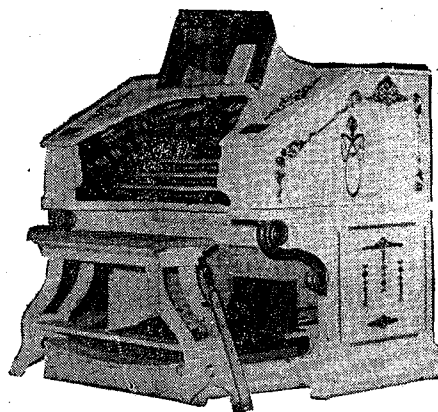


Marrickville Town Hall



Orion Centre Campsie

NOVEMBER 1988

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DENNIS JAMES
& THOM GALL

ORION CENTRE, BEAMISH STREET, CAMPSIE

SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER 1988 at 2.00PM

SEE THIS ISSUE FOR BOOKING DETAILS

Volume 27

Issue 11

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The Secretary, T.O.S.A. (N.S.W. Division) Inc. Box 474 P.O. SUTHERLAND N.S.W. 2232

Well, since your last **TOSA NEWS**, things are slowly returning to normal following the hectic pace leading up to the opening of the Orion Centre WurliTzer.

People I have spoken to over the past few weeks are still talking about the opening celebrations. After 16 years, the public of Sydney have another Theatre Pipe Organ in a public venue where everyone can hear the thrilling sound that only a theatre pipe organ can provide. I visited the Orion Centre three days after the final Sunday Concert and was pleased and proud to see

on the entrance foyer wall the plaque that Canterbury Mayor John Gorrie unveiled at the opening concert. This tells all users of the Centre that the WurliTzer is installed there and that the installation was undertaken and completed by The Theatre Organ Society of Australia (N.S.W. Division) Inc.

All members can be proud of the fact that this Division has now completed the installation. Where do we go from here?

John Rattray

DATES AHEAD

NOVEMBER

- Monday 7 7.30pm. **COMMITTEE MEETING**
- Wednesday 9 8.00pm. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
ORION CENTRE, BEAMISH ST. CAMPSIE
- Saturday 12 2.00pm. **VISIT TO MECHANICAL STREET AND**
DANCE ORGAN COLLECTION - see details in this
issue.
- Monday 14 9.00pm. **ONE HOUR SPECIAL - CINEMA ORGAN**
HISTORY IN AUSTRALIA WITH FRANK ELLIS.
Radio 2CBA FM (103.2) (See article in
this issue)

DECEMBER

- Sunday 4 2.00pm. **DENNIS JAMES AND THOM GALL IN**
CONCERT - ORION CENTRE, CAMPSIE - SEE
THIS ISSUE FOR FURTHER DETAILS
- Monday 5 7.30pm. **COMMITTEE MEETING**

JANUARY

- Monday 9 7.30pm. **COMMITTEE MEETING**
- Tuesday 17 8.00pm. **MEMBERS OPEN CONSOLE EVENING**
ORION CENTRE, CAMPSIE (more details later)

Society News.

Frank Ellis Back at 2CBA!

Nearly two months ago, TOSA life member and resident compere, Frank Ellis, was approached by 2CBA FM to record a one hour long special program on the history of the theatre organ in Australia, and the organists who played them, in our theatres. After the program has been put to air, the tape is to go to the National Film and Sound Archives in Canberra, as a part of 2CBA's contribution to our entertainment history, in this the Bi-centennial year.

After spending six weeks assembling early records and tape from various members, Frank recorded the program at the 2CBA studios on Tuesday 11th October.

Frank told the **TOSA NEWS** editor that he has included in the program some really amazing items from the early days of cinema organ in Australia, including, (believe it or not), the Prince Edward Theatre's very first organist, the well remembered Eddie Horton, recorded in the theatre in 1925. And that's just one of the many surprise items that will be heard in this one hour special.

As this article was going to press, news was received that the broadcast will be heard on 2CBA FM (103.2Mhz) commencing at 9.00pm on Monday 14th November 1988.

Editor.

Situations Vacant

The Society has the need for a willing helper to take control of the Candy and refreshment bars at concerts. With the departure of Phyl Wilson to long days of sunshine in the far north coast, we are in desperate need of someone to take over the reins. The job is not difficult and really needs someone who has been wanting to get more involved with TOSA. If you are interested or merely would like some further information contact Pam McMinn on 542 3937.

