



BURNING NEWS

from the Ipswich Incinerator Theatre

www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au

AUGUST 2009

Ipswich Little Theatre Newsletter

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FANTASTIC!

55th Festival & Fabulous 40th Celebrations

What an amazing month Ipswich Little Theatre has just experienced.

First of all, we welcomed over 100 cast and crew members to our **55th One Act Play Festival** over the weekend of 7, 8, 9 August. An amazing array of 19 plays were presented over 5 sessions offering everything from farce to serious drama. What a feast.

The winners are on page 3 and a full list including those shortlisted for awards is available on our website.

Then, without drawing breath, we launched ourselves into a whirlwind of activity to celebrate the enormous milestone of **40 years in our much loved Incinerator Theatre**.

Saturday 15 August was the date for our **formal Cocktail Party** with distinguished guests from the three levels of government, representatives of other local cultural groups, past ILT members and other special people.

An illuminated interpretative panel in the Courtyard was unveiled with much pomp and ceremony and will remain as a permanent fixture allowing all visitors access to information about the conversion from city incinerator to cultural icon.

Saturday 22 August was a major event encompassing an **Open Day** from 10am to 4pm.

There was a full program of performances, in both the Incinerator and the Jean Pratt Building, from all the groups within Ipswich Little Theatre as well as

some very welcome guest performers from the Cambrian Youth Choir, Ipswich Musical Theatre Company and the Ipswich Orpheus Chorale. Add to this some popular Historic Theatre Tours, arts workshops and demonstrations and a busy kitchen and bar and you get a good idea of just what a dynamic day it was.

To top off these successes, Saturday night was **Party Time!** Highlights included the launch of **Burning Brightly** the sequel to *Rising from the Ashes*, the first history of our theatre society. This has been a labour of love for Helen Pullar and is a vital record of all the activity at our theatre from 1996 to 2009. It is available for purchase for only \$20 and if you don't have a copy of *Rising from the Ashes*, it has been reprinted and is only \$15.

A very special celebration of the commitment to ILT by our current **President, Judy Grant** came in the form of her being made a **Life Member of ILT**. Di Johnston created a powerpoint overview of all of Judy's theatre involvement and it was an emotional moment when she was given the respected Life Member badge.

To complete the formalities, a **DVD** consisting of interviews with many ILT members was viewed and launched.

Then it was the **'largest cast party of all time'** as approximately 100 people celebrated that pivotal conversion 40 years ago of the heritage building into a community theatre.



SELECTION COMMITTEE NEWS

I would like to remind prospective directors for 2010 that Selection Committee want to receive your application in writing with a script by the end of August.

This call is for one act plays (for local presentation and/or for inclusion in the Festival circuit) as well as full length plays for presentation on the Incinerator stage.

As our groups always express a preference for comedies we would like to include that genre as well as more serious plays.

Offers for experimental plays to be performed elsewhere will also be welcome.

Ian Pullar, Convener

GREEN FESTIVAL POLO SHIRTS

If you 'borrowed' a green Festival polo shirt to wear while working at our 55th Festival, could you please wash it (gently as it has a hand printed logo on the back) and return it to the theatre next time you come?

We will then have them clean and ready for next year

Thanks, and thanks also for the work that you put in.

Suzanne

News from the groups within Ipswich Little Theatre

S-Troupe

Our performances in at the Art Gallery have been quite successful and good experience for the S-Troupers. The Mayor even "popped" in and saw some of our Mary Pops In show. We also performed again at the end of the Drama Festival and it was wonderful to receive some very nice comments about the show.

Di Johnston

Daytime Theatre Troupe

The Director and playwright for our final production *The Gingerbread Man* is Jane Sheppard. What talented members we have.....

Performance dates are 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23 October. Bookings by phone to Chic Currie on 3288 9783 or 0409 725 315.

The Gingerbread Man has been especially written for 3-8 year olds.

