



Burning News from the Incinerator Theatre

March 2013



Editor:

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**NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE
MEETING
7pm
Tuesday
9 April 2013**

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Many thanks to Di Johnston for all the photographs in this issue and lots in previous ones. Also for her distribution of the snail-mail copies of the Newsletter.

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc

Bookings open

for our second production of 2013

on Monday 26 March

on line at www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au

or through the Ipswich Visitor Information Centre in person or 3281 0555. (Vouchers cannot be used online)

Season 8 – 25 May

Public Performances: 17, 18, 24, 25 & Matinee 19 May

Director: Doug Moses; Assistant Director: Sheryl Roche

During an ostentatious wedding reception at a Knoxville, Tennessee, estate, five reluctant, identically clad bridesmaids hide out in an upstairs bedroom, each with her own reason to avoid the proceedings below.

They are Frances, a painfully sweet but sheltered fundamentalist; Mindy, the cheerful, wise-cracking lesbian sister of the groom; Georgeanne, whose heartbreak over her own failed marriage triggers outrageous behaviour; Meredith, the bride's younger sister whose precocious rebelliousness masks a dark secret; and Trisha, a jaded beauty whose die-hard cynicism about men is called into question when she meets Tripp, a charming bad-boy usher to whom there is more than meets the eye. As the afternoon wears on, these five very different women joyously discover a common bond.

A wickedly funny, irreverent and touching celebration of women's spirit.

Comedy - contains some coarse language and mild sexual and drug references. Brief scene with use of herbal cigarettes.



Champagne Celebrations

After a fairly long period of negotiation - three years - we have received a final lease agreement for a period of twenty years. This is very satisfactory as the normal lease arrangements for both State Government and Ipswich City Council are for ten years only. A longer lease was strenuously negotiated as it is essential for any development programme. Our application for funding of the Jean Pratt Annexe was rejected because we had only a year remaining on the lease and, despite written assurances from ICC that it would be renewed, that was the stumbling block.

Our record as exemplary tenants was the deciding factor in the longer lease agreement, so sometimes it does pay to do the right thing!

Our ambitious plans for the courtyard can now proceed with this obstacle removed. I have no doubt there will be others, but a new lease and enthusiastic approval for our plans are a good beginning.

Helen Pullar

Building Committee Convener

PS Yes - the BC members did down a glass of bubbly to mark the end of the long negotiations — and the fact that we have been re-leased!

Security

Members are requested to take particular care when leaving the premises to ensure that all lights (except the security lights) are turned off and that all doors and gates are properly locked.

However, please do not turn off the hot water system in the Jean Pratt Building or any light or fan required for the lighting system in either building. Turning them off can cause damage while the cost of leaving them on is negligible.



From the President

Another month of amazing activity at our theatre. I would like to start by thanking those ILT members who came to the cleaning working bee to get our theatre to a beautiful state, ready to welcome our audiences for 2013.

This effort came hard on the heels of the 'find some storage space' working bee and the tasks achieved were equal to those of the first one. Even though the weather was not the best for cleaning, a great finish was achieved. All the chairs and tables for use in the courtyard were scrubbed and the replacement shade frame was set up with the old canopy stretched on to it and looking pretty much like a new one. Lots of dark and forbidding corners were cleaned out and the kitchens (backstage and courtyard) were sparkling. Thanks everyone for such a sterling effort and basically all done in under 3 hours.

I would like to thank the Publicity Team of Robyn Harm and Robyn Flashman for the tireless innovative approach that they are taking towards getting our theatre a more widely known part of our Ipswich community and the South East Queensland community too. The ticket sales for *Amigos* are testament to the work they have done. Achieving the mentions in the *Courier Mail's* article from the renowned Alison Cotes was amazing! Great stuff.

Cheers

Suzanne



This month's competition

Guess who owns the lucky legs!



S-Troupe

What a swell party it was!



As can be seen from the adjacent photographs, the S-Troupe 21st Birthday celebration on 24 February went with a swing. Party components included a magician, face painting and a photo booth. The S-Troupers love seeing their photographs so that was a big success. Likewise they love music and dancing so that activity provided entertainment for them and their onlookers, many of whom were the devoted carers who have ferried them to and from S-Troupe rehearsals and performances.

