



# Burning News from the Incinerator Theatre

April 2012

## Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Editor for this month:

Ian Pullar

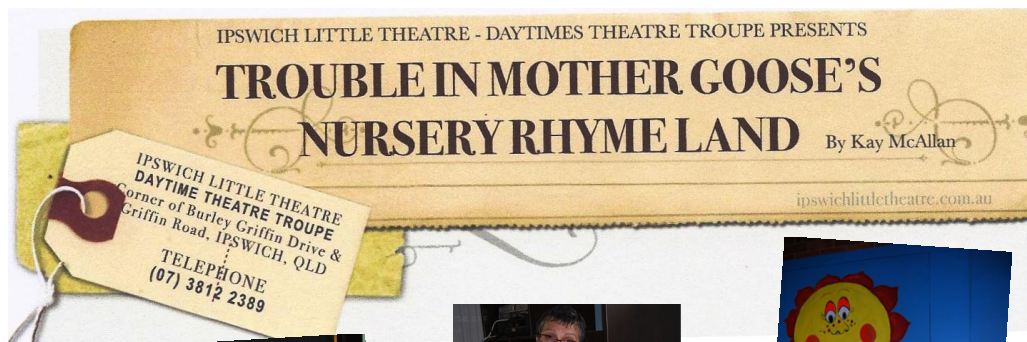
**NEXT ILT  
COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
7pm  
Tuesday  
8 May 2012**

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The winner of the free ticket competition for *Duet for Two Hands* was

B. Kubler of Nambour



*Two blind mice – Trish White and Marie Mortimer*



*Deirdre Lowe sewing her Mother Goose outfit*



*Humpty Dumpty – alias Ann Maree Ling*

As can be seen from the pictures above, the cast of *Mother Goose* are at an advanced stage of preparation for this wonderful show, written and directed by Kay McAllan. As well, the set in the Jean Pratt Building is a sight to behold thanks to the many hours of work expended by all concerned.

Performances will be on May 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 11 and 12, with multiple performances each day. As well there will be a family and friends preview on 26 April.

There are still vacancies at some performances. Bookings can be made through Chic Currie: phone 3288 9783.

## Happy Birthday, Desley

Life Member Desley Cronon reached the venerable age of 70 on Friday 13th April. Desley, who is currently Assistant Director for Les Chappell's production of *Duet for Two Hands*, was unimpressed when Les called an extra rehearsal for the Friday night and refused point blank to go to the theatre on her birthday even though she had no party planned. So Jan Paterson offered to join Desley for dinner at Brothers Leagues Club but just had to collect something from the theatre on the way. The look on Desley's face when she rounded the corner of the building was priceless – there were a couple of dozen smiling faces (including her family members) who burst into a less than tuneful rendition of *Happy Birthday, dear Desley*.



*Birthday girl Desley (c) with Karen Peart (l) and Ann Collyer (r). Joy was obviously unconfined!*

It just proves we know how to celebrate significant events.

Many happy returns, Desley!



## From the President

Once again a very busy month with *Stepping Out* stepping up and beyond the expectations of all concerned. What a fun night out and such a range of actresses excelling themselves.

Rehearsals are under way for *Duet for Two Hands* and the two Festival plays, *All for the Nation* and *Touched* as well as for our Juniors, YTs, S Troupe and Daytimers – you can almost hear the energy crackling in the air.

I would like to congratulate our Front of House, Kitchen and Bar co-ordinators for the sterling job that they are doing. There have never been so many new ideas bubbling up, being tried and tested and now becoming part of the process of making our audiences very welcome.

I loved the idea of the Thank You BBQ held at the end of the *Stepping Out* season. Remember, if you are one of our volunteers for the *Duet for Two Hands* season, you will receive an invitation for the BBQ on Sunday 10 June. A great social occasion and ILT's way of thanking everyone involved.

Thanks to all for their commitment to our very busy theatre. How exciting it is to be a part of it.

