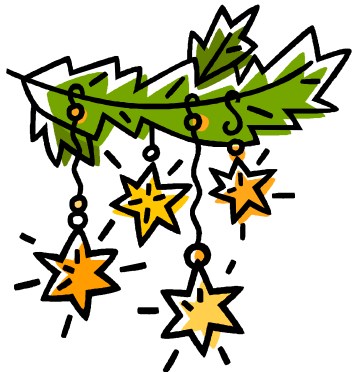


# Burning News from the Ipswich Incinerator

The **CHRISTMAS** 2005 newsletter of Ipswich Little Theatre



## Annual General Meeting Election of Officers

The following members were voted into positions of responsibility for 2006. All members should be appreciative of the work that these members have undertaken which will ensure that our wonderful theatre remains viable and active for another year. Please make every effort to support them and to assist when possible.

*President Wilson in Paris*  
Successful Audition

The first play for ILT's 2006 season, a comedy thriller, *President Wilson in Paris*, is now in rehearsal with the following cast:

- ★ *Pres Wilson:*  
Callum Campbell
- ★ *Edith Wilson:*  
Majella Gee
- ★ *House:*  
Lee Gerchow

The Director is Suzanne Matulich and Assistant to the Director is Lorraine Kitching. The season runs from 22 February – 11 March 2006. A few social nights are still available for booking – phone Robyn on 3812 3450

Position	Person/s Elected	Position	Person/s Elected
President	Judy Grant	Lighting/Sound Convenor	Phil Holmes
Vice President	Pam Floris	Newsletter Editor	Suzanne Matulich
Secretary	Helen Pullar	Programme Co-ordinator	Dianne Adams
Treasurer	Pauline Brayford	Selection Panel members	Dianne Adams Alan Brown Desley Cronon Patti Pratt Relle Scott
Assistant Secretary	Robyn Flashman	S-Troupe Director	Di Johnston
Business Manager Co-ordinator	Desley Cronon	Subscription Secretary	Jim Orr
Crossfyre Young Theatricals Director	Suzanne Matulich	Theatre Activities Co-ordinator	Suzanne Matulich
Daytime Theatre Troupe Convenor	Kay McAllan	Wardrobe	Kay McAllan
Festival Director	Suzanne Matulich	Wardrobe Assistants	Pauline Brayford Di Johnston
Junior Theatre Director (SmartArts)	Liz Boekholt	Properties Manager	Alan Brown
Librarians	Patti Pratt Jan Paterson		

Question: What's red and white and gives presents to good little fish on Christmas?



Answer: Sandy Claws.

Congratulations to all those members!

## Ipswich One Act Play Festival 2006

If you are interested in being involved in the 2006 One Act Play Festival to be held in August, you are encouraged to come along to the first sub-committee meeting on **Sunday 29 January at 3 pm** in the Jean Pratt Building.

We need to be able to put together the time frame for the festival planning and it is vital that all members who have indicated that they can undertake a festival responsibility do attend that meeting.

So, we need caterers, a front of house organiser, the adjudicator's right hand person, lighting and sound, group liaison, publicity, backstage helpers, decorators, first aid people – you name it! It takes a strong team to run a successful festival and we want YOU as part of that team.

As an incentive – fresh coffee, tea and cakes will be supplied.

If you really can't make it to that meeting, let Festival Director, Suzanne, know of your interest in being involved – 3281 4748.



*A lovely image of past  
ILT Festival winners.  
Do you recognise any of the  
actors?*

## POSITIONS VACANT

Now that we have your attention ... all those members who are feeling bad because they don't actually have a job in theatre, don't despair. We have a few choice positions saved just for you.

1. **Business Managers** for the 2006 plays. Desley Cronon has accepted the position of Co-ordinator of Business Managers and she will be a wonderful resource person and advisor for those of you who are taking on one of these jobs for the first time. Basically you are responsible for making sure that front of house and the kitchen etc are all ready for the play each night and that tickets have been collected from the Box Office. You are also responsible for managing the workers who have volunteered to assist you each night. Of urgent need is a Business Manager for the first play for 2006 *President Wilson in Paris* 22 February - 11 March. If you can help out for this or any other play next year, please contact Desley on 3288 8754
2. **Publicity** ILT would really appreciate assistance with any area of publicity. In 2005 the job was shared between a few members and they worked very hard to promote and advertise our activities, however, if you have any abilities in this field it would help to lighten the load on these members.

Unfortunately these are both unpaid positions but they are extremely rewarding in the long run as they give you that warm and fuzzy feeling of being a vital part of the successful team at Ipswich Little Theatre. You also get to meet lots of ILT members and make new friends.