Jan Paterson

A Great Quote on Theatre

When you come into the theatre, you have to be willing to say, "We're all here to undergo a communion, to find out what the hell is going on in this world." If you're not willing to say that, what you get is entertainment instead of art, and poor entertainment at that.

David Mamet

Last auditions for 2009!

At last a play has been decided on for our last production for 2009. We had great plans to present Boeing Boeing as another way to celebrate our 40th year in the Incinerator building - it was the first play put on there in 1969. however it was not to be as the performance rights were not available for us.

We have, however, a great replacement play and director Jan Paterson is keen to get started!

Auditions: on Tuesday 1 September at 7.30pm in the Jean Pratt Building auditions will be held for the last play in the 2009 program.

The play is *Forget Me Knot* by David Tristram and will be directed by Jan Paterson with Desley Cronon as assistant director.

The performance season runs from 25 November to 12 December.

Cast required for this play is: 2 women and 2 men, ages ranging from 25 – 50 years.

About the Play: renowned comedy writer, David Tristram, known to ILT as the author of *Sex, Drugs and Ric'n'Noel*, hits another home run with this hilarious, fast paced comedy of mistaken identities, adulterous affairs and an altercation with a frying pan!

Imagine the plight of poor Robert Zeinfeld.

Found wandering the streets at 4am without even the slightest clue of how he got there. Total amnesia. Only a bruised head and a suspicious policeman for company. Perhaps this Zeinfeld character is not what he seems. Perhaps he's got something to hide. Perhaps he hasn't lost his memory at all?

The trouble is, the deeper the policeman digs, the more confused he gets, until he finds himself wrestling a plot with more twists and turns than a buckled slinky.....

If you would like to find out more about the play or to borrow a script, please contact Jan on 3810 5884.



And the 55th Festival winners are

OPEN SECTION	
First Prize - LA Thomas Memorial Shield	<i>Heaven on a Stick</i>
Second Prize	<i>The Lover</i>
Third Prize	<i>Like a War</i>
Best Director - Patti Jordan Memorial Trophy	Jo Peirce – <i>Heaven on a Stick</i>
Best Actor in a Dramatic Role (inaugural award)	Mark Fell in <i>The Lover</i>
Best Actress in a Dramatic Role (inaugural award)	Julie Bray in <i>A Lady of Letters</i>
Best Actor in a Comedy Role – ILT Life Members' Trophy	Mark Lucas in <i>Provocateur</i>
Best Actress in a Comedy Role – ILT Life Members' Trophy	Pauline Davies in <i>The Window Cleaner</i>
Best Supporting Actor	Shaun King in <i>Heaven on a Stick</i>
Best Supporting Actress	Lindi Milbourne in <i>Heaven on a Stick</i>
Best Supporting Actor in a Minor Role	Paul Newman in <i>Like a War</i>
Best Supporting Actress in a Minor Role	Shannon Edwards in <i>Like a War</i>
Best Production of an Australian Script Helen Haenke Memorial Prize	<i>Heaven on a Stick</i>
Adjudicator's choice	Jon Quinn, Pat O'Callaghan and John Sayles in <i>Beyond</i>

INTERMEDIATE	
Best Play	<i>Why</i>
Best Director	Tony Erhardt for <i>Why</i>
Best Actor	Harry Risson in <i>Train of Thought</i>
Best Actress	Ellie Coulson-Futcher in <i>Why</i>
Best Supporting Actor	Brodie Shield in <i>Train of Thought</i>
Best Supporting Actress -	Lily Turner in <i>Why</i>
Intermediate Incentive Awards	Ellyse Rohl, Amelia Rohl and Ebony Pickwell in <i>A Fully Sick Fairy Tale</i> .
STAGE MANAGER'S TROPHY	Cast and crew of BATS Theatre (<i>Warinda Flowers</i>)

Thank you

Many thanks to our sponsors for their ongoing and very generous support of our 55th One Act Play Festival this year. It is very much appreciated by Ipswich Little Theatre and all visiting theatre groups. And thanks to all actors and crew members who made up the program of 19 plays! And of course, the warmest and most heartfelt thanks to the members of the Festival sub-committee and all workers on the day for allowing us to continue the tradition of being the best organised and friendliest Festival around! Thank you!

