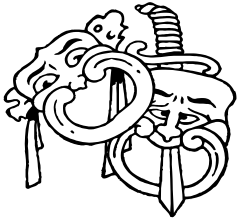




# Burning News from the Ipswich Incinerator

The MARCH 2005 newsletter of Ipswich Little Theatre



Without art, the crudeness of reality would make the world unbearable.

George Bernard Shaw

## Missing Pieces

It is hard to believe that our third production for the year is close to the final rehearsal stage. We've seen *The Secret Lives of Henry and Alice* and *Bedding Roses* has its last performance on Saturday 19 March. So, now we are ready to book for *Missing Pieces* – a season of One Act Plays.

Bookings open at the Visitor Information Centre at the top end of Queens Park on Sunday 20 March. There are only four public nights for this season 29/30 April and 6/7 June and, with a large cast in total there will be a great demand for tickets from relatives and friends. So don't leave it too late to book the night of your choice. Don't forget to use your ILT membership card to receive your special member's discount – only \$12 a ticket for top quality productions in our beautiful air conditioned heritage listed Incinerator Theatre.

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### Coup for the Cast and Crew of Bedding Roses



#### REMEMBER:

*When you go into court you are putting yourself in the hands of 12 people that weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.*

Cast and crew of *Bedding Roses* with scriptwriter Ian Kennedy Williams second left in the back row, on the set after the performance on Saturday 11 March.  
Back row: Doug, IKW, Pam, Melinda, Shane, Jim  
Front row: Barbara, Tony, Rebecca

**S-Troupe - director Di Johnston**

The last few weeks have been spent learning some new skills ie table setting, serving, drinks orders etc in readiness for the S Troupe Theatre Restaurant later in the year. Whilst these skills might not necessarily come under the banner of 'drama', they will certainly be required on the night. This will be a very challenging show for everyone. Does anyone have contacts for obtaining flags from other countries? Maybe a 'cheap shop' that sells them? Also needed is a vehicle/truck for the Ipswich Festival Parade on 9 April.

Di has a new mobile phone number 0407 074 752 for those who need that information.

**Crossfyre Young Theatricals - director Suzanne Matulich**

Crossfyre has now closed its membership until second semester and has 16 students. They are all keen and eagerly suggesting ideas for the mid year performance Circus of Dreams.

**SmartArts - Junior Theatre - directors Cheryl Klaassen & Liz Boekholt**

The SmartArts group is now 24 students with a waiting list. Non attendance of some members a problem so I am contacting those who have missed classes for confirmation of places.

Membership and tuition fees are trickling in.

Liz Boekholt Co-Director Junior Theatre

**Librarians - Relle Scott and Patti Pratt**

The application form for the rights to perform *Visiting Hour* has been received. It costs \$115.00 per performance for 12 performances, a total royalty cost of \$1380 .00 for the season.

On 18 February, a group of ILT members went to the opening night of *Amigos* at La Boite and were able to meet the cast and David Williamson at the reception party afterwards. A copy of the play was purchased for ILT (\$20) and the big man to signed it for us so that too has been added to the ILT library. It's a great play and it would be certainly appropriate for our stage and audiences. The signature is this librarian's gift to the library of ILT. Relle.

**Lighting & Sound - Phil Holmes**

Phil has advised that the headsets are again an issue with parts no longer available. He is investigating prices for replacement of same.

**Theatre Activity Nights - APRIL - 'EXPLORING ONE ACT PLAYS'**

Do come along for another fun night on 5 April - it will be an investigation of what a one act play is - as opposed to an excerpt from a full length play or a short skit. Just as a novel is different from a short story, so there are differences in the form of plays. Playwright Mal Andersen will be with us to talk about this and to offer two contrasting one act plays that he has written for an unrehearsed play reading. It is always interesting to hear about plays 'from the horse's mouth' as it were. No offence to Mal, of course! Some of you may know Mal from the days when he taught at Bremer High School.

Don't forget the Theatre Activity Nights are free and a great way to learn more about theatre, be involved in an activity and make new friends or catch up with old ones over supper. Everyone is welcome - why don't you bring along a friend who is not a member of ILT?

