \$10. **Lindemans** (newish) and **McWilliams** (oldish) Hunter semillions are decidedly more complex wines at the right age (**McWilliams** now, **Lindemans** after a few years) than the currently vogueish **Sauvignon Blancs** and **Fume Blancs** (the latter an increasingly slippery title). Yet the former sell for \$6 to \$8; the latter, \$12 or more. Among the more fashionable red styles, **Soppell's Black Label 1985 Cabernet Sauvignon** (\$8 or less on special) is at least as interesting as **Coldstream Hill's** (despite its dinky label) at \$16 plus. And while **Pinot Noir** grapes might make marvellous red in Burgundy, in Australia they tend to make fabulously overpriced upmarket Beaujolais. A lighter bodied shiraz (such as **Lindemans 1983 Hunter River Burgundy** at \$7 or so) is a much better deal. DB

FREEBIES: The Valhalla Cinema in Glebe Pt Rd, Glebe, is Sydney's best known venue for repertory films. And ALR has five double tickets to give away to the opening of the Valhalla's exclusive season of **The Legend Of The Suram Fortress**, opening on April 30. Compared by the **NY Daily News** to Kurosawa's **Ran**, and described by the **Village Voice** as a "Soviet Caravaggio", **The Legend** is a 'delicious mixture of gravity and humour ... unique and inimitable' (**Time Out**) and 'pure joy' (**London Guardian**). All you have to do is be one of the first five people to ring ALR on 281 2899 after 10 on Friday, April 15.