

June 2024

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

Editor:

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**NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE
MEETING
7pm
Tuesday 9 July**

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Our very own Daytime Theatre Troupe has been presenting

Picnic in the Woods

in the Jean Pratt Auditorium over the past few weeks'



This delightful show, again written and directed by Jane Sheppard, assisted by Margaret Martin, has entertained groups from schools and Kindies during the week and with a special matinee for the young at heart on 15 June. It's the usual good fun and games for the audiences.

(Above) The cast: Robyn Harm, Anne England, Cynthia Graham, Lonny Rutland, Kate Hoepner, Kerri Jones, Cleo Smith, June Lambourne, Jane Brown, Margaret Martin.

(Right) The crew: Chic Currie, Marie Mortimer, Jane Sheppard, Anna Morris, Liz Weier, Margaret Martin.



Pre-Festival Working Bee

As everybody knows, Ipswich Little Theatre hosts the best Drama Festival on the circuit on the second weekend in August when our premises are observed by members of a number of competing groups. It is important that the complex is at its best. So, as usual, we will be carrying out the traditional

Pre-Festival Working Bee on Sunday 28 July

There is a lot to be done (see also page 3) so we are appealing to members to come along and assist us by giving us a few hours of labour from 9 am on.

The last working bee (in February) was well attended and all who came had an enjoyable time as well as a great sense of satisfaction.

So, please keep up the good work!



There is no future in history.



From the President

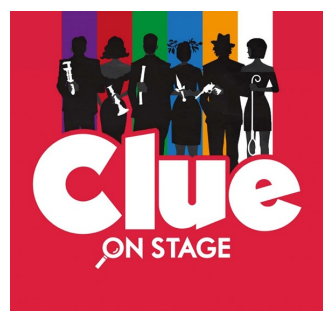
Congratulations to Tracey, Kim, cast and crew for their efforts in ensuring that the audiences for *Stepping Out* left with smiles on their faces. Thank you to all of the front of house workers, who also ensured that the audiences felt welcome. Your work is vital to the success of every production.

Daytimers are taking us all to the Teddy Bears Picnic, again ensuring that their audiences have fun.

There is a theme here – if you feel welcome you will have fun. Every new member always comments on how we as a group welcome them into our group.

Now for the YTs exploring *Antigone*. I can't say they are not 'Stepping Out' of their comfort zone. I am looking forward to seeing this production and watching out younger members bring their version of this amazing play to life.

Jim



Auditions for *Clue: On Stage* were held on Monday 26 June and were particularly well attended. Selection Committee, Director Tony Erhardt and Assistant Directors Jo Robins and Dave Dunkerley had the challenging, but enjoyable

task of selecting the cast as follows:

Wadsworth	Shane Mallory
Col Mustard	Aaron Evans
Prof Plum	Callum Campbell
Mr Green	Robin Darch
Motorist/policeman	Peter Van Werkhoven
Yvette	Madz O'Hare
Mrs Peacock	Amanda Harrison
Mrs White	Shala Wilson
Miss Scarlet	Victoria Adair
Cook	Lily McLean

Rehearsals have commenced in the Jean Pratt Building until after the Festival during the second weekend in August.

It's a dark and stormy night, and you've been invited to a very unusual dinner party. Each of the guests has an alias, the butler offers a variety of weapons, and the host is, well . . . dead. So whodunnit? Join the iconic oddballs known as Scarlet, Plum, White, Green, Peacock, and Mustard as they race to find the murderer in Boddy Manor before the body count stacks up. Based on the cult classic film and the popular board game, Clue is a madcap comedy that will keep you guessing until the final twist.

Bookings for *Clue: On Stage* are now open at

ilt.org.au or VIC 3281 0555

for the season 18 September to 5 October

Young Theatricals

As far as the actors taking part in the YT's latest production are concerned, it's all Greek to them as they prepare for their up-coming production of *Antigone 3021*.

On Sunday 2 June, the cast and crew of *Stepping Out* bumped out and stepped out, allowing the YTs to step in and bump in. A few modifications to the previous set, and the Theatre became their "home" for the next few weeks. The youngsters are thrilled to be acting on "the big stage".



A publicity poster for *Antigone 3021*.

It's the year 3021 and Thebes has just been through a bloody civil war. Chancellor Creah has decreed that anyone who buries the body of the traitor Polyneices will face death, but Antigone is determined to bury her brother, no matter the penalty. She brazenly breaks Creah's law and broadcasts her crime on the public cloud. Now Creah must decide if she will bend to the will of the people or punish Antigone for her crime.

