



# Burning News

from the Ipswich Incinerator Theatre

[www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au](http://www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au)

FEBRUARY 2008

Ipswich Little Theatre Newsletter

→ DON'T FORGET!

All annual membership fees are due on 1 January each year unless you are a life member of Ipswich Little Theatre.

If you haven't renewed your membership this year then this is the last newsletter that you will receive.

Think of all the important information about plays, auditions and social nights that you could miss!

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**WORKING BEE**  
We need you!

See this page for all the details

## Building Committee News



*It is unusual for the Building Committee report to take centre stage on the front page of our newsletter. However your editor feels that this is some of the most important news that ILT members will hear this year.*

*Do read all about the physical changes, upgrades and improvements to our theatre and, most importantly how you can join in.*

Work at the Theatre has continued throughout February with the drive project finally completed by Ipswich City Council.

This developed into a major project with a total re-laying of the drive, new concrete paths, amazing drainage and re-turfing. Constant rain frustrated progress and Jane, Melinda and the cast and crew of *This Way Up* showed infinite patience as they negotiated their way into the grounds for rehearsals.

Also installed are: new compliant rails along the balcony, tanks and pump outside the Jean Pratt and a new concrete access path to the rear of that building, again thanks to the ICC.

Phil and his team have reconfigured the new seating and Jim is restocking his refurbished bar and Alan has been working on the gardens.

### How you can help .....

Now it is everyone's turn to give a little of their time to our most valuable asset – the Incinerator complex.

Prior to the opening of the first play for 2008 on 27 February, there is much tidying, cleaning and painting to be done.

The new rails – and there are lots of them – are unpainted, the theatre doors are very shabby; outside furniture needs re-coating; the new platforms need trims painted. The list is dauntingly endless.

We could pay someone to do these tasks and significantly eat into the fund that we are putting aside for the major refurbishment of the Jean Pratt Building, or we could rely on the goodwill of members who will appreciate the opportunity to give just a little of their time in acknowledgement of all these improvements.

## Working Bee Planned Sunday 24 February from 10am.

There will be a lunchtime sausage sizzle and a great deal of fun as well as work.

When, nearly 40 years ago we were converting the building to a theatre, working bees were enthusiastically attended and were great social occasions.

We have probably become a little complacent. It is quite a long time now since we have asked for this sort of help from our members. Please phone 3281 4437 or email me: [hpullar@bigpond.net.au](mailto:hpullar@bigpond.net.au) if you can give even a little of your time to the working bee so that I can organise materials and food.

Helen Pullar  
Building Committee Convenor  
*Let's see if we can get a record attendance.* Editor

## AUDITIONS... FOR A FESTIVAL PLAY

Auditions for *Domain* by Mark Lucas to be directed by Jim Orr

**Tuesday 26 February,**  
**Jean Pratt Building,**  
**7.30 pm.**

### Precis:

"A very dark place to be" Esmerelda is cast into a

prison cell and finds companionship amid its mysterious & sensuous inhabitants, Bernadette, Annaliese, Dominique and Carlotta. The fear she experiences from the gaoler, Edith, is nothing compared to the terror that is Him.

### Author's Note:

*Domain*, as a play, is one of my personal favourites. Its power, its beauty, sensuality and darkness created an on-

stage work that I have never seen before or since in a one-act play.

The director has ideas for a very unusual presentation of this play. Sounds like it will be a winner on the Festival circuit.

Cast required is 6 women and one man. Ages to be relevant to each other.

**Phone Jim w 3281 4999 or h 3812 9141**



All the details about the Silver Anniversary celebrations of the fabulous Daytime Theatre Troupe will be in the next issue of Burning News.

We hear that past Daytimers came from far afield to join in, even from the National capital!



### STOP PRESS

The Director and cast of *Enter a Free Man* are hoping with bated breath (no, not garlic, bated not baited) and fingers crossed etc etc that the role of Carmen the barman has been filled.

Linda Shapcott's brother David, has attended a rehearsal and is keen to take on the role if his work hours permit.

## News from the groups within Ipswich Little Theatre .... four groups all based in the Jean Pratt Building

### S-Troupe

Welcome back to all S-Troupers for another exciting year of S-Troupe. Couple of old faces back on the scene – Bronwyn, Kevin, Peter and Duncan. Great to have you all back.

We sadly farewell Sharyn and Bev from our helpers.

A very successful sign-day held on 2 February with 34 students and 9 helpers on board, followed by a brainstorming session for all the helpers.