**Subscription Secretary - Jim Orr**

If any current member knows of a member from last year who is not receiving the newsletter then that is because they have not renewed their membership for 2005. We know that it is tough but as you are all financial members we are sure that you understand that they should not receive the benefits without paying their annual membership. Maybe you could suggest that they renew their membership (only \$25) to make sure that they get the full value from their year's subscription.

**Note from our President**

At the March Admin meeting, Pam drew members' attention to the fact that next year is our 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Can each of you think about suitable celebrations that we can organise to mark this auspicious occasion? Any admin committee member would be delighted to bring your suggestions to the next meeting.

## Theatre on the Nose

Whether it's the smell of coffee or of napalm that gets you going in the morning, there's no doubt that scent is one of the great unacknowledged animating forces in life. Exactly why the olfactory sense is overlooked, especially in the arts, is hard to say. The difficulty surely has to do with the fact we have no reliable ways of recording and reproducing smells. A painting has preordained structure: colour, tone and shape. So does a piece of music, in the form of time and sonic frequencies.

Three London-based performers, Helen Paris and Leslie Hill (who make up the duo Curious) along with Lois Weaver, use smells as the central ingredient in a set of quietly provocative performances relating to the idea of homesickness.

The three have taken the performance, called *On the Scent*, across the world. At each location they take over a house with a kitchen, living room and bedroom, and invite tiny audiences of four into their intimate world. Last weekend, in Sydney, the location was a cosy house under the flight path in Tempe.

Smell, they acknowledge, is intimately connected to memory and hence to everything about where we come from -- our homes as well as our most profound, formative experiences. As such, it has the capacity to prompt feelings of primal wellbeing, but also sensations of sickness, loss and fear.

In the process of exploring the madness prompted by a past romance, Weaver uses perfume and scented chocolates. Hill, whose parents are from New Mexico, the home of the atom bomb, delves into what might be called "olfactory politics" by using powdered chilli, cigarette smoke, popcorn, frying pork and tequila slammers to conjure the nostalgia and the fear prompted by her southwestern US roots.

Paris lures her audience into an intimate sickroom drenched in the pungent and depressing odours of Dettol and VapoRub.

"It's an incredibly powerful sense," Paris says. "You think it's the one you could probably do without, but actually it's the one most connected with your sense of safety. And also sexual attraction. It's actually the first one of your senses that you have in the womb."

At the end of the performance, audience members are asked to talk about any smell that has strong associations for them.

The results have been fascinating. As well as observing striking differences across countries and cultures, Paris, Hill and Weaver have been surprised by the number of common threads. Time and again, audience members recall childhood smells associated with their grandparents: "It's the familiar smell that's nonetheless different from their own house," Paris surmises.

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### Vale Arthur Miller

*The Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Arthur Miller died on 10 February of heart failure at home in Roxbury, Connecticut.*

*Miller's most famous character was Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman*, for which he won a Pulitzer in 1949 at age 33.*

*He also wrote *All My Sons* and *The Crucible*. For five years, between 1956 and 1962, he was married to movie star Marilyn Monroe. He was 89.*

## Selection Committee News

1. Auditions were held on Monday 7 March for *Wolf Lullaby* and *Hunter to Trader*. 22 auditionees were in attendance including 6 newcomers to the theatre. All parts have been cast and two new young male actors have come into our ranks. The cast members are:

### *WOLF LULLABY*

LIZZIE: Kelsie McDonald.  
ANGELA: Jean Goodwin.  
WARREN: Ryan Tucker.  
RAY: Tony Erhardt.

### *HUNTER TO TRADER*

RUSSELL: Tony Beasley.  
HUNTER: Michael Athan.  
CHRISTINE: Catherine Taylor.  
ALEX: Barbara Marschke.

2. Also - there have been some changes to the cast of *Magic* and *Plaster* which are two of the plays from *Visiting Hour*. The cast lists are now:

### *MAGIC*

MAY : Jo Matulich  
ARTHUR : Geoff Burns  
SANDRA : Lee Abel  
BRENDA : Janelle Carsen  
JOAN : Judy Grant  
RON : Alan Brown.