Regent Raffle Result

The winner of the TOSA Regent Hotel Dinner for Two Raffle was.....

KEITH BEARDSMORE of COOGEE

Keith is a TOSA member and when rung with the news of his win got a big surprise. "I never win anything!" were his words. **TOSA NEWS** rang Keith just after he had spent the evening at the Regent Hotel in the restaurant dining on Game Duck and other equally delicious tasting morsels.

"It was a great evening" Keith said, "As we drove to the hotel in the Roller people were trying to look inside to see who was in the car as it drew up alongside of them". "I bought the ticket because I knew it would help get the organ [the Orion Centre WurliTzer] in and playing. It was a great prize and I would recommend it to any person thinking of doing the same thing again."

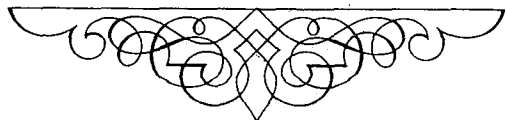
Congratulations Keith, it is good to see a member supporting the society and getting enjoyment from it at the same time.

Annual General Meeting

Remember, the AGM is to be held at the Orion Centre in Campsie on Wednesday November 9th at 8pm. Following the meeting members will have an opportunity to meet people and have some supper.

Unfortunately, we will not hear the WurliTzer this night due to final rehearsals being held for Canterbury Theatre Guilds' production of Pirates of Penzance.

Members are requested to bring along a plate to share for supper.



Oops....

In last months TOSA NEWS there appeared an article on Theatre Organs in New South Wales.

The late nights leading up to the Orion opening had obviously affected the brain as I attributed the article to committee member Neil Palmer. The article was actually compiled by another committee member, Nick Lang. Apologies to both these people for the mix up. Also some other slight corrections need to be made to the listing.

The Christie at the Epping Baptist Church is presently a 2/8 but will shortly be a 2/10 with the addition of the Trumpet and the Vox Humana. (This will be its maximum planned size).

There was also an omission from the listing. There is, of course, the 2/15 Wurlitzer installed in the Clancy Residence which is available to view by invitation only.

Also, the Lyceum Theatre organ awaiting re-installation is a 2/10, not a 2/11.

Editor

Home Organ Party

SELWYN THEATRE CLUB

Sunday October 23rd saw many supporters of T.O.S.A. at Richie and Norm's residence in Mortdale for another one of their fundraising afternoons. The sum of \$369.00 was raised which included one anonymous donation of \$40.00 and another large donation from Dave Davenport. Dave can always be relied upon to assist the cause and his generosity is much appreciated. Many thanks to Richie and Norm for turning their house over to the hordes that descended for an afternoon of musical entertainment.

Is there any other person out there who would like to have a home organ party? The weather is improving and so if you want further information ring Pam McMinn on 542 3937. Pam will be pleased to assist in advising you.

Reminder

THE GREAT SONGWRITERS

a tribute to
Gershwin, Cole Porter,
Rodgers & Hammerstein,
Andrew Lloyd Webber

featuring

AUSTRALIA'S SPECTACULAR KEYBOARD ARTISTS

TONY FENELON & NEIL JENSEN

At the Yamaha Grand Piano & The Mighty Orpheum Wurlitzer with special guest Soprano, Erica Witt.

Sunday, November 13th is the date set for another keyboard event featuring the two most popular keyboard performers in Australia, this time doing the music of the Great Songwriters and a few of the numbers most requested by audiences like the GREIG PIANO CONCERTO... all in dazzling duets.

This concert, planned following the sellout concert last July, will feature a very special voice... Erica Witt, who as a lyric soprano, has sung leading roles in opera, operetta, musical comedy and Gilbert & Sullivan. Her wide range enables her to include dramatic as well as coloratura work and the light hearted, romantic compositions of Gershwin and the like are a delight for Erica to sing and even more of a delight for audiences.

Fenelon and Jensen have a way of delighting audiences of all ages and musical tastes... their flair and enthusiasm for keyboard instruments teamed with talent and technical ability have, time after time, left audiences ready to line up for the next concert.

**HAYDEN ORPHEUM PICTURE PALACE
1PM SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13TH 1988**

For details or other information, phone
the Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace
908 4344
or Keymedia Productions
798 7390

1989 CONVENTION UPDATE.

We have received some more information from TOSA W.A. Division relating to the 1989 convention.