*If you can help out at all please contact our secretary Helen on 3281 4437*

## Ipswich Little Theatre Membership

ALL members are reminded that membership of ILT is current only to 31 December each year. That means of course, that, unless you have been honoured with Life Membership, your fee is due on 1 January 2006.

For only \$25 you become a member of ILT, receive Burning News each month and are eligible for discounted tickets to all main house plays at the Incinerator Theatre for 2006.

Everyone who is involved with ILT in any way must be a financial member, not only to support the theatre but to be covered by our insurance policy.

A membership form is included with this newsletter (if posted to you) or is downloadable from our website [www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au](http://www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au) There are different forms for New and Renewing Members – make sure that you choose the right one.

Thanks for supporting our theatre for another fun year of plays, theatre activity nights and for our 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations – more to come on this project in the January newsletter.

## Annual General Meeting: 2005 ILT: Selection Committee Report

I believe that ILTs Selection Committee worked together well with directors to bring to the public of Ipswich and beyond, a well balanced, interesting and varied 2005 season. It has given plenty of opportunity for new thespian talents to be unearthed in all areas, from acting to directing, from playwriting to back stage and technical skills. This key business of the theatre is what makes us continue to be the progressive and successful theatrical society that we are.

*In review, we started the year with the full length version of the extremely successful "The Extraordinary Revelations of Orca the Gold Fish" when the same team reunited to show us "The Secret Lives of Henry and Alice." Presented as a theatre supper evening, the play and the event was very popular and sold very quickly to our comedy loving audiences. It was great to be given the opportunity to revisit these lovable characters of Henry and Alice, and to share in their daydreams one more time.*

In March, we were able to laugh again, as we watched the "tooings and oohings" of Frank, as he tried to figure out love life and living crises in "*Bedding Roses*" (director Doug Moses.) Highlights of this season included the discovery of Jim Orr's co-directorial talents (a fact that Ipswich Musical Society cleverly and quickly capitalized upon), the acting talents of Shane Mallory, who since tasting the limelight as Frank has scarcely been off of the ILT boards and the revelation that Tony Erhardt looks amazing in drag! An added bonus was the chance to have the playwright, Ian Kennedy Williams come and join us for the production and to tell us it was the best production of it that he had seen.

*"Missing Pieces" in April/May was the title of our One Act Play Season. This time the work of a local playwright was featured, in Kevin Hallewell's "Background Music". The successful run of this play saw it then entered into One Act Play Festivals later in the year, along with another original script by Alison Cooper titled "Hunter To Trader." We consider it a very important part of our contribution to cultural capital, to encourage these talents to be showcased. The other "Missing Pieces" were a trilogy of humorous plays all directed by the inspirationally talented, Robyn Flashman. A fun programme it was!*

Then in June, we were bold enough to push the boundaries of societal taboos and thematic lines in the sand. What good, after all, is a creative society if it stays always within the boundaries of the safe, sane and sanitized? And rewardingly so, "*Wolf Lullaby*" was a triumph! Suzanne Matulich's direction, and Liz Boekholt's assistant direction, teamed with Phil Holmes lighting and sound were all impeccable. Yes there were some audience members who recoiled at the unfavorable subject matter of a child murderer, but those same audience members could not fail to delight in the performances of the young cast. We will see more of Kelsie, Jean, Ryan and Majella in the future I am sure, and the various awards received by this production in the One Act Play Festivals during the year is further testimony to its quality and importance.

*If "Wolf Lullaby" was a chance for new talent to cut their dramatic teeth, July's offering of Alma De Groen's "Wicked Sisters" was a chance for 4 experienced female actors to sink theirs into 4 very meaty (or rather fishy if the smoked salmon is to be acknowledged) roles. It's difficult for me as the director to be totally objective about this play and about the wonderful cast of Pam, Rose, Di and Cheryl and the busiest stage manager/assistant director in Ipswich this year, Moo Park. The script was indeed wicked, throwing out the difficulty of maintaining interest and movement in a script that had no scene change and was so dialogue dense. But working with the talents of these fine actors in creating their unique characters, I feel we were able to present an engrossing story on a visually interesting set and hope that many of you agree.*

