



Ipswich Little Theatre
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

Editor:

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**NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE
MEETING
7pm
Tuesday
19 January 2021**

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There has been so much activity in the last few weeks that it has been necessary to include additional pages in this issue.

BACK ON THE BOARDS

A season with a difference

Limited performances

Different times

Two venues.

Over a two week period some of our most familiar directors and performers will entertain you with a light-hearted season of comedic pieces which will get 2021 off to a good start.

5, 6, 7 & 12, 13, 14 March

Bookings open on 11 January www.ilt.org.au or VIC 3281 0555

See also page 4 for details.

A New Life Member

The Annual General Meeting for 2020 was held on 13 December (see report on page 2). This was followed by presentation of this year's Griffin Awards (see page 3) and that in turn was followed by President Jim Orr being presented with Honorary Life Membership. Jim is the 39th member to be inducted as a Life Member.

Jim first appears in our annals when he played in "Hotel Sorrento" in 1997. He next appeared in a one acter "The Boat" in 2000 and over the next decade or so, he appeared on a regular basis in half a dozen one acters and a couple of full-length plays. Of particular note was his performance in "Epiphany" where his ongoing close relationship with Di Johnston commenced. His performance in "Educating Rita" in 2008 was a tour de force. This was followed up in 2014 in "Entertaining Angels". He has performed in a number of ten minute plays in a couple of seasons and to entertain visiting groups.

He has also sat in the director's chair to produce three seasons of one act plays and another one acter in another season.

Not surprisingly, he has been a regular helper with S-Troupe activities.

But over and above all this, Jim has been active on the administrative side. He was President in 2010 and 2011 and joined Building Committee in 2011, serving continuously since then. He has been President again for the past two years. He has had various roles in relation to the bar, alternating with Ann Collyer. He has been our fire safety officer and workplace health and safety monitor for years. And this year he has taken on the additional role of cleaner when that task has been amplified by the COVID-Safety requirements.

He is also a genuinely "GOOD GUY". His contribution has now been recognised by his peers and it gives us very great pleasure to award Jim Orr Honorary Life Membership of Ipswich Little Theatre Society.



VP Ann Collyer presenting Jim's award.



From the President

CONGRATULATIONS to Chris Greenhill and Shane Mallory, who were awarded Griffin Awards at the AGM. They have worked tirelessly on behalf of the Society and certainly deserve this recognition of their efforts. So many members of your committee have shown their commitment to keeping ILT alive and viable, I am humbled to have been a part of their work. Also congratulation to Eythan Arama who was given the Griffin Incentive Award for his excellent work with Junior Theatre.

Helen, Chris, Shane, Melinda and Ann were all outstanding and spent hours working to find a way through the maze of constantly changing restrictions and attending to financial problems that arose. They could not have done this without a belief in ILT and its future.

I have been very strict in regard to compliance but believe that I have always had the safety and financial stability of the Theatre as the main goal. The potential fines for the theatre, for non-compliance are onerous and then the cost of a 'Deep Clean' of the site, should a person with COVID be identified as having attended the site, would not be easily met considering our current financial situation.

A large portion of our members, audiences and volunteers, are potentially 'High Risk'. I and the COVID team did not want to take the risk of any further damage to our financial situation or reputation occurring.

I congratulate Deirdre for her innovative work with the Juniors on Zoom, although there were some difficulties in the beginning eventually all became normal and fun, thank you Deirdre.

As I said earlier in the year -Remember the artwork in our gardens – the Phoenix rises from the ashes – and so will ILT rise from the ashes caused by this virus, to become again a place of fun for all who are members and who visit as patrons. So it has taken a while but it is happening, bring on 2021.

Thank you for entrusting me with the position as President for another year.

Finally thank you to everyone for the honour of giving me Life Membership. I am humbled and hope I can continue to serve the Theatre in the coming years.

Jim

2020 AGM

The Annual General Meeting was duly held in the Incinerator on Sunday 13 December with 29 members in attendance. Considering the lack of activities this year, the reports were surprisingly comprehensive. The good news is, we are still solvent.

No elections were required as the nominations in writing were sufficient to fill most positions, although some committee positions were filled from nominations from the floor

Office bearers for 2020 are: President, Jim Orr; Past President, David Austin; Vice President, Ann Collyer; Secretary, Helen Pullar; Treasurer, Chris Greenhill. Administrative Committee: Kyle Breese, Desley Cronon, Aaron Evans, Tony Erhardt, Robyn Flashman, Helen Greenhill, Robyn Harm, Sandie Henwood, Samantha Johnson, Di Johnston, Deirdre Lowe, Kay McAllan, Kate Mallory, Shane Mallory, Doug Moses, Courtney Murrin, Melinda Park, Ian Pullar, Jane Sheppard and Julie-Ann Wright.