Cheers,

Suzanne

## *Duet for Two Hands* – A Tale of Turmoil

A message from the Director – Les Chappell

This play is my all time favourite. I performed the role of Stephen Cass in the early sixties and later used his farewell speech to Abigail as one of my audition pieces for drama school in the UK.

As a young poet, Stephen Cass thinks he is headed for a vacation of peace and relaxation when he visits Forsinard, the home of his friend and surgeon, Dr Edward Sarclet. Instead he is caught up in a bumpy ride of disturbing revelations that affect his mind throughout the entire play.

The intensities that plague this script become apparent on Cass's first entrance. Two years ago he had a dead man's hands grafted onto his wrists because of a climbing accident – and now something strange is happening.

"It's hard to explain," Cass tells Sarclet. "Somehow the dead man is making himself known to me. I recognise places I've never been to before...things are familiar to the touch. In these last few weeks I've found myself on the look-out for him, almost as though I expected him to pull at my sleeve."

What has really brought Cass to Forsinard? The irresistible law of attraction in the shape of Abigail, Sarclet's attractive daughter? Or something more sinister?

When Cass begins to play the dead man's music he realises it is something more sinister. And when he hears the name of the dead man shrieked out from a flock of squawking seagulls he becomes totally panicked. So does Herda, Sarclet's sister, who is with him at the time.

Sarclet is opposed to these ever-growing fancies of Cass, as he calls them. Opposed because he too is fighting his own demons and hiding his own dark secrets. But then, demons and dark secrets seem to be buried in everyone's psyche. They are all trying to hide something.

I guarantee that the final three minutes of this play will impress a picture on the minds of audiences that will stay with them long after they have left the theatre.

### *Duet for Two Hands*

is a play not to be missed. But you will have to hurry. The public nights are already more than 70% sold out.

Bookings are available on our website (see page 4) or through the Ipswich Visitor Information Centre 3281 0555.

It is interesting to note that around half our bookings are now done through the website and the other half through the VIC.



Cast and crew of *Duet for Two Hands*

L to R: Harry Risson (Cass), Alan Brown (Fletty), Bonnie Hislop (Abigail), Shane Mallory (Sarclet), Maddie Risson (props), Desley Cronon (Assistant Director), Les Chappell (Director), Rebecca Noble (Herda).





*The students – Jessie, Jillian, Nicole and Steven*

## S-Troupe

S-Troupers have been hopping into Easter with a great deal of enjoyment as can be seen from the happy snaps reproduced here.

They are obviously ready to hear good things about their activities and your editors will be keeping their ears open too to bring you news of their popular presentations under the direction of Melinda Park.



*The helpers– Gloria, Di, Ruth, Rosemary, Helen, Chris and Holly*

## Festival

Entry forms and rules have now been posted on our website. So potential entrant groups are reminded that entries are invited.

Director Suzanne Matulich awaits your response.

## Young Theatricals

Craig Taylor, who is organising the 40 year celebration of this group, is still keen to receive suggestions on an appropriate form of celebration. His contact details are:

Home: 3201 4444

Mob: 0422 611 812

Email: [cwkmmtaylor@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cwkmmtaylor@optusnet.com.au)

## More from the 'Good Old Days'

I know I'm far from alone in appreciating all the benefits of our wonderful home. But, having experienced conditions in the 'good old Town Hall days', I believe I have more reason than most to be grateful.

Back then, we rehearsed for six weeks in the club rooms (or members' living rooms before we acquired them). We moved into the Town Hall on a Sunday to build and decorate our set. We had a dress rehearsal on Wednesday night, performed on Friday and Saturday nights (usually with audiences of about 30 and 40 respectively) and bumped out on Sunday.

One memorable season (and it may well have been *Duet for Two Hands*) we arrived on the first Sunday with our truck load of sets and furniture to discover the Hall had been double booked and there was a cat show in occupation. I've never felt quite the same about cats since!