Remember, the closing date for bookings is 31 January 1989. Registration forms are available from Pam McMinn (542 3937).

Sit back, relax and be entertained

"MUSIC IS THE KEY"

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 24th MARCH 1989

All convention literature will be delivered to your rooms at "New Westos Hilltop Hotel". Registration is within the hotel. Conventioneers staying elsewhere will be registered prior to the opening event.

2pm - Delegates meeting at "Westos"

Event No. 1 - "GETTING TO KNOW YOU"

4.30pm Our coaches will transport you from the "Westos to Nedlands for our opening activity. T.O.S.A. (W.A.) members will be there to greet you. This will enable you to relax, catch up with old friends and meet new ones. A delicious buffet meal will follow.

Event No. 2 - "FUN AT THE COMPTON"

At the John Leckie Music Centre (home of T.O.S.A. (W.A.)) our patron David Johnston will lead you (astray) in an evening of fun and frolic spiced with a variety of entertainment.

SATURDAY 25th MARCH

Event No. 3 - "HIGHLIGHTS OF PERTH AND FREEMANTLE"

9.00am Coaches will pick you up at the "Westos" and transport you to points of interest in and around our peaceful, spacious and graceful city with its vast natural parkland and picturesque waterways. Highlights include Kings Park - Swan River and City Views, Winthrop

Hall at the University of W.A., to view and hear the magnificent McGillvray Organ. We travel on the northern side of the river to Freemantle taking in "Millionaires Row". Following a tour of Freemantle - an exciting city steeped in history - you will have an hour or so to explore the port city on your own. At approximately 2pm we will return you to the "Westos" in time for a short rest and freshen up before the evening's events.

Event No. 4 - "DOUGLAS REEVE IN CONCERT"

4.00pm. Our coaches will transport you to the John Leckie Music Centre.

5.00pm. We introduce our feature artist Douglas Reeve. Douglas is from Brighton, England, and has been a resident organist at the "Dome" for many years. A master of the theatre organ and star of T.V. and radio, with numerous recordings to his credit. His cheerful style will bring us a concert to remember.

Event No. 5 - "BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS"

8.00pm. Time to enjoy a birthday feast of succulent spit roast meats, baked potatoes and a variety of delicious salads, sweets and fresh fruits. Party the night away, celebrate our 21st birthday, relax, join in the fun and dancing, be entertained. We'll return you safely to the "Westos" showing the reflections of the Swan River and the beauty of Perth by night.

SUNDAY 26th MARCH

Event No. 6 "ORGAN SKILLS WITH THE MASTER"

10.30am. Coaches transport you from the "Westos" to the John Leckie Music Centre. Douglas Reeve will return to the console. Learn new playing skills with our feature organist. Then it will be your turn to participate in open console on the Compton. A picnic basket of goodies will be yours to enjoy in the park surrounding our home.

Event No. 7 - "INAUGURAL YOUTH CONCERT"

1.30pm. Coaches transport you north to the Karrinyup Centre. Here the youth of Australia will be heard on the Stirling Theatre Organ Productions WurliTzer. Also appearing in cameo performances will be Australian and overseas artists. You will be transported back to the "Westos". Have an early night so that you will be full of energy for the fun and entertainment packed day ahead.

MONDAY 27th MARCH

Event No. 8 - "RIVER CRUISE TO MULBERRY FARM"

8.30am. Today we cruise to the upper reaches of the Swan River docking at magnificent "Mulberry Farm" for lunch and an afternoon of music and merriment. Coaches pick you up from "Westos" and take you to our private launches. A scenic leisurely cruise starts a day of entertainment, food and drink. Our local master of the keyboards, John Pound, entertains in exuberant style. He'll be assisted by numerous local, interstate and overseas artists. After our day of fun and music we will cruise back to "Westos". If you are taking an early flight, let us know in advance, arrangements can be made to take you straight to the airport.

We hope the friendships made or renewed and the memories of the 17th National Convention in the West will be lasting.

