

≡ *Burning News* from the Incinerator Theatre

August 2024

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

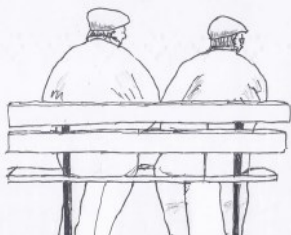
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**NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE
MEETING
7pm
Tuesday
10 September**

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"We're going to have to stop sitting around like this. People will think we're Council workers."



Our 68th Festival has been and gone. And what a success it was! Congratulations to all involved. And weren't we lucky that the rain held off until the next day? The Festival always needs many helpers and we are extremely grateful for the services of the volunteers – although we could have done with lots more. See you all next year.

As usual, the competition was fierce, challenging the adjudicator. The results and the prize list can be found on page 5.



Opens on 18 September.

If you haven't got tickets yet, there is a high probability you will miss out as the season is very close to being sold out. But you could try

ilt.org.au or VIC 3281 0555

At last glance, there still appeared to be a few tickets available for the Wine & Cheese Night on 20 September.



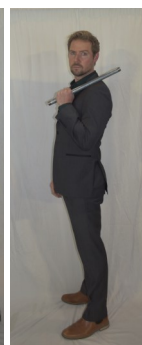
Cook- Lily McLean



Prof Plum-

Wadsworth - Shane Mallory Callum Campbell

Yvette - Madz O'Hare



Mr Green -

Robin Darch



Col. Mustard -

Aaron Evans



Miss Scarlet - Victoria Adair

Mrs White - Shala Wilson

Mrs Peacock - Amanda Harrison

Director Tony Erhardt, Assistant Directors Jo Robbins and Dave Dunkerley have also been filming at Grays, in Gray Street.

I had a sneak preview of part of the show recently and I'm looking forward to seeing the final product which promises to be very entertaining.

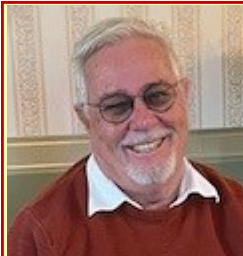
HELP WANTED

Volunteers are needed again to undertake front of house duties during *Clue: On Stage*

To offer assistance, please sign up at <https://www.admin.ilt.org.au/foh-roster/>

For more information or assistance please contact Di Johnston

jimndi1954@gmail.com 0447 191 954



From the President

Well, what a Festival. Everyone who attended was full of praise for the warmth and friendliness of our welcome and throughout the festival. So many times groups were saying that this is their favourite festival to come to.

Congratulations to all who worked so hard to create this atmosphere. We should be proud of all of you, but especially Ann, Connie and their small team in the Bar and Canteen, Phil and Tony with lighting and sound and Di and Beth for their organisation of this mammoth undertaking.

Thank you to those members who helped out everywhere, especially those who did extra shifts due to a lack of replacements filling the roster. Connie and Ann did not get a shift off but still, every day and night, were providing food and drinks of the highest quality for all of us, a large portion being made on the premises that day. An AMAZING effort.

My major disappointment was the lack of members who came in to provide relief or a lightening of the load for those who did come in. Wouldn't it be good if more of the people who have the opportunity to act on our fabulous stage would help to keep the Theatre running?

Jim

Bondi Legal

Following auditions, a cast has been selected for our final major production for the year, as follows:

Frank – Gareth James

Brad – Sam Hoepner

Simon – Shane Canavan

Frances – Kim Frohloff

Magistrate Newman – Alison Lees

Three expert witnesses – Ethan Vendersee

Rehearsals have commenced under Director Chris Austin-Greenhill and Assistant Director Liz Ball.

Chris snapped Sam Hoepner and Kim Frohloff to give our readers a foretaste of Tony Laumberg's Australian comedy.



Bookings are open at

ilt.org.au or VIC 32810555

Programme for 2025

Selection Committee intend to submit a proposed programme for 2025 to the September meeting of the Admin Committee for ratification.