- Ian Pullar

## Tourific Troupers

The luncheon tours of our complex have recommenced now that the weather has cooled down. Because the luncheon is served in the courtyard, conditions can be very hot during Summer, so the tours are restricted to the months of April to September.

This year, it has also been decided to limit the number of tours to reduce the workload on the volunteers. Thirteen tours have been booked (two of which have already been held). But this does not satisfy the demand and it has already been necessary to knock back a number of applications. Obviously our reputation is spread far and wide with so many groups telling us it is the best outing their club has ever been on. Just how many Probus groups are there in the world?



*Tourific visitors enjoying lunch at the Incinerator on 17 April*

## Fundraising Theatre Nights.

In recognition of the reputation our theatre enjoys of not only presenting first class productions but also providing helpful and welcoming front of house and bar and kitchen workers, just 2 of the 39 fundraising nights for 2012 are left for sale.

Available nights are for **After Dinner:** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – Full night; Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October – Half night; Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October – Half night

If you are involved in a group wishing to raise **at least \$1000** for your organisation (by booking a full night of 80 seats) or \$500 (by booking a shared night of 40 seats), ring **Robyn 38123450**.



**Ipswich Little Theatre**

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**Newsletter editors**

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

To phone the theatre when there is a class or rehearsal

Phone 3812 2389.

NOTE: this phone is not staffed at other times.

## Building Committee Report

As reported in the February Newsletter, the Council had sought advice on a permanent solution to the problem of tree growth in the chimney. We have now been advised that an offer has been accepted to install a convex concrete slab which will cause rain and seeds to run off. Maybe we'll have waterfalls! The work will be carried out in the first quarter of the new financial year.

*Helen Pullar*

Convener of Building Committee

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING

# EARNEST

Directed by

David Austin

Auditions were held on 16 April for our third major production of the year when the following cast was selected. We wish them all the best of luck – and fun.

John Worthington (Jack)

Neil Richards

Algernon Moncrieff

Ben Cumpstay

Gwendolen Fairfax

Liz Ball

Cecily Cardew

Kate Mallory

Lady Bracknell

Linda Shapcott

Miss Prism

Di Johnston

Rev. Chasuble

Craig Taylor

Lane/Merriman

Brent Muller

## Mystery Solved

Attentive readers will recall that in January we asked if anyone knew the origin of the decoration above our proscenium arch. Well, the question has been answered – at least in part. *Cosi* (the 1996 production directed by Tara Adams), is set in an old theatre. When the set was being built, Alan Brown happened to be in the workshop of a plasterer mate and he saw just the most appropriate piece of plaster work, which was fortunately surplus to requirements. Not only did Alan's friend donate it, he helped Alan install it where it remains to this day. The original source of the piece is still unknown.

### 2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

President	Suzanne Matulich	3281 4748 (ah) 0412 79 22 64
Vice President	Majella Gee	3812 7821 0415 258 162
Past President	Jim Orr	0447 20 00 06
Secretary	Helen Pullar	3281 4437
Treasurer	Jan Paterson	3810 5884 0417 787 130

### CONTACT DETAILS FOR OTHER IMPORTANT POSITIONS

Front of House Management Coordinator	Chris Austin-Greenhill	3812 9531 0427977007
Group Liaison Secretary	Robyn Flashman	3812 3450
Jean Pratt Building Bookings	Desley Cronon	3288 8754
Junior Theatre	Deirdre Lowe	0409 202 380
Young Theatricals	Jan Paterson	3810 5884 0417 787 130
STroupe	Melinda Park	3201 8861 0419 650 441
Daytime Theatre Troupe	Anne England	3281 7654 0413 676 049
Tourific Troupers	Helen Pullar or Jane Sheppard	H 3281 4437 J 54645363
Theatre number	NB: only during rehearsals or meetings	3812 2389

**Sincere thanks to Cr Charlie Pisasale for the monthly printing of *Burning News*,**

For more details about Ipswich Little Theatre [www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au](http://www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au)