

≡ *Burning News* from the Incinerator Theatre

May 2024

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

Editor:

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NEXT ILT COMMITTEE MEETING

7pm
Tuesday 11 June

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Wine and Cheese Night on
Friday 17 May

Our foot-tapping production *Stepping Out*, directed by Tracey Spence with Assistant Director Kim Frohloff opens on Wednesday 15 May and the cast, many of whom are new to Ipswich Little Theatre, are excited as well as gearing themselves up for potential stage fright.

There are still some limited bookings available at
ilt.org.au or VIC 3281 0555

This is a warm-hearted comedy about the attempts of some working-class amateurs to overcome their inhibitions and left feet in a low-rent dance studio in North London.

A special feature of this season is that Friday Nights are come along in '80s gear. There will be a prize for the best outfit each night.



Auditions

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?

But at this stage, you have only been invited to help stage this puzzle for the audience – not to mention the characters – by coming along to

auditions on Monday 27 May at 7.30pm in the Jean Pratt Building.

Directed by Tony Erhardt with Assistant Directors Jo Robbins and Dave Dunkerley, this play will be presented from 18 September to 5 October.

Parts are available for all the familiar Board Game characters – five women and five men.

For more information please see the website ilt.org.au

or email or text Tony on

tony.erhardt@gmail.com or 0408 058 706.

Front of House

Wonderful news! The Front of House roster for *Stepping Out* has been filled! Many thanks to all the volunteers and to Robyn Flashman who recruited them.

There will many more opportunities in the future.



I read a book about anti-gravity. I couldn't put it down.



From the President

I am constantly amazed, even after all of these years on the Executive and as President, at how much is happening every day at the theatre. Whether it is rehearsals for the Main House (YT's, Juniors, Daytimers), repairs to doors, lights, dishwashers!!!! etc (Ian, Chris & Ron), cleaning, inspections of electrical systems, payment of invoices (Chris), responses to emails and questions (Helen, Shane & sub-group leaders), building and painting of sets, moving seating and gardening (Chris), refilling bar/catering stock (Connie and Ann). The list is endless and it all happens with minimal fuss or complaint – efficiently and promptly.

We all owe a vote of thanks to all of the above for their generous and consistently careful attention to not only the event/job, but doing it willingly and cheerfully. We are an amazing group of talented people and, we should always be proud to be members of Ipswich Little Theatre.

Jim

Young Theatricals



David Austin

On Sunday 5 May some of our YT's leaders, students, members, and parents came to the theatre for a massive sewing bee to help get a majority of our costumes for *Antigone 3021* created.

The students are having a ball and so will you when you come to see it on 19, 20, 26, 27 July.



The costumiers

Daytime Theatre Troupe

Our Daytime Theatre Troupe are busy rehearsing for their production *Picnic in the Woods*. A variety of bears, two rabbits, Little Red Riding Hood and a friendly not-so-big-and-not-so-bad wolf are preparing some marvelous things to eat and wonderful games to play. But where are all the picnic baskets vanishing to? Come along to join in the fun. This is another wonderful creation by Jane Sheppard who, along with Margaret Martin, is the Director of the show.

Group booking for schools and kindies are open for performances June 11-20 at daytimetheatretroupebookings@ilt.org.au or phone Chic 0409725315.

On-line bookings for the 10am matinee on Saturday June 15 are now available on our website – www.ilt.org.au



Cleo Smith as Paddington and Kate Hoepner as Red Riding Hood



Kerri Jones painting the magnificent set which will be used for both the Daytimers and Juniors productions



Cynthia Graham as Puff and Robyn Harm as Peter Rabbit

Remembering Shirlee Burns

On Saturday 27 April, a celebration of Shirlee's life was held at the Incinerator Theatre. The event was hosted by Shirlee's two daughters, Vicki Dwyer and Deanne Burns-Tuggle (who lives in USA) and was attended by ILT members who remembered Shirlee and Geoff, family members and many people who had taught with or been taught by Shirlee. Unfortunately 93-year old Geoff was unable to join the crowd. As is usual at events such as this, although we had known and worked with Shirlee for many years, we learned much more about her career and life well lived.

To complete the celebration, the sisters (Deanne and Vicki pictured) laid a memorial plaque alongside those of other valued members who have 'left the stage'.



An Interesting Visitor

We were contacted recently by a member of the Burley Griffin Society who requested a tour of the Incinerator. I was able to oblige, and spent a very enjoyable hour with Michael Thomson, from Sydney. Apart from being a retired Fine Arts teacher, Michael knows an awful lot about the Griffins and has written extensively about them (including a contribution to an American book which will have a price tag of US\$250 plus postage).



Michael expects to be back in Queensland later in the year and it appears likely that we will be able to arrange for him to entertain us with a PowerPoint Griffin Story. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

He also made a generous donation to us, even though I assured him that we are always happy to show off the building of which we are so proud.

Changed Times

An item in the February 1994 ILT Newsletter was:

AUDITIONS FOR OUR SECOND SEASON

Jane Sheppard will be directing our second play for 1994 which runs from the 18th May to 4th of June. Auditions will take place on Monday, 14th February at 7.30 p.m. The actual play has not been confirmed yet, but if you ring Jane on (074) 64-5363 she will have further information by the time this newsletter has come out.

Haven't times and our practices changed? In today's world, we certainly know well in advance what the programme for the entire year will be. And even the phone numbers have changed (for those few people who still use a landline).

And thirty more years of the development of technology now result in more colourful and picturesque Newsletters (now 12 per year but only five in 1994)

For the record, the play Jane chose was *Daylight Saving*. Obviously it was successfully cast!

Festival 2024

Entries are coming in slowly but rest assured there will be plenty of reminders. If you are considering entering -here is the link...www.ilt.org.au/festival-entry-2024

Emails have also gone out to potential donors seeking donations. No donation is too small. If you would like to contribute, here is the link..www.ilt.org.au/sponsor-the-2024-one-act-play-festival

Other Festivals

The cast of *Ashes to Ashes* 10 minute play from the recent *Ageing Disgracefully* season have not packed up yet and intend to enter the Murrumba, Beenleigh, Ipswich and King Street Players Festival. If you didn't get to see them perform in Ipswich, you may like to attend one of the other festivals coming soon. *Say Something Happened* will also be entered in our own Festival We wish them well in their travels.

Junior Theatre

The Junior Theatre production of *Wishes* has been postponed to 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

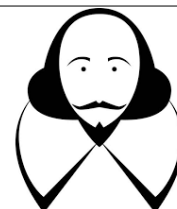
DIARY DATES

27 May 7:30 pm	Auditions <i>Clue: on Stage</i>
10 June to 21 June (booked sessions)	Daytime Theatre Troupe <i>Picnic in the Woods</i>
15 June 10 am Matinee performance	
19, 20, 26, 27 July	Young Theatricals <i>Antigone 3021</i>
27 July 10 am & .12.30 pm	Junior Theatre <i>Wishes!</i>
9, 10, 11 August	Drama Festival

Shakespeare

Did you watch the wonderful *Shakespeare: Rise of a Genius* on the ABC recently? (It is probably still available on iview.)

When Shakespeare first went to London as a 23 year old, he started in the Rose Theatre as the lowest of the low. One of his jobs was to collect the entrance money – 1 penny (less than 1 cent) to stand, another penny to have a seat and another to have a cushion (and we thought our prices were cheap!). The coins were dropped into a locked box through a slot. The box was then taken to the Box Office for security – a term still in use today.



Said Hamlet to Ophelia.
"I'll do a sketch of thee.
What kind of pencil will I use –
2B or not 2B?"
- Spike Milligan

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