1989 CONVENTION PRICES

Event 1.	13.00
Event 2.	6.00
Event 3.	10.00
Event 4.	10.00
Event 5.	15.00
Event 6.	6.00
Event 7.	8.00
Event 8.	38.00
Transport	25.00
(Coach transport from "New Westos Hilltop Hotel to all convention activities)	

TOTAL COST (incl transport) \$131.00

Interstate visitors with own coach \$100.00

RAIL TRAVEL

TOSA (WA) have advised the following details relating to Rail Transport for the Perth Convention.

Railways of Australia, through local Westrail, have advised that a group discount of 10% off full fare is available to our common interest group.

The group may comprise pensioner concession travellers for the purpose of achieving the minimum number of six persons, but the pensioner concession travellers are not entitled to the 10% discount.

Apart from the group concession, Railways of Australia also offer a discounted advanced purpose fare called CAPER FARES. These fares offer discounts from 20% - 30% and have special conditions.

There are a limited number of Caper Fares available for both berths and sit-up seat accomodation on all interstate trains in Australia and are available between capital cities.

You should ask for "Caper" at the time of reservation and be prepared to pay the fare in full within 14 days of making the booking.

Members Classifieds

FOR SALE - YAMAHA FE-30. Excellent condition, this fine example of musical technology is at the forefront of the mid range Yamaha stable of quality keyboards and organs. Retail price on this particular model is around \$3000 but you have the chance to buy this one for only \$1950 (o.n.o.) Also coming with this instrument is a padded bench and some music. Contact Mr Jones on (02) 570 7315 for what could be a great Christmas present for your household.

WANTED - PARKING FOR CARAVAN.

President, Jack Lawson is looking for an area where he could park his 15' x 7' Caravan. Perhaps you have a piece of land down the back of the house that is not being used and you could allow Jack to store the van there. If you can assist or know of someone who may, ring Jack on 569 3775.

International & Interstate News

The Chicago Theatre

A short time ago in TOSA NEWS an article was reprinted from "Theatre Organ" on the Chicago Theatre in the United States.

An article in the October issue of "International ATOS News" advises that in early September the theatre was once again closed down. Organ concerts are still going ahead, but the future of this beautiful picture palace certainly looks doubtful.

Opus 1482 To Play Again

Opus 1482, originally installed in the Tauranga Town Hall on New Zealand's North Island and now reinstalled in the community performing arts centre "Baycourt" will be opened by Dennis James over the weekend of December 17-18.

This instrument, a 2/10 style 'H' WurliTzer, originally installed in the Deluxe Theatre in Wellington, was donated some years ago to the Tauranga City Council by a community based entertainment club. Both Margaret Hall & Neil Jensen have played the instrument in concert when it was in the Town Hall. Your editor used to play the organ occasionally due to the fact that Tauranga was his home town.

The organ was opened by Dennis and Heidi James in 1972 following the original installation by Mr. Rex White. Now, sixteen years later, Rex aged 68 and his band of volunteers, many of whom are women, are completing the re-installation. It is very appropriate that Dennis James is once again presiding over the organ for the opening.

The City Council has provided funding to the sum of NZ\$85,000 for the installation of glass fronted chambers and a hoist to lift the console to the auditorium. Both the Xylophone and the Chrysoglott will be unenclosed as the chambers do not have sufficient room to allow their installation.

TOSA (N.S.W.) sends sincere congratulations to our friends across the Tasman. We wish the Tauranga Theatre Organ Society well for the opening in December. Believe us, we all know what you must be feeling like at this moment.

Another organ is saved, and after all, isn't that what TOSA and like societies are all about!

The Ballarat Compton

Members may have been aware that the theatre in which the Ballarat Theatre Organ Society has their Compton Organ installed is being completely restored. The following is an article from their September 1988 journal.

'When Tony Fenelon took the Compton down on 8 November 1987, the lift and sound chutes were covered with carpet and sheeting, relay racks and blower sealed with plastic, the chambers locked up and every effort made to protect our organ from the holocaust that was to follow. So, when rebuilding works were halted and the theatre cleaned up for the South Street Competitions, it was with some trepidation that the blower was switched on, and organ tuner David Cross checked every rank and note, and declared the organ to be in excellent shape! The lift was uncovered and the console rose up into the theatre, the first time for 10 months. The theatre manager and a few lighting technicians were a captive audience for a few muted numbers as the sound chutes were still cluttered with this and that. During the competitions the Compton played without a hitch and its tone is still magnificent!'