On Saturday 2 November at 3.30pm the 2025 Season will be launched. Prospective actors and groups wanting to make bookings will be invited to hear our exciting plans.

Shock

Patrons were taken aback to discover that one of the plays presented at the festival which was definitely X-rated, was written by Jane Shepard. But they were relieved to discover it was not OUR Jane Sheppard who denied all responsibility, claiming that, not only did she have no knowledge of most of the play's seamy contents, if the play was not about teddy bears and pigs, she could not possibly have written it!

Junior Theatre

If you missed the Juniors' production of *Wishes*, you missed a treat. The young actors did an amazing job and given that the two youngest actors are 9 and 10 years of age and had not performed this length of play previously, they should be commended.

But the young actors are not resting on their laurels; they are preparing for the end-of-year showcase, the format of which is a Theatre Sports Competition. Students have been learning the rules of improvisation over the last two weeks and moulding their skills in anticipation of the event. Three new players have also joined the group.

Young Theatricals

YTs have now capped off their season of *Antigone 3021* by performing an extract from it in our Festival where they won an Adjudicator's award for their performance.

Not only did the students learn about Greek history in a unique manner, but they also learnt valuable skills and experienced personal growth.

They now venture into their September showcase which, according to their Directors, "is going to be another corker".

Daytime Theatre Troupe

The Daytime ladies are back to work preparing their next exotic production SANTA'S AUSSIE BEACH CHRISTMAS - SURF'S UP SANTA, written and directed by Kay McAllan.

Santa's off to the beach to join his old friend Nana Mac and meet some new beach friends. They have a secret surprise for their old mate Santa this year. Some of his animal friends from Woop Woop Valley have made the trip to join their new beach buddies for a Christmas to remember. Things they have found on beach Emu parade clean ups have been recycled and repurposed and reused for their arty Christmas decorations. Tina Turtle and Carl Crab and other wonderful characters will delight audiences with new and favourite Christmas songs that are set to entertain the very young to the young at heart.



Tourific Troupers

On Monday 26 August, the troupers hosted a visit by 40 members of the North Brisbane Probus Club (just how many Probus Clubs are there in SE Queensland?).

It was a particularly hot day – more than 30°. And this was Winter! No wonder we limit tours to the cooler months, April to September. While the patrons were inside, we moved one of the tables out of the sun.

Many thanks to the wonderful ladies who so manfully(?) managed the serving of the lunches.

As usual, the travellers enjoyed their two course luncheon and the informative talk which Helen delivered. They were also entertained by Ian and Helen presenting *Grounds for Divorce*. Counting performances in tours, Festivals and two seasons of plays, this was the 92nd time they have performed this play!

Expressions of Interest

Our complex society depends on a large number of our members undertaking roles such as directing the sub-groups, managing the bar, managing the bookings, managing publicity and many, many more. Following the September Admin meeting, the Secretary will be calling for Expressions of Interest in the thirty or so jobs. Anyone who is prepared to undertake any of these tasks will be asked to volunteer.

For more preliminary information or early offers please contact Helen (contacts on back page).

Vale Mike Sykes

Older members of ILT will recall Mike Sykes who appeared in 22 productions between 1974 and 2000, mostly comedies. Unfortunately, he recently suffered a fall, causing serious injuries from which he never recovered.

Vale Les Chappell

Les Chappell was a graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London. After moving to Ipswich, he joined ILT in 1973 and excelled in directing nine full length plays and six one act plays. He was also an accomplished actor with appearances in around 10 plays, in a number of which he was won best actor awards in Festivals. He was also Convener of Selection Committee for many years. After 2018, Les and his wife Shirley moved away from Ipswich into a retirement home where he recently died.

Plaque for Vicki Milsom

The June Newsletter recorded the passing of Vicki Milsom, a long-standing member of S-Troupe. In her memory, a plaque was installed in our garden of remembrance. Her mother Marlene recently inspected the plaque and mourned the loss of her daughter.