This interpretation of the ancient Greek tale set in a futuristic context will intrigue the audiences.

Bookings are now open at

ilt.org.au or VIC 3281 0555

for the season 19, 20, 26, 27 July at 7:30 pm and

Sunday 21 July at 2 pm

Stepping Up

The cast of *Stepping Out* had an especially ‘fun time’ when the leading lady was too ill to attend the performances on the final Thursday and Friday nights. This of course sent everyone into a mad panic on how to keep the show going. Kim and Tracey decided that as Kim does not really dance, Tracey would take the dancing part of the role while, as Kim fitted the costume, she was prepared to jump in and do what she could as Mavis in the speaking part. So they each grabbed a pair of fishnets, donned their wigs – Tracey added a few extra lines/moves to ‘discreetly’ cover the personnel changes – and off they went!

Those who saw Kim’s performance would agree that she is indeed a talent to behold. Some of the patrons claimed they were barely aware that the players had ‘swapped out’ their leading lady.

There was also some additional ‘fun’ on the Friday night when a patron suffered a medical episode and needed an ambulance. The show was stopped while the patron was attended to and the cast resumed, apparently unperturbed, although Dylan (lights) was a bit taken aback, as the instruction “Stop the Show” was new to him.

P.S. The patron made a full recovery.

Curtains for the Curtains

Over recent times, mysterious stains had developed on the front stage curtains in the Incinerator. We called in the experts *Behind the Scenes*, the firm who had installed the curtain 12 years ago. The verdict was MOULD no doubt brought on by a season of rain and high humidity.

So what was to be done? The option of dry cleaning was obviously going to be expensive and not guaranteed to restore the curtains to their original glory. So we commissioned *Behind the Scenes* to supply and install new ones.

Fortunately, neither *Stepping Out* or *Antigone* required a front curtain so we have postponed the installation to just in time for the Festival. This will give us the opportunity to clean all the black drapes in the stage area (recommended method—beat the hell out of them!) and generally refresh the entire stage area.

This work will be scheduled for inclusion in the Pre-Festival Working Bee (page 1). So it really is important that there is a good roll up of workers.

Festival 2024

Once again our Festival will be held on the second weekend in August in the Incinerator. Don’t forget to make your bookings which will open after entries close on 30 June.

There will be a session of Ten Minute Plays on the Friday night. The Youth Section will be held during the day on Saturday, while the Open Section (depending on entries) will be held on Saturday night, Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon. The performance sessions will be rounded out by a Shakespeare Short segment, now popular in schools.

And, of course, the usual fabulous Festival Barbecue will



Adjudicator Talisa Pariss-Proby,

Vale Vicki Milsom

1964 – 2024

Sadly, we report the recent death of Vicki Milsom who was a member of S-Troupe from the very beginning until it was wound up. Vicki loved performing and those of us who have been regular attendees at S-Troupe shows will remember her in so many roles. One that has stuck in my memory is when she played in a Cinderella play and emphatically delivered the line, “I **am** the Prince!”

We will install a memorial plaque for Vicki.



Junior Theatre

The Junior Theatre production of *Wishes* will be presented on 27 July when there will be two presentations in the Jean Pratt Building: at 10 am and 12.30 pm.

More information later.

Plays for 2025

Applications are open until the end of June for budding directors to submit offers of productions they would like to undertake in 2025. These can be made to Selection Committee Convener Ann Collyer.

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

19, 20, 26, 27 July at 7:30 pm	Young Theatricals <i>Antigone 3021</i>
21 July (Matinee) at 2 pm	
27 July 10 am & .12.30 pm	Junior Theatre <i>Wishes!</i>
9, 10, 11 August	Drama Festival
29 July at 7:30 pm	Auditions for <i>Bondi Legal</i>

Stepping In

The story of the cast substitution in *Stepping Out* (page 3) reminded me of my own experience. Back in 1990, one hour before curtain up in my Music Hall Theatre Restaurant, the 18-year old ingenue rang in sick, unable to perform that night. We examined all the options (of which there were none) and I went on, complete with negligee, lipstick – and beard! Not quite as attractive as Kim. But it was Theatre Restaurant.

But that's not the end of the story. Two years before in 1988, my script called for Col Paterson to become so drunk that I (Stage Manager) had to take over his part. In 1989, Clive Lowe got laryngitis, so I (very easily) filled in for him. So it was very difficult to convince the members of Rotary who had been in the audience on all three occasions that my appearance in drag was not pre-scripted!

2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

President	Jim Orr	0402 377 258
Vice President & Selection Committee Con-	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