Jim Orr and Billy Lowe were required to stand down from Building Committee but were re-elected to join Helen Pullar, Melinda Park, Ian Pullar and Robyn Flashman. David Austin, Desley Cronon and Aaron Evans stood down from Selection Committee and were re-elected to join Ann Collyer, Shane Mallory and Tony Erhardt.

As Covid restrictions applied to the provision of food, pizzas were ordered in for the enjoyment of members who stayed to enjoy a convivial gathering after the presentations. (See photos page 3)

Trivia

Our first venture once restrictions had been lifted was two very enjoyable nights of Trivia in the courtyard. Members came as self-catered groups and responded more or less successfully to a battery of trivia questions composed and posed with aplomb by Aaron Evans. Not only was the evening a social success with all attendees delighted to be able to socialise – albeit in a slightly restricted fashion – it provided some welcome relief to our bleeding treasury.

Congratulations to all concerned and particularly Aaron. (See photos page 3)

Generosity

This has been a very difficult year financially with almost no income but continuing out-go. RACQ was very conscious of the struggles of community organisations and invited applications for assistance with operating expenses. Our brilliant Treasurer (see also page 5) made a submission on our behalf and we were overjoyed to be informed by RACQ that we were to be the recipients of a substantial contribution to meet our unavoidable commitments. We are extremely grateful.

A Night of Trivia 4 December



Above; Aaron swallowing his words
Below The winners— Mallory family
and guest



Left, above and below: Very
trivial guests.



The AGM 13 December

Photos by Robyn Harm



Taking things
seriously—
and having
fun after-
wards.



The Grant family (with Robyn F)

Back on the Boards

Just when we were feeling that we might not survive the COVID pandemic, somewhat unexpectedly live theatre restrictions were relaxed. This news, together with the promise of a vaccine by March, encouraged us to feel that we could plan a conventional programme for much of the year.

We had in the pipeline, a different concept which would allow us to get up and running quickly when the opportunity arose and this has formed the basis of our very first season.

The call for interested members went out and the response was amazing: if only that always happened at auditions.

At this point we are obtaining scripts, performance rights and working through our Covid plan, but Producer Helen Pullar says that directors, performers and crew will be in place very soon.

Our audience will see the show in two venues, each with a seating capacity of 40 : the Incinerator and the adjacent Jean Pratt Building – switching at interval. [This will be reflected in the booking system.]

Friday nights will commence at 7.30pm.

Saturday performances will commence at 6.30pm, but the gates will be opened at 5.30pm to allow patrons to enjoy a BYO picnic on the grassed area with drinks available from the bar. Sunday matinees will be at 1.30pm..

At this stage the restrictions regarding food are still very limiting—but, fingers crossed, that might change before March.

This is a once off opportunity to see two styles of theatrical presentation at the one time. Help us get back on the boards so that the box office bottom line is back in the black.

Junior Theatre



Junior Theatre is the one group that has kept going during lock-down. Director Deirdre Lowe held fortnightly sessions and devised numerous games and activities suitable for Zoom screens all with strong Theatre themes. The students loved it and regularly 12 to 15 students attending. Three of the Little Players group also attended the Zoom sessions and will be taken into the Juniors group next year.



A Junior Christmas break up was held today on 5 December. A great time was had by all with two of our parents taking part in one of the activities. Thank you Tracey Spence and Rochelle Early. We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2021.

Daytime Theatre Troupe

On 2 December 18 ladies from DTTs went on a bus trip to Mt Tamborine, with singing accompanied by Chic and her portable keyboard. There was shopping, then coffee, then more shopping, then lunch with wine, Secret Santa of recycled gifts, then shopping, then ice-cream. Plenty of laughs along the way.

The troupe plans to resume normal business next year.



Getting ready for departure

2020 Griffin Awards in memory of Judy Grant.

Each year the President has the task of rewarding members for outstanding contributions to ILT based on nominations from members of the Administrative committee. At the AGM Jim Orr announced this year's awards which were presented by Ross Grant who is also their generous sponsor.



President Jim with Eythan, Xavier and Ross

Eythan Arama was presented with a Junior Griffin Award by Xavier Green, grandson of Ross and Judy Grant, with his very proud mum looking on. Eythan has come a long way while attending Junior Theatre and in his own words, "I couldn't even stand in front of a classroom of 20 and speak. Look at me now" Eythan is a very worthy recipient of this award.

President Jim had great pleasure in announcing that Griffin Awards for this year were to be presented to Chris Greenhill and Shane Mallory for their outstanding contributions.