Festival Secretary Beth Martin, Adjudicator Talisa Pariss-Proby and Director Di Martin



Talisa and Beth at work.



Best Comedy Actress Gillian Simpson being presented the trophy by Life Member Suzanne Matulich



Kitchen angels Jane Sheppard, Ann Collyer and Connie Foy.



Making the salads, Sue Van Der Meer, Helen Pullar, Margaret Martin, Cynthia Graham and Jane Sheppard



Cooking the barbecue, Ian and Helen Pullar



Welcome visitors from KSP before performance



Olga and Peter Marshall

Photos (mostly) by Robyn Harm.



Enjoying the famous barbecue lunch



Interval between plays

FESTIVAL 2024 RESULTS

10 Minute Play Section

Best Play *Woodland Creek* (Bare Feet Drama)
 2nd Place Play *Love Me Anyway* (Blackout Collective)
 Best Director/s Clara Aleckson, Opal Francis, Tamika McCoy (Blackout Collective)
 Best Actor (equal) Ian Pullar & Peter Marshall (ILT)
 Best Actress Opal Francis (Blackout Collective)
 Best Supporting Actress Tasha Duthie (Strike TLC)
 Best New Australian Script *Woodland Creek* Bare Feet Drama (Paula-Mary Camilleri & Teagan Fudge)
Adjudicator's Certificates *Entitled* (Strike TLC), *Ashes to Ashes* (ILT), *Away from Home* (ILT), *Unknown* (Strike TLC)

Youth Section

Best Play *Living with Lady Macbeth* (Bare Feet Drama)
 2nd Place Play *Parasomnia* (Bare Feet Drama)
 Best Director Natalie Murtagh (Brisbane Arts Theatre *Greek Mythology of Olympiaganza*)
 Best Actor Jeremy Hales (Bare Feet Drama *Parasomnia*)
 Best Actress Abbie Gommers (Bare Feet Drama *Living with Lady Macbeth*)
 Best Supporting Actor Dylan Komoff Brisbane Arts Theatre *Greek Mythology of Olympiaganza*)
 Best Supporting Actress Sienna Randall (Barefeet Drama *Living with Lady Macbeth*)
 Best Actor in a minor role Nirish Bhat Surambadka (The School at AIPA Juniors *10 ways to survive the zombie apocalypse*)
 Best Actress in a minor role Alyssa Collins (Strike TLC *Pinky Promise*)
 Best new Australian script *Parasomnia* Bare Feet Drama (Paula-Mary Camilleri)

Adjudicator's Certificates

10 ways to survive the zombie Apocalypse The School at AIPA- Juniors (Fantastic ensemble work)
The Greek Mythology of Olympiaganza Brisbane Arts Theatre (Fantastic physical comedy)
Antigone 3021 Ipswich Little Theatre (Clever adaptation)
This is your brain on social media A.C.T.S. (Clever staging)
Pinky Promise Strike TLC (Dramatic bravery)
Dust Bare Feet Drama (Strong characters and impactful costuming)

Open Section

Best Play – Drama *Conversation with a Ghost* (Footlights Theatre)
 Best Play - Comedy *The Magpies* (KSP Theatre)
 2nd Place Play – Drama *Coming Soon* Downstage Theatre
 2nd Place Play – Comedy *Say Something Happened* (Ipswich Little Theatre)
 Best Director – Drama Row Blackshaw (Footlights Theatre *Conversation with a Ghost*)
 Best Director - Comedy Paula-Mary Camilleri (KSP Theatre *The Magpies*)
 Best Actor – Dramatic role Michael Pitman (Mousetrap Theatre *Beyond*)
 Best Actress – Dramatic role Beth Geoghegan (Toowoomba Rep Theatre *Friends of the Deceased*)
 Best Actor – Comedic role Eli J Ball (KSP Theatre *The Magpies*)
 Best Actress – Comedic role Gillian Simpson (Ipswich Little Theatre *Say Something Happened*)
 Best supporting actor – Matthew Malachite (Footlights Theatre *Conversation with a Ghost*)
 Best supporting actress Janelle Kerr (KSP Theatre *Interviews with Loneliness*)
 Best actor – minor role Isiah Harrison (Introspect Theatre *Kaleidoscope*)
 Best actress – minor role Jessica Pitman (Downstage Theatre *Coming Soon*)
 Best New Australian Script *Coming Soon* Aaron Evans (Downstage Theatre)
 Stage Manager's Award KSP Theatre