Congratulations to Nic Mohr for his recent Young Citizen of the Year in the Ipswich. Australia Day Awards. Congratulations also to Marg and Bryan Watson for their Griffin Award at the theatre's AGM at the end of last year

*Di Johnston*

### Smart Arts

Sign on day was so successful that there is now a waiting list for entry into Smart Arts for this term. It is so good to see young people so excited about theatre as they are our future actors and actresses at ILT.

*Kerri-ann MacDonald*

### Daytime Theatre Troupe

Our next production is *Trouble in Storybook Land* written by Kay McAllan and auditions for the production are being held soon. We have had a couple of read throughs and the script is fun and should be a favourite with our young audiences. The story line is: Book reading is not happening anymore because people are just too busy. Storybook characters don't want to be "shelved" and they take on the challenge of getting kids to read again.

Harry and Hilary are zoomed into storybook land and the fun begins. Puss 'n Boots and Peter Pan save the day; the kids have a blast and decide that reading books can be great fun after all. Booking details and dates will be posted on our website shortly.

*Jan Paterson*

### Crossfyre Young Theatricals

Welcome to all the new and returning students to Crossfyre YTs. We will be doing basic theatre skills lessons until Easter and then we are auditioning for roles in the three one act plays to be performed in the middle of the year.

*Suzanne Matulich*

## One Act Play Festival News

Our 54th One Act Play Festival will be held over the weekend of **8, 9,10 August** this year.

The first meeting of members interested in organizing and helping with this year's Festival met on Sunday 10 February.

**New award categories** will be offered this year for actors and actresses. Instead of one Best Actor and Actress award we have decided to offer a Best award in both Drama and Comedy genres for both actors and actresses. (sufficient contenders permitting of course).

It was great to see such a good number of members at the meeting.

For the 2007 Festival 92 actors took part in the festival over the three days. 14 theatre companies entered a total of 19 plays, as well as the two entries in a demonstration of the new Adjudicator's Choice initiative.

By the way, this was so successful both with audience and cast members that we are offering it this year as a competitive award.

Any ideas for the continued development of our Festival are welcome.

Don't forget, we are really proud of our reputation for hosting a welcoming and

well organised Festival and we need many members to assist us with this project each year.

If you were not able to attend but would like to help either before or during the Festival please contact the Director, Suzanne on 3281 4748 to register your interest.



*Mayor of Ipswich, Paul Pisarsale, Nic Mohr and Cr Sheila Ireland at the recent Australia Day Awards*

## Selection Committee News

A meeting was held prior to auditions on 21 January at which Doug Moses was confirmed as the convenor for the year.

While there was quite a number of females attended the following audition, as usual there was a shortage of males. The play was not cast at the audition due to this fact and an extra unofficial audition was held on 5 February. The cast for Enter a Free Man is:

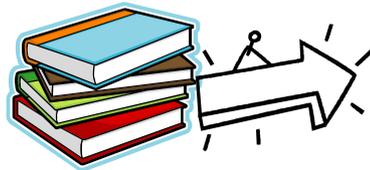
George Riley	Craig Taylor
Persephone	Linda Shapcott
Linda	Lisa Moore
Harry	Tony Erhardt
Florence	Majella Gee
Able	Kyle Breese
Brown	Max McKenzie

The role of Carmen the barman is still not filled.

Robyn Flashman has received selection committees blessing for *Rumors* to be a Theatre Supper Season.

The committee approved the play *Domain* to be a Festival Circuit Play, directed by Jim Orr.

Auditions for *Sex, Drugs & Rick'n'Noel* to be held on Monday 31 March 2008.



### GUIDED TOURS OF ILT

More guided tours are booked for 18 March, 17, 19 April and 5 June. How exciting to know that so many people are keen to find out more about our historic theatre and the theatre complex. Warm thanks to our members who give their time to organise and conduct these tours so successfully.

## ILT Library News

*Due mainly to the work of Jan Paterson with my assistance, all scripts have now been collated and placed in order of titles in the library. The scripts have been split up into full length plays, one act plays, youth plays, theatre restaurants etc.*

*Many scripts have been removed from the library and have been regarded as excess to the needs of the Ipswich Little Theatre.*

*It is suggested that these excess plays could be offered for sale to members.*

*Admin Committee decided that full length plays and volumes could be offered on the ILT website at \$5 per copy and One Act Plays at \$2. A list of excess plays will be included on the ILT website and payments made to either Doug or Jan.*

## This Way Up is nearly Up and Running



*Pictured at rehearsals for our production of This Way Up are James Miles, Alison Mohr, Jamie Spence and Amy Rymer.*

Also in the cast is Jim Orr. The production team includes Directors Jane Sheppard and Moo Park, Stage Manager Tracey Spence, Lighting and Sound Technicians Phil Holmes, Robbie Campbell and Brendan Dieckmann and Front of House Coordinator, Desley Cronon.