Early in the Year, a group of us had the opportunity to meet David Williamson at the Queensland premiere of "*Amigos*". At that time, when informed of our October season, he wished us well for Lee Gerchow's production of Williamson's similarly themed "*Money and Friends*." The well wishes (despite an early hiccup which saw large scale cast changes occurring) were obviously well placed. The season was extremely successful and popular. It was extended to a four week run, which caused rehearsal time to be protracted by one week. This meant that the eventual cast and crew really had to work very hard in a much shorter time frame than originally planned to produce the play. It is a credit to all involved that such a professional standard of production was the result. Our audiences enjoyed the interrelationships of the large cast of recognizable Australian characters, the fresh and vibrant colours of the effective set and commented favorably on the talents of the director as a landscape artist as well as an accomplished dramaturge. The acting credits of the cast attests to the fact that ILT has the capacity to draw keen participants from theatrical circles beyond the immediate Ipswich area. This must be seen as a further positive aspect of our varied and high quality programme.

*Finally, as befits a successful year of theatre, we are finishing off with the chance to kick up our heels and celebrate with a final, fun-filled Theatre Restaurant.*

Relle's report continued on back page

## 2005 Selection Committee Report continued from page 3



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3281 4748

check out the Ipswich Little  
Theatre website:  
[www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au](http://www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au)

If you are a member of another  
social group why not consider  
taking a full or half theatre  
booking in 2006 as way of  
supporting ILT and raising funds  
for the other group?  
Contact Robyn Flashman for  
details 3812 3450

The full ILT program for 2006  
will be in the January edition  
of Burning News.

### WANTED

Does anyone have costumes that  
would suit Majella for her role as  
Edith Wilson in *President Wilson in  
Paris*?

We are looking for clothes suitable  
for 1919 era – not flapper dresses  
but the more demure beaded, drop  
waisted clothes, preferable with  
sleeves.

If you know where they can be  
borrowed from please let Suzanne  
know [3281 4748](tel:32814748).

FIRST ILT meeting  
for 2006  
Tuesday 10 January  
7.30 pm

Gavin Turner took on the gargantuan task of making his directorial debut for "Highland Fling" and all that that entails, eg the direction of the play with the largest cast of the year, the organization of the caterers, the organization of the people to help behind the scenes and extras such a bag-pipe player on the hill, the dismantling of the tiered seating and decoration of the auditorium as a dining room, the re-organisation of cast and provision of under-study preparation when the need has arisen etc etc etc. Through all of this, Gavin has remained positive, cheerful and supportive. There is no doubt this attitude has been transferred to the cast, who are just simply having a ball, pitching in to help and encourage everyone and making sure that our audiences again, leave here with that happy Christmas feeling. It's a great end to the year: thanks Gav and the whole clan! Hoots Mon!!

Looking ahead to 2006, the program we have in place should continue to provide many opportunities for skills development, fun and success. Special mention of the fact that we celebrate 60 years of the ILT Society next year must be made. To mark the milestone, one part of the approved program for next year is our "Shakespeare Unleashed" season to be celebrated in May. This event is based on the vision that members from all of our constituent groups might become actively involved. Please keep your eyes and ears open and do get involved in some way.

It has been a pleasure to be Selection Committee convener this year. Thank you for your support and for all of your combined talents and contributions.

'Relle Scott Selection Committee Convener (2005)

\* \* \* \* \*

### POETRY NEWS...

Expressions of Interest are now open for Queensland Poetry Festival 2006:  
*spoken in one strange word*

2006 marks the 10th anniversary of The Queensland Poetry Festival, so it is bound to be a huge year. Expressions of Interest are now being sought for the festival so if you want to be a part of the 10th anniversary celebrations download a form at [www.queenslandpoetryfestival.com](http://www.queenslandpoetryfestival.com) or [www.qpf2006.net](http://www.qpf2006.net) (please note a change in the website) and send them your proposal!

\* \* \* \* \*

### Vale: Ted Kelleher

Many ILT members will remember Ted Kelleher. He was born in Ipswich and spent his whole life here, a passionate advocate for the city. Renowned for his beautiful singing voice and his gentlemanly manners, he was a true Ipswich icon often seen walking around the suburbs, up to 15 kms each day.. He was a life member of the Cambrian Choir. Ted was born in 1929 and died in November this year after a long debilitating illness.

### MORE CHRISTMAS HUMOUR TO FINISH THE YEAR.....

Did you hear about the Beverly Hills school Christmas pageant? Two kids are dressed as Mary and Joseph and they are on their way to the inn in Bethlehem. On the other side of the stage, a boy in a shepherd's outfit is on a mobile phone, calling ahead for reservations.

Question: Why was Santa's little helper depressed?  
Because he had low elf esteem.

Question: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?  
Answer: Snowflakes.



**THANKS!**

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