Adjudicator's Certificates

Kaleidoscope Introspect Theatre (Stage and ensemble work)
Embers Ripe Arts Collective (Intricate stage and ensemble work)
Interviews with Loneliness KSP Theatre (Raw honest storytelling)
Female of the Species Front Row Theatre (Ensemble work & play choice)
Shoot your Shot Blackout Collective (Excellent sketch comedy)
An Actor's Nightmare Brisbane Arts Theatre (Clever stage work and interpretation)

2024 Season in Brief

Season 1: 28 February — 17 March

Ageing Disgracefully

Producer Helen Pullar

Six short plays staged in the Incinerator Theatre and the Jean Pratt Auditorium

Rated: PG Some adult themes .

Season 2: 15 May — 1 June

Stepping Out by Richard Harris

Director: Tracey Spence

Assistant Director: Kim Frohloff

Rated: PG .

Annual Drama Festival

Director:: Di Johnston

9, 10, 11 August

Season 3: 18 September — 5 October

Clue: On Stage adapted from the Paramount Pictures film written by Jonathan Lynn and the board game from Hansbro, Inc written by Sandy Rustin, based upon the works by Jonathan Lynn, Hunter Foster, Eric Price

Director: Tony Erhardt:

Assistant Directors: Jo Robbins and Dave Dunkerley.

Rated PG: Adult Themes.

Season 4: 20 November — 7 December

Bondi Legal by Tony Laumberg

Director: Chris Austin-Greenhill

Assistant Director: Liz Ball

Rated: PG

DIARY DATES

13, 14 September 7:30 pm	Young Theatricals Showcase
15 September 2 pm	
18 September	Opening Night <i>Clue: On Stage</i>
30 September	Bookings open for <i>Bondi Legal</i>
2 November	Season 2025 Launch
5, 6, 8, 12, 14, 15 November	Daytime Theatre Troupe <i>Santa's Aussie Beach Christmas</i>
6 December 6 pm	Junior Theatre Showcase
7 December 10 am	

A Supporter Takes the Cake

A feature of our enterprise is the group bookings systems. Each season, six nights are made available for organisations to book the entire eighty seats in the theatre or half of them. One regular group is the Leukemia Foundation, organised by the inimitable Geoff Beattie of Glamorgan Vale. Geoff is personally responsible for providing the mountains of supper food on each of their nights.

It was wonderful to read in the *Courier Mail* that at the Ekka, Geoff was the proud winner of the Florence Morgan Memorial Prize for Rich Dark Fruit Cake which he has now won more than five times. He has also won hundreds of other prizes.

In 1987 his wife died, aged 38, of leukemia and to assuage his grief Geoff took to cooking sponge cakes, fruit cakes, marmalades – pretty much the full gamut of country cooking.

Congratulations to Geoff. We look forward to seeing him and his culinary efforts in the future.

2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

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

CONTACT DETAILS FOR OTHER IMPORTANT POSITIONS

Subscription Secretary	Julie-Anne Wright	0419 758 724
Group Liaison	Robyn Flashman	0477 771 016/
Marketing	Robyn Harm	0413 742 116
Building Bookings	Desley Cronon	3288 8754 / 0435 309 352
Junior Theatre	David Austin	0422 620 851
Young Theatricals	Kate Hoepner Aaron Evans	0479 048 979 0431 041 068
Daytime Theatre Troupe	Jane Sheppard	5464 5363 / 0419020675
Tourific Troupers	Helen Pullar or Jane Sheppard	H 3281 4437 .J 5464 5363
Theatre number	NB: Only during rehearsals or meetings	3812 2389