



Burning News from the Ipswich

The JUNE 2006 newsletter of Ipswich Little Theatre

www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au

Shakespeare biography wins top non-fiction prize

A partial biography about a year in the life of legendary playwright William Shakespeare has won the Samuel Johnson Prize for non-fiction.

American professor James Shapiro receives more than \$A75,000 for his book *1599: A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare*.

In a unanimous decision, he edged out the favourite, British playwright and author Alan Bennett, who penned *Untold Stories*.

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HELP WANTED!

Like to help out at the theatre?
Want to meet new friends?
Like to feel important?
We have the job for you!

ILT needs a **Business Manager** for the 4 week season of *Lipstick Dreams* to be performed in October this year. If you can't commit to a full season, please consider maybe doing one week only. Whatever you can offer will be much appreciated. Phone **Desley 3288 8754** to offer your services or to find out more

LOVE HONOUR OBEY JOANNA MURRAY-SMITH

'An engrossing study of betrayal, suffering, love and hope.'

Australian playwright Joanna Murray-Smith's 95-minute **HONOUR** -- a taut drama that explores a 32-year marriage gone awry -- is sensitive, thoughtful, insightful and wonderfully well acted by a stage-savvy ensemble at the ILT: Incinerator Theatre, directed by Lee Gerchow.

Gus (deftly played by Jim Orr) is a journalist with an international reputation as being one of the brightest and most clever thinkers in Australia. Gus' clearheaded, bright and loving wife, **Honor** (in an outstanding performance by Brenna Lee-Cooney) had a promising future as a writer & poet but willingly sacrificed her career for his. Their only child, 24-year-old **Sophie** (played by Jordana Farlow in her first outing with ILT), is an under achiever at loose ends with her life and a constant source of irritation to both her parents; especially Gus.

Ultimately, we learn that Sophie is still dependent on her parents and Honor is dependent on Gus. How do you break through the dependency, especially if it is decades in the making? During their married years, Gus and Honor have settled down to middle age with a certain amount of clarity and resolve that includes things such as kindness, loyalty and grace -- and *honour*.

All seems to be going smoothly until bright, driven, tough-as-nails young journalist, **Claudia** (in a sultry performance by Cat Taylor) comes into their lives. She is an aspiring writer who is interviewing Gus, and the two hit it off. Despite all of his graduate degrees and worldly learning, Gus is smitten by Claudia's youth and aggression and leaves his wife.

At this point, Murray-Smith explores -- in a series of one-on-one confrontations -- the meaning of love and marriage and all that it implies after 32 years of living together. Claudia is certainly the catalyst in "Honor," and it is with a deft sense of Murray-Smith's irony (and some humour) that she brings things to a suitable resting place - with a newfound sense of self-discovery, and certainly a sense of hope.

Season 12 – 29 July

Public Nights July 21, 22, 28 & 29

ILT: INCINERATOR THEATRE: GRIFFITHS RD IPSWICH

BOOKINGS

IPSWICH TOURIST & INFORMATION CENTRE

PH: 3281 0555

Theatre Activity Night News

Everybody – members, friends, people interested in maybe joining ILT – is welcome.

Each Theatre Activity Night starts at 7.30pm and is free.

Tuesday 4 July	<u>Audition</u> – <i>Lipstick Dreams</i>	Jan Paterson
Monday 10 July	NOTE NEW DAY & DATE! Another <u>Playreading</u> for Deckchairs	Robyn Flashman
Tuesday 1 August	<u>Play reading</u> –reading of a new play by ILT member David McCartney.	David McCartney
Tuesday 22 August	NOTE another NEW DATE! <u>Audition - Deckchairs</u>	Robyn Flashman

Epilogue

*with apologies to Prospero
from The Tempest*

*Now my charms are all Unleashed,
And what plans I had are ceased;
Spirits which attended nigh,
Saw our outward banners fly.
Heard orators speak their truths
Laughed with troupes of special
youths
Watched new life come then to fill,
That Scottish Play, once penned by
Will.
Pardon me now, no more to dwell
In this bare theatre by your spell;
But release me from my bands
With the help of your good hands.
Gentle breath of yours my sails
Must fill, or else my project fails,
Which was to please. Now I want
Spirits to enforce, art to enchant;
Else my ending is despair,
Unless I be relieved by prayer,
Which pierces so that it assaults
Mercy itself and frees all faults.
As you from crimes would pardoned
be,
Let your indulgence set me free.*

By Relle Scott at the closing of
Shakespeare Unleashed! Ipswich Little
Theatre 60th Anniversary Celebrations
June 2006.

