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some of Australia's best-known writers and poets with international celebrities, with an open section for new and unpublished local poets.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, 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 Toohey 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.

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.


**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 boogie?

*Funny Writers Read.* Tuesday 15, 22, 29. Prince Patrick's Hotel, Collingwood. S7/S5. They talk funny, too


**PICCOLO SPOLETO**


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

*Porgy* wails Bess: 'We love you, Gershwin', croons the audience. A joint Australian/American venture.


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 Koongial Hill Claret 1984 can be found at $4 on discount; the Rouge Homme 1982 Coonawarra claret is a glorious wine; the under $7; as is the Chateau Reynella 1963 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 S7) — 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:

*Wham!*

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 Volcanto, 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!

*Fine wine is for the leisured classes.*

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.