Some of the original members are still part of S-Troupe—what an achievement. Previous Directors, Jan Paterson and Di Johnston, and current Director Melinda Parks, assisted by Di, are to be heartily congratulated for the hours of devoted service that they and their many helpers over the 21 year period have given to this group of which we are so justifiably proud.



S-Troupe member Toyah Cox is pictured in hospital, comforted by her loving grandmother Gloria Cox. Toyah has been ill and required surgery from which we wish her a speedy recovery.

Gloria is a devoted helper for both S-Troupe and Tourific Troupers.



Daytime Theatre Troupe

The ladies (and one token bloke) are currently getting stuck into their production of

NINA IN NUMBERLAND

written and directed by Deirdre Lowe

... as can be seen from the photograph of Numbers of them at work.

The play will be presented in May (see dates on page 4).

It is 30 years since Jane Sheppard's and Jan Paterson's vision for a daytime theatre group came to fruition. We would like to celebrate this milestone with a function to which all members of the Daytimers, past and present, will be invited. We will extend this invitation to all members of the Ipswich Little Theatre as well. November 9 is the date to be marked in your diaries. This will be another Daytimers' extravaganza!

Anne England

Convener



Geraldene Fitzpatrick, Sue Van Der Meer, AnnMaree Ling, Julie-Anne Wright and Ann Wall making up the numbers

Junior Theatre

Junior Theatre, under the direction of Deirdre Lowe, has recommenced and will be working towards the presentation of *Alice in Blunderland*. (Are you beginning to detect a common theme?)

The script, once again penned by Deirdre Lowe, will include elements from *Alice in Wonderland*, *Peter Pan* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

It is hoped that as well as being presented on our premises, it will also be displayed at two Aged Care Facilities. The eight girls and eight boys are approaching the work with enthusiasm.

Young Theatricals

Auditions and casting took place last week for two plays – *Train of Thought* by Tony Erhardt and *Living with Lady Macbeth* by Rob John.

These young people will now commence rehearsals for proposed performances on 2 & 3 August in the Incinerator. We are also looking at the possibility of entering a couple of the Drama Festivals (Redcliffe, Beenleigh, Ipswich and Brisbane Arts).

Long term theatre member Shirlee Burns has joined us as a helper — a welcome addition as a “Mum” figure.

Craig Taylor (Director)



First reading for a new play. YTs at work.

Guiding the Players

The meeting held on 10 March worked on the Guidelines for Directors. A follow-up meeting to develop Guidelines for Participants in our productions is to be held on Sunday 24 March between noon and 2:30. Anyone who wants to contribute is welcome, but Les Chappell (convener of Selection Committee) would appreciate knowing in advance who is coming.

Theatre Activities

The first of the Theatre Activities for 2013 was held on 3 March. Shane Mallory conducted a reading of *A Few Good Men* the casting for which will be held on Monday 25 March. Shane was pleased with the attendance and response. This is important because the play has a large male cast.

More Theatre Activity sessions will be held during the year. Watch for notice in future Newsletters and on the website.

Festival 2013

Hosting the longest running Festival in Australia requires a great deal of support, both financially and in kind. We have been fortunate again this year to obtain sponsorship from ICC, businesses, interested supporters and members. If anyone would like to make a donation of money or items for a raffle, the contribution would be most welcome.

2013 Major Productions

Season 1

6 – 23 March (Public Performances: 15, 16, 22, 23 & Matinee 17 March)

Amigos by David Williamson

Director: Suzanne Matulich; Assistant Director: Aaron Evans

Comedy - contains some coarse language and adult themes.

Season 2

8 – 25 May (Public Performances: 17, 18, 24, 25 & Matinee 19 May)

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress by Alan Ball

Director: Doug Moses; Assistant Director: Sheryl Roche

Comedy - contains some coarse language and mild sexual and drug references. Brief scene with use of herbal cigarettes.

Season 3

10 - 27 July (Public Performances: 19, 20, 26, 27 & Matinee 21 July)

A Few Good Men by Aaron Sorkin

Director: Shane Mallory

Courtroom Drama - contains some coarse language