

Time out

THE SUN THURSDAY NOVEMBER 9 1989

● THEATRE, MUSIC, ART

Drama rules QTC's 21st anniversary

DRAMA will dominate Royal Queensland Theatre Company's subscription series in its 21st year.

Only two comedies are planned, one to open the year, and the other to end it.

The Venetian Twins, an Australian comedy hit from the 1970s, will be revived at the Sun-corp Theatre from February 8 in a production directed by John Bell and starring Drew Forsythe and Jon Ewing.

Alan Ayckbourn's *Seasons Greetings*, to be directed by Aubrey Mellor, will feature Sean Mee, Ron Haddrick and Jane Harders and will have a Sun-corp season from November 8.

In between we will see Jennifer Flowers as Amanda Wingfield and Veronica Neave as Laura in Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* (directed by Aubrey Mellor) in March; Eugene Gilfedder in an Orson Welles adaptation of Melville's *Moby Dick* (Rodney

Theatre, music & art

with JOHN HARRIS

Fisher, director) from April 26; Sally McKenzie in David Williamson's *Top Silk* (director: Aubrey Mellor) in June; and Stephen Clark and Elaine Cusick in Jill Shearer's *Shimada* (director: David Bell) in July.

August will see veteran actress Babette Stephens in Turgenev's *A Month in the Country*, in a new translation by David Clendinning, directed by Robyn Nevin, while in October, the company's anniversary will be celebrated with an outdoor production of *Gilgamesh*, directed by Bryan Nason, who directed the company's inaugural production, *Royal Hunt of the Sun* in 1969.

Unique outdoor production at riverside



David Bengé with the back-drop of the Kangaroo Pt cliffs, where he is to stage his production, *The River*.

THE Brisbane River and the cliffs at Kangaroo Point will form the backdrop to an unusual outdoor production being staged next week.

The River is a project of Brisbane's Access Arts group, which fosters the creative arts among the disabled and disadvantaged, will involve scores of people from all over the city.

The brainchild of Melbourne Access Arts director David Bengé, *The River* is being described as "an environment opera event".

"It's a cross-cultural community arts project that involves people from all disabilities, age groups and races in a show in which they find a common cause — the environment," Bengé said.

"There are a lot of parallels between

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physical disability and what's happening to the planet right now.

"Perhaps the earth is frustrated with what's happening to it."

He said he saw the Kangaroo Pt site as a natural venue for the planned production.

"We will place our audience in a big circle on the car park area in the round, so that the audience takes in the cliffs, a symbol for the land, while being able to touch the water.

"We expect to accommodate about 2000 a night, while a very large number will be involved in the show itself.

"It's grown and grown from the seed of an idea involving a number of disabled groups and people.

"Now a number of other groups from youth organisations, hospitals, primary schools, and even university students are involved.

"I don't think the performers will outnumber the audience but it will be close."

Bengé, a New Zealander, said he frequently worked on such a large scale.

"Ideas just grow as more people become interested and involved."

The River will be staged on Friday and Saturday, November 17 and 18.

Laughter in