Ipswich Little Theatre Polo Shirts

Last call for orders - next print run early July.

Most members are now aware of the good quality black polo shirts printed in white with a small logo above the left hand pocket and a large stylised image of the theatre on the back that other members have been wearing when on official ILT business such as working front of house. If you would like one for your very own, they are available from Suzanne 32814748 for only \$20. All sizes are available from small to XXXL but they must be ordered.

RAFFLE to raise funds for Ipswich Little Theatre One Act Play Festival

To assist with the costs of running our great Festival each year, we run a series of raffles. Jan Paterson has very kindly offered to build on her success as raffle organiser last year and is calling on ILT members to donate items for the raffle. We traditionally have asked for bottles of wine but any items of indulgence - chocolates, antipasto, biscuits, perfumes, massage oils - you get the idea, will be welcomed. Last year the raffles raised over \$500! Let's see if we can beat that this year with your support.

Items can be left in the theatre kitchen (suitably marked as raffle items please) or phone Jan on 3201 7974 to organise an alternative.

Festival Report

One entry has been received so far and the closing date is 30 June so next month's report should be a good one with an indication of how many sessions we will be running etc. Our adjudicator, Kurt Lerps reports that when he adjudicated the very strong Murrumba Festival, there was a lot of interest shown in plays being entered into our festival too.

Next Festival committee meeting is **Sunday 2 July at 3pm**. It would be good to have as many sub committee members as possible attend that meeting as it is then only 6 weeks to the Festival!

I would like to encourage the directors of all of our one act plays to consider putting their plays into our festival as I thought that they were well worth being seen again by what is largely a different audience.

Suzanne

BOOKINGS - Jean Pratt Building- Desley Cronon

If you want to use the Jean Pratt Building at any time at all, for rehearsals or any other reason, you must contact Desley 3288 8754 to make a booking.

S-Troupe - director Di Johnston

Many thanks to parents, friends etc who supported our most recent show *Even Rockier* - I am sure you all enjoyed the production.

It was also great to see the public response to our participation in the *Shakespeare Unleashed* season. This was a big ask of the parents and students concerned to do the whole 6 nights, so many thanks to you for your super efforts.

A big hug to Leesa Besgrove who is still sick but who we hope to see back on deck soon. Don't forget important dates coming up:

22 July - dinner at Sandy Gallop

29 July - bus trip to Lyric Theatre

Crossfyre Young Theatricals - director Suzanne Matulich

Geometry - the end of semester one night performance was held Tuesday night - 20 June at 7.30 pm.

Term 3 starts 11 July and unless there are a significant number of students not returning, there will be no new students enrolled. There are currently 3 students keenly waiting in the wings for a vacancy. The end of year performance is planned to be *Wyrd Sisters* - another Terry Pratchett play to follow the successful *Mort* from last year. It will run for 4 nights as we will have 2 casts and that will give each cast two nights in performance. Keep a night between 6-9 December free so that you won't miss a performance.

Six Crossfyre students acted as waiters for the 60th ILT celebratory night at *Shakespeare Unleashed* - thanks to them for their contribution to the fun evening.

Smart Arts - Junior Theatre - co-ordinator Liz Boekholt

Older kids are well on their way to script development for the end of year performance.

The Shakespeare event went without a hitch and the children who attended had a most enjoyable time. They found themselves v.v. involved with the monologues, many of them asking for translations of what was being said. One in particular was impressed by the performances. Maybe not the most professional children in performance, but they made up for this in 'cute'. The patrons took all this very well and participated with "olde worlde goodly spyrit". Thanks to Relle for including SmartArts in the event.

I am making up certificates for the children who participated in this event and Judy Grant has kindly agreed to come and present these to the kids on Saturday morning.

Daytime Theatre Troupe - convenor Kay McAllan

Cinderella was another hit for the Daytimers and they are already keenly planning their much anticipated Christmas show. Details to follow.

Librarians - Patti Pratt

Patti 32812427 is looking after the library for 2006. If you want to borrow a script or have any questions, please contact her.

Properties Manager - Alan Brown

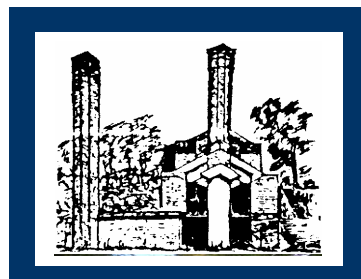
Alan has requested very strongly that all set building must be done outside the theatre building, not backstage on the new carpet.