Interstate Concert Dates

November

5th - Brisbane - Kelvin Grove High School

Dennis James & Thom Gall 7.45pm

24th - Melbourne - Moorabbin Town Hall

Dennis James and Thom Gall 8.00pm

A New Ticket Secretary

The committee welcomes, to the position of Ticket Secretary, June Huckstepp. June is a relatively new member and has come forward to assist following Merv & Eunice Palmer relinquishing the task. June can be contacted on 502 3252 for all ticket bookings for T.O.S.A.

A Dinner Party!

Yes it's that time of the year when Colin Tringham polishes the family silver and invites members into his home to partake of an evening of merriment and fine food.

This year Colin's fundraising dinner party will take place on Saturday 26 November 1988 commencing at 7pm.

A full buffet dinner will be served and after the feast there will be a chance to play the now very rare Gulbransen Rialto Organ as well as listening to Colin's ever increasing collection of antique music boxes.

These dinner parties are only available to 15 persons and have always booked out quickly. If you have not had the chance to sample Colin's hospitality do not miss out this time. Bookings are essential for obvious reasons. Ring Colin on 957 5539. If you are wondering where he lives, the address is, upstairs at 6 Tunks Street, Waverton. It is a very short walk from the railway station.

The cost of this evening? \$15.00, with all takings going to T.O.S.A. funds. This will be an enjoyable evening, so don't miss out, ring Colin today and make your reservation.

See you there!

T.O.S.A. scored a major coup when it came to pass that Kawai Australia Pty Ltd agreed to lend, at no charge, the 9'1" concert grand piano for the Orion Centre Wurlitzer opening celebrations.

This piano was admired by all those attending the weekend and the artists were most appreciative of having a full size instrument available.

The piano, valued at \$100,000 (for those of you who might like to buy one) was supplied at no cost apart from the cost of transport to and from the centre. For this T.O.S.A. is extremely grateful.

Kawai Pianos are played and endorsed by many of the world's great musicians: are engineered to exacting standards.

T.O.S.A. thanks Kawai Australia for the support given and hopes that we will again, one day, have reason to be associated in a similar fashion.

Enquiries for the Kawai range of pianos can be made to Mr Ray Partridge, **KAWAI AUSTRALIA PTY LTD**, Unit 8, 44-48 O'Dea Avenue, Waterloo or the accredited dealers throughout the state.

KAWAI

The choice of those who know

Pipedreams Review

Unfortunately, due to well earned holidays be taken by our reviewer as this issue went to press, the article on the Pipedreams concerts will not appear until the December issue. Sorry to those who were awaiting the reviews with interest. But really, the best reviewers are those who were at the concerts, aren't they. The members who didn't attend really missed something special but they were very much in the minority.

Social Afternoon - 12th November 2pm

WHY NOT DISCOVER THE EUROPEAN COUSIN OF THE THEATRE ORGAN.

Craig Robson has invited T.O.S.A. to view and listen to (amongst other goodies) a pair of Dutch Street Organs. The "Amsterdam" (pictured below) and the "Golden Lion" which is a large MORTIER organ.

There is also a 1930's Belgium Cafe Organ with a lighted Art Deco facade, moving accordions and drums etc. Also on display will be the very rare 1949 Decap "Robot" Organ.

What would these sound like you ask? Well come along and be delighted by the unique sound of these organs. This is a very large collection which also include vintage and veteran cars. So you can see, all tastes will be catered for.