Chris was our indefatigable Treasurer who, despite numerous sleepless nights, managed our dwindling financial resources and spared no effort to seek

alternative sources of funds. It is thanks to Chris that we are still solvent.

Shane is our ICT Manager whose expertise was evident in many areas. During the year Shane revamped our entire ticketing system, improved our website and managed our communications with ZOOM and other technology. He must have spent endless hours weaving his magic which is beyond the ken of mere mortals.

Hearty congratulations to both of these invaluable members.



Jim, Ross, Chris and Shane

S-Troupe

S-Troupe helpers recently got together at Di's place to catch up, share their COVID experiences, drinks and snacks, of course play a game, and discuss what is happening with S-Troupe.

Di has announced that she will not be taking on Director of S-Troupe next year and sadly there is no one waiting in the wings to take on this formidable task. Everyone will be unhappy/surprised/a bit overwhelmed to see this situation with S-Troupe but for the past 29 years S-Troupe has afforded many students their moment to shine and also to realise and nurture their creative talents.



From Left clockwise: Di, Daniele, Stephanie, Lily, Melinda, Andrea, Pat, Sarah, Sue, Toyah, Gloria - (Gillian was also there but we took the photo after she had gone.)

Ipswich Little Theatre owes a great debt of gratitude to the devoted members who have run S-Troupe so capably and for so long. It is regrettable, but inevitable that there will be no S-Troupe next year.

2021 Season in Brief

Season 1: 5 March — 14 March

Back on the Boards

A miscellany of short comedies by a miscellany of authors and Directors.

[Rated PG Mild Adult Themes.]

Season 2: 29 April — 15 May

The Savannah Sipping Society

by Jamie Wooten, Jessie Jones, and Nicholas Hope

Director: Chris Greenhill, Assistant Director Robyn Flashman

[Rated M: Sexual references and Adult Themes]

Annual Drama Festival 14, 15, 16 August

Season 3: 23 September — 9 October

Ladies' Day

by Amanda Whittington

Directors: Jane Sheppard and Di Johnston

[Rated PG: Mild Adult Themes.]

Season 4: 18 November — 4 December

The 39 Steps

by Patrick Barlow

Director: Shane Mallory. Assistant Director: Jo Robins

[Rated PG : Mild Adult Themes]

DIARY DATES

Monday 11 January	Bookings open for <i>Back on the Boards</i>
Monday 18 January 7:30	Auditions for <i>The Savannah Sipping Society</i>
5 March	Opening Night for <i>Back on the Boards</i>
15 March	Bookings open for <i>The Savannah Sipping Society</i>
29 April	Opening Night for <i>The Savannah Sipping Society</i>
21 June 7:30	Auditions for <i>Ladies' Day</i>
13, 14, 15, August	Festival 2021

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE JEAN PRATT BUILDING IS STILL A COVID TESTING CENTRE. ENTRY FOR MEMBERS THROUGH THE KITCHEN.

AUDITIONS 18 January

"The Savannah Sipping Society"

Director: Chris Greenhill

Assistant Director: Robyn Flashman

Four unique Southern women are drawn together quite unexpectedly by an impromptu happy hour and decide it is high time to reclaim their enthusiasm for life which each has sadly lost along their journey through life.

Over the course of 6 months, filled with laughter, hilarious misadventures, and the occasional liquid refreshment, these middle aged women successfully bond and find the confidence to jumpstart their lives.

Together they discover lasting friendships and, most importantly, realize it's never too late to make new old friends.

For more information Phone Chris on 0427 977 007

2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

President	Jim Orr	0402 377 258
Vice President	Ann Collyer	3288 7053/ 0400 997 365
Past President	David Austin	3812 9431 / 0413 636 249
Secretary	Helen Pullar	3281 4437/0400 801 443
Treasurer	Chris Greenhill	0427 977 007

CONTACT DETAILS FOR OTHER IMPORTANT POSITIONS

Front of House Management Coordinator	Courtney Murrin	0457 734 433
Subscription Secretary	Di Johnston	0447 191 954
Group Liaison/ Publicity Co-Coordinators	Robyn Flashman/ Robyn Harm	3812 3450/ 3812 3516
Building Bookings	Desley Cronon	3288 8754 / 0435 309 352
Junior Theatre/Little Players	Deirdre Lowe	0409 202 380
Young Theatricals	Kyle Breese Samantha Johnson Aaron Evans	0423 278 833 0415 453 952 0431 041 068
Daytime Theatre Troupe	Kay McAllan	5464 3965/0439 305 658
Tourific Troupers	Helen Pullar or Jane Sheppard	H 3281 4437 .J 5464 5363
Theatre number	NB: Only during rehearsals or meetings	3812 2389