Alan gives a huge amount of his time to many aspects of the theatre and has very generously taken on the job of Properties Manager this year in an attempt to bring some sort of order to our various props, furniture and sets which were being incorrectly stored and damaged both accidentally and by 'keen' set designers. PLEASE if any props etc need repair OR alteration of ANY kind, see Alan immediately. He is only too keen to help you and is available at most times. Don't break his heart by ignoring this request, we need to have him do this job willingly. Contact him on 3282 1269.

Johnno!

Brisbane Powerhouse 14 July - 5 August 2006 World Premiere
Adapted for the stage by Stephen Edwards
Brisbane Festival, Derby Playhouse and La Boite Theatre Company
David Malouf's *Johnno*, one of Australia's most recognisable and popular contemporary novels, has been adapted for the stage and will premiere on 14 July to open Brisbane Festival 2006.

This quintessential Brisbane theatre experience brings to life one of the most recognisable and popular contemporary Australian novels. With its portrayal of post-war Brisbane and the sporadic and unlikely relationship between two young Australians, it has become an iconic meditation on an emerging culture.



Ipswich Little Theatre

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2 July – One Act Play Festival sub-committee meeting – 3pm

4 July – AUDITION
Lipstick Dreams – director Jan Paterson

10 July – 2nd Playreading – Deckchairs – director Robyn Flashman

12 – 29 July – Honour – director Lee Gerchow

1 August – Playreading – Lot by David McCartney

22 August – AUDITION – Deckchairs – director Robyn Flashman

Theatrical Definitions

a random series

Stage Crew

Group of individuals who spend their evenings coping with 50-minute stretches of total boredom interspersed with 30-second bursts of mindless panic.

Next ILT meeting
2006
Tuesday 11 July
7.30 pm

Ipswich Little Theatre Executive Committee 2006

Name	Position	Phone number
President	Judith Grant	3288 0717
Vice president	Pam Floris	3288 6159
Secretary	Helen Pullar	New number 3201 4068 Note: new address: 7 Rosehill Court Brassall 4305
Treasurer	Pauline Brayford	3294 6730

Groups within ILT - directors 2006

Group	Director	Phone number
Smart Arts Junior Theatre	Liz Boekholt	3282 3407
Crossfyre Young Theatricals	Suzanne Matulich	3281 4748
S-Troupe	Di Johnston	3812 9141
Daytime Theatre Troupe	Kay McAllan	54643965

Business Manager's Report

Shakespeare Unleashed! and
Ipswich Little Theatre's 60th Birthday Celebrations

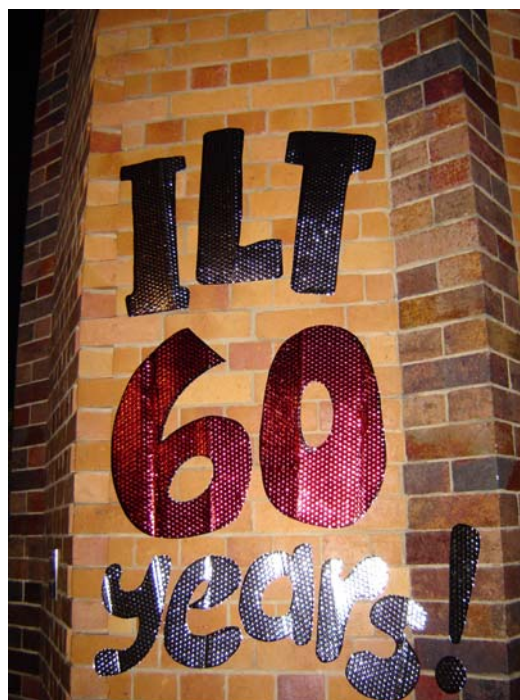
Congratulations to Relle, Jim, Di, Liz and all casts for a thoroughly enjoyable season of *Shakespeare Unleashed*.

Approximately 360 people enjoyed this fine production and although audience numbers were down on a couple of nights those who attended had a really entertaining night. Many comments were made about the whole night and people really enjoyed the format.

The 60th Birthday Night was a great success and I would like to express my thanks to the Committee who put this night together. The Theatre looked great with all the decorations, the food was good and the cake a masterpiece. Thanks to the Crossfyre students for the job they did and special thanks to John Floris, Kim Jones and Carmel Kendrick who worked in the bar and kitchen as it was a really long and late night for them.

Also thanks to the members who volunteered a night in the bar or kitchen during the production as some of them spent up to five hours there because of the early start and late finish.

Desley Cronon



Cr Charlie Pisasale proudly supports Ipswich Little Theatre by printing the Burning News for ILT.
Thanks Charlie!