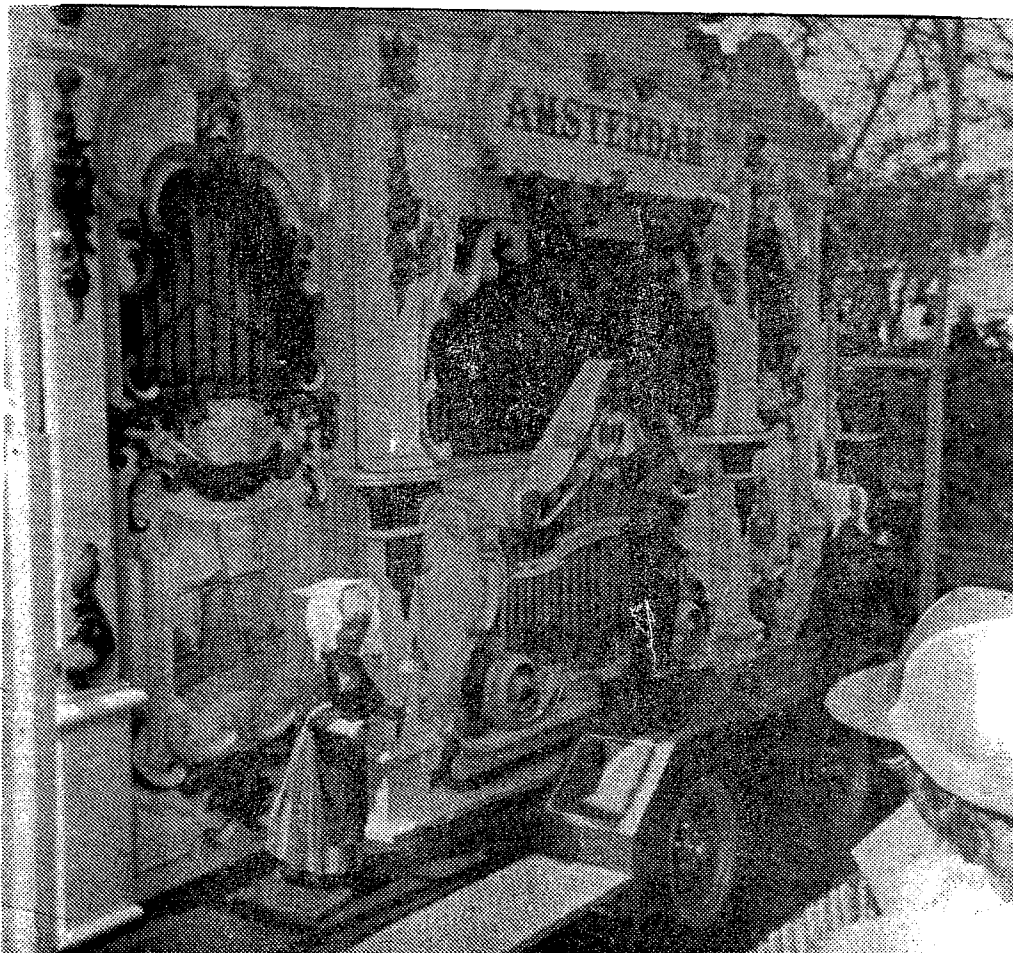
Where is the museum?

The address is: 'Service City' 338 Botany Road, Alexandria. There is ample parking on the premises and the '309' bus route from Central & Redfern goes past the front door.

Admission is \$4.00 with proceeds going to T.O.S.A. funds and all attending are respectfully asked to bring a plate of something to share for afternoon tea.

THIS WILL BE A RELAXING SOCIAL OCCASION, IT SHOULD NOT BE MISSED.

**FOR ANY FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:
NICK LANG ON 579 5790**



THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (N.S.W. DIV.) INC.

PRESENTS.....

DIRECT FROM THE U.S.A.

**DENNIS JAMES
AND
THOM GALL**

AT THE ORION WURLITZER ORGAN



SUNDAY, 4th DECEMBER 1988, 2.00pm.

Orion Centre, Beamish Street, CAMPSIE.

SILENT MOVIE, MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT

**DENNIS JAMES AND THOM GALL BOOKING FORM
SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER 1988 2pm.**

Please send me family tickets at \$25 each Name.....

Please send me adult tickets at \$10 each Address.....

Please send me Concession tickets at \$8 each Post Code....

Please charge my **BANKCARD / VISA / MASTERCARD** (delete two) with \$..... **OR**
please find enclosed my cheque / money order for \$..... **Please send my tickets in the
enclosed stamped, self addressed envelope.**

Post this form to The Ticket Secretary, T.O.S.A., 28 Glenwall Street, Kingsgrove, 2208

PHONE BOOKINGS CAN BE TAKEN USING CREDIT CARDS ONLY (02) 502 3252

**CANTERBURY
THEATRE
GUILD**

proudly presents

The New

*Pirate of
Penzance*



AS PRESENTED ON BROADWAY

**ORION CENTRE
CAMPSIE**

Friday, November 18 and 25 at 8pm
Saturday, November 19 and 26 at 8pm
Sunday, November 20 at 2pm

Adults \$10.00 — Concessions \$6.50 — Family Ticket \$28.00

Enquiries & Phone Bookings

Donna Meehan
644 1574



Colin Peet
550 0440