Milo's Wake

Director, Melinda Park, together with cast members Gillian Simpson, Craig Taylor, Brendan Jeffery and Sarah Pavitt and musicians and bar staff Brendan Williams, Neil McKenzie, Relle Scott and Anne England are hard at work to ensure audiences enjoy performances "brimming with the irrepressible spirit of the Irish".

Melinda is being assisted by Robyn Flashman with Sandi Fenton and Jay Barrett in charge of props and the back-stage area.

Once again Phil Holmes and Robbie Campbell are providing their expertise on the technical side.

Milo's Wake is set in an Irish pub in Brisbane and written by Brisbane-ites Margery and Michael Forde.

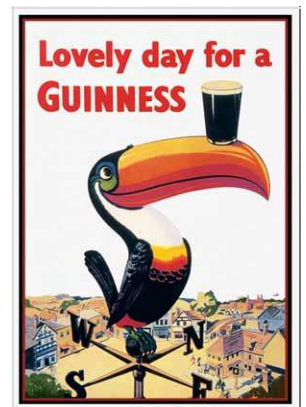
The play enjoyed a long and

highly acclaimed season at La Boite in 2000 and won several theatre awards for the writers.

Audiences will be presented with a great mix of haunting and boisterous Irish songs and a story which is like a Guinness – light and frothy at the top but underneath is the dark.

Bookings are now open at the Visitor Information Centre, Queen Victoria Parade (3281 0555) for the Public Nights 9, 10, 16, 17 October at 8pm. A Devonshire Tea Matinee on Sunday 11 October at 2pm has been added to the season.

Our very popular Wine and Cheese nights continue on Friday 9 October. A reminder that our "Buy 10 tickets and yours is free" offer applies.





Ipswich Little Theatre CONTACT DETAILS

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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.
Please call one of our Committee (details below) for more information about any specific queries that you might have.

**NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE MEETING:
8 September '09
7.00 pm**

2009 DATES TO PUT IN YOUR DIARY

1 September 7.30pm	AUDITION: see page 2 for details
30 September - 17 October	Milo's Wake , Director Melinda Park. Bookings Visitor Info Centre 3281 0555
Sunday 6 De- cember	Ipswich Little Theatre AGM

Ipswich Little Theatre's newest LIFE MEMBER!

Judith Grant made her debut for ILT in Life with *Hercules Part One* in 1967, the last play performed in the old Town Hall before moving into the Incinerator. Since that time Judy has appeared in numerous plays from *Faithful Widow of Ephesus* in 1969 through to *Not for Lunch* in 2008.



Judy has not only performed on stage but she has played a vital role in the continuation of good administration that has held the society together for over 60 years. She has served on the Admin Committee, Building Committee, S-Troupe, Business Manager, Stage Manager, assisted with Junior Theatre and is one of the longest serving Presidents.

In many voluntary organisations, the President is merely a figure-head but Judy does not take this role lightly and is an active President and regularly visits our sub-groups to show support and witness first-hand what our different groups are working on.

We welcome her to the distinguished rank of Ipswich Little Theatre Life Member. Congratulations, Judy!

(edited from Di Johnston's nomination speech 22 August 2009)

'09 Contact details that you might need

President	Judy Grant	3288 0717
Vice President	Jim Orr	0447 20 00 06
Past President	Craig Taylor	3201 4444
Secretary	Helen Pullar	3281 4437
Treasurer	Jan Paterson	3810 5884. 0417 787 130
Smart Arts Artistic Director	Kyle Breese	0411 29 88 58
S-Troupe Director	Di Johnston	3812 9141
Crossfyre Director	Tony Erhardt	5464 2662
Daytime Theatre Troupe Coordinator	Jan Paterson	3810 5884
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
Theatre number	Note, only answered during rehearsals or meetings	3812 2389