

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

Sydney's Harold Park Hotel, in Wigram Road, Glebe, is celebrating the second anniversary of its acclaimed Writers in the Park series on Tuesday nights. The readings have brought together some of Australia's best-known writers and poets with international celebrities, with an open section for new and unpublished local poets. The September program includes **David Malouf**, **Rosemary Dobson**, **Thomas Shapcott** and **Judith Rodriguez** on the anniversary night, September 8; a 'celebration of cultural diversity' in association with **Carnivale '87** on Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16; admired British novelist **Angela Carter**, the marvellous **Elizabeth Jolley**, and **Drusilla Modjeska** on September 22; and amongst others, the notorious **Brian Toohy** on September 29. All the readings start at 8pm. Entrance is \$4/\$3 on September 8 and 29; and \$6/\$4 on September 15, 16 and 22. More info from the Harold Park, on (02) 692 0564. DB

Straight. Fringe or Piccolo. September is Spoleto Festival time in Melbourne, and the variety of events is staggering. The Spoleto Festival was imported from Italy last year, and immediately generated a host of related events. The Fringe and Piccolo Spoletos each boast hundreds of concerts, plays, readings, film showings, exhibitions and dance,

all packed into four weeks. Prices are more than reasonable for most events, but there is so much to do you had better abandon eating for the month.

It's impossible to choose between the marvels on offer, but if you really must try:

SPOLETO

Porgy and Bess. Thurs Sept 10 — Fri 25. State Theatre, Victorian Arts Centre. Tickets from \$14 to \$39. 'I love you, Porgy' wails Bess: 'We love you, Gershwin', croons the audience. A joint Australian/American venture.

Dancel Dancel Dancel Tues Sept 22 — Sat 26. State Theatre, Vic Arts Centre. Tickets \$14 to \$37. But can they boogie?

Yugoslav Theatre Posters. Sept 10-26, Westpac Gallery, vic Arts Centre. Yugoslavia's leading graphic artist, Boris Rucan, creates superb visual images for the theatre.

SPOLETO FRINGE

New Works By Women. Mon Sept 14-Sun 27. Arena Theatre, South Yarra. Tickets \$8/\$12 night or \$14/\$22 the season. A mini festival of women's work, with four or five short events each night.

The Best of Fringe Comedy. Mon, Sept 14, 21, 28. Prince Patrick's Hotel, Collingwood. \$6/\$4. Not more haircut jokes!

Funny Writers Read. Tuesday 15, 22, 29. Prince Patrick's Hotel, Collingwood. \$7/\$5. They talk funny, too.

Women Are Funny. Weds 16, 23, 30. Prince Patrick's. \$7/\$5. No humourless feminists allowed.

PICCOLO SPOLETO

Oath to Freedom. Thurs Sept 17. Footscray Community Arts Centre. \$9/\$7/\$5. A performance workshop by the Peta Filipino Theatre. Sound, dance, mime and narration tell of ordinary experiences of the last days of the Marcos dictatorship.

Music Deli Live. Fri Sept 11. Toorak Uniting Church. Family ticket \$15, individual tickets \$7/\$5. A smorgasboard of music from around the globe. LC

Have a rest, watch television and replenish the coffers after your action-packed Melbourne September, but if you've still got the energy for one more scintillating night out, try **Volcanio, the Nicaraguan New Song Movement, Friday, October 2 at Fitzroy Town Hall; Sat Oct 3, Mill Theatre, Geelong. The vibrancy of Nicaragua comes alive through Mario Montenegro, singer, songwriter, poet and puppeteer, and the Duo Guardabarranco, Nicaragua's answer to Wham! LC**

Fine wine is for the leisured classes.

Right? Wrong. Because of changing tastes (more people drinking white, more drinking the newer style reds, fewer the classic Australian styles), enjoying premium red wines of slightly unfashionable styles has never been easier on the pay-packet (or dole cheque). Aside from the safe-and-sure **Jacob's Creek** and **Tyrrell's Long Flat Red** the following very reasonably priced reds all represent excellent value-for-money:

Wynns 1985 Coonawarra Hermitage, a full-bodied aromatic red, is a steal at under \$5; Penfolds' very respectable **Koonunga Hill Claret 1984** can be found at \$4 on discount; the **Rouge Homme 1982 Coonawarra claret** is a glorious wine which will still age well, for around \$6.50; Lindeman's marvellous **1983 Hunter River Burgundy** is a well-balanced, lighter-style shiraz and great value at under \$7; as is the **Chateau Reynella 1983 Cabernet Sauvignon** (also around \$7) — and (as the wine jargon goes) a 'very well-made' wine, if less fashionable than the more expensive Cabernets. Ignore the puritans who tell you wine is an ideologically unsound pleasure: what other diversion can provide you with an evening of bliss for under a fiver? DB

Sydney's Leichhardt Council is a disgrace. Which is why a team of eight Community Independents have banded together under the slogan 'Your community, your environment, your Council'. And, unlike the present councillors, not even one of them lives in Melbourne. Vote for them on September 26 and give the local mafia a shock. DB