This is James's 4th production with Ipswich Little Theatre, having last appeared in 'Post Horn Gallop' 12 months ago.

Alison will be remembered for her performance in 'Lipstick Dreams' in 2006.

Jamie is making his debut performance with ILT - in fact it is his first role in Australia, having moved here from England last October to marry ILT member Tracey.

Amy did a one-act festival play with our Young Theatricals group in 1998 and is

delighted to be appearing on our Incinerator Stage.

Jim brings a wealth of experience to his role as Snr Sgt Jack O'Brien.

The season of *This Way Up* runs from February 27 to March 15 with bookings for public nights on March 7, 8, 14, 15 at the Visitors Information Centre, phone 32810555.

March 7 is a special "Wine and Cheese" night.

### Special Congratulations!

A note of congratulations to James Miles and Christine on the birth of their son Riley.

We all know the stresses and demands of being in a play, holding down a job and keeping your family life afloat. Well, James has done all that and become a proud new father.

Come along and take the opportunity to pass on your best wishes to James and his wife, in person at *This Way Up*.

*Season opens next week! Tickets at the Ipswich Visitor Info Centre*



## CONTACT DETAILS

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Newsletter editor  
Suzanne Matulich

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The Ipswich Little Theatre complex, including the historic Incinerator Theatre designed by Walter Burley Griffin, is in Burley Griffin Drive, off Griffiths Road, Ipswich.

To ring the theatre when there is a class or rehearsal **PHONE 3812 2389**.  
NOTE: this phone is not staffed all the time.

**NEXT ILT  
COMMITTEE MEETING:  
11 MARCH  
7.00 PM**

## 2008 DATES TO PUT IN YOUR DIARY

24 February 10.00 am	<b>WORKING BEE:</b> to make our theatre one to be even more proud of. <b>EVERYONE IS NEEDED, see you there! See front page</b>
26 February 7.30 pm	<b>AUDITION: <i>Domain</i></b> by Mark Lucas. Director Jim Orr. Phone 0412 199 087 for details
27 February to 15 March	<b>PRODUCTION: <i>This Way Up</i></b> - by Elizabeth Coleman Directors, Jane Sheppard and Melinda Park. Bookings at Visitor Info Centre 3281 0555
31 March 7.30 pm	<b>AUDITION: <i>Sex Drugs and Rick 'n' Noel</i></b> Director Doug Moses 3281 2846

## ILT Theatre Activities Nights ...

These activity nights are great fun and a wonderful way to meet other members.

Many people come along to an audition, wanting to be a part of our theatre but are not successful, then don't have any further contact with us because there is no way to be involved if not in a play.

Theatre Activity Nights are the answer to this. You get to be challenged, learn new skills and, most importantly have a great social night out.

The first one for 2008 is the audition night for *Domain*. Now if you are not interested in being in that play, or are not available to do Festivals, come along anyway. If you love theatre then you will enjoy hearing about a new play and hearing how it sounds 'out loud'.

Tony Erhardt has a lot of ideas planned for the rest of the year too. Watch this space each month for the latest news.

If you have a good idea for one of the nights, call Tony and discuss it with him. 5464 2662 or 0408 023 796

*Don't forget, of course, that another way you can be a worthwhile part of our theatre group is to work front of house for one of the plays. Call Desley 3288 8754 to volunteer your time.*

## Contact details that you might need to know

President	Judy Grant	3288 0717
Vice President	Desley Cronon	3288 8754
Immediate Past President	Pam Floris	3288 6159
Secretary	Helen Pullar	3281 4437
Treasurer	Jan Paterson	3201 7974

Smart Arts Director	Kerri-ann MacDonald	3812 7368
S-Troupe Director	Di Johnston	3812 9141
Crossfyre Director	Suzanne Matulich	3281 4748
Daytime Theatre Troupe Coordinator	Jan Paterson	3201 7974
ILT One Act Play Festival Director	Suzanne Matulich	3281 4748
Front of House Management Coordinator	Desley Cronon	3288 8754
Group Liaison Secretary	Robyn Flashman	3812 3450