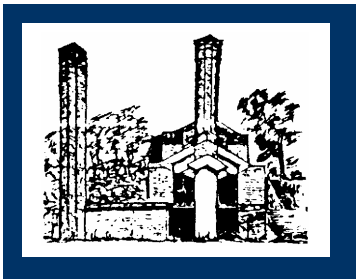
### *PLASTER*

ERIC : Ian Pullar  
HELEN : Susan Glosko

3. Expressions of interest have been received by word of mouth from three directors for next year's program already.

This is a good thing as it will enable Selection committee to start the reading process for next year very early in the year.

If there are any other directors in this category please let Relle or other members of Selection committee know and your intended play will be added to the reading and reviewing list.



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OUR WEBSITE IS READY!  
Check out  
[www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au](http://www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au)

### ILT Actor Hits the Big Time!

For those of you who have worked with young actor David Robinson (Butterflies are Free) here is an interesting item. David is currently doing movie reviews on the Sunrise Show on Channel 7.



Image from *Clown Verona*  
Queens Park, Toowoomba  
Saturday 5 March 2005

Next ILT meeting  
for 2005  
Tuesday 12 April  
7.30 pm

## A Proliferation of Playwrights!

This may not be the accepted collective term for such doyens of dramaturgy, however, this last month has been one in which playwrights have been as much the topic of conversation at ILT, as have their plays.

For the **Opening Act**, the ILT members who took up the offer to subscribe to the La Boite Season of Opening Night performances (as advertised in *Burning News* 2004), enjoyed the Queensland Premiere of *Amigos* by David Williamson. The cast of Robert Coleby, Steven Tandy, Sally McKenzie, Eugene Gilfedder and Ling-Hsueh Tang under the direction of Sean Mee were very successful in bringing to life the story of three friends who had shared a moment of Olympic glory in their youth.

The staging of the production was ingenious, making excellent use of limited space, food for thought for ILT productions! We also had the opportunity to meet the actors, director and the playwright at the function after the performance. Mr. Williamson was pleased to hear of the success ILT had in staging his play *After the Ball* (2002) which he described as one of his favourites and was interested to learn that we will be producing *Money and Friends* in October of this year. (Lee Gerchow, director in both instances). The invitation extended to him to attend the production was met with sincere appreciation. We have a signed copy of the script of *Amigos* as a memento of the night. In a future season, this entertaining play may well be part of our repertoire.

In **Act 2**, local playwright Kevin Hallowell has been working hard in rehearsal with his play *Background Music* in preparation for our One Act Play Season which opens in April. Be sure not to miss this excellent display of local talent! **Act 3** saw the work of another local playwright, Alison J. Cooper, being cast at the auditions held at ILT on 7 March. It is very exciting to have a play written by one of our own members now in rehearsal to represent us in the 2005 One Act Play Festival Circuit. Watch for future editions of *Burning News* to find where and when you can go to support Alison and the cast of *Hunter to Trader* as they take S E Queensland by storm.

In **Act 4**, the world's best known playwright has been remembered this month as ILT members travelled to Toowoomba to view the offerings of the University of Southern Queensland's Shakespeare Festival. The outdoor venue at Queen's Park was delightful, with imposing camphor laurel trees providing a natural backdrop to productions of *The Taming of the Shrew*, an energetic 2 ½ hour tour-de-force re-telling of *Romeo and Juliet* entitled *Clown Verona* and a cabaret style tribute to the maligned group of female characters created by The Bard in *Shakespeare's Women*. This inspirational event left those of us who attended in no doubt that the beautiful grounds of ILT really must be considered as a performance space for a Shakespearean tribute in the not too distant future!

For the **final Act**, on Saturday 12 March, the cast, crew and audience in attendance at *Bedding Roses* met the playwright, as he came to watch our production. Ian Kennedy Williams and his family members were delighted with the interpretation of the play, the talents and very appropriate casting of the ensemble and expressed their admiration of our unique Incinerator Theatre. They are keen to come back again to see future productions, despite having to travel from the Gold Coast to attend.

All of that in just one month at ILT!! Gosh! There's so much material there .... You could almost write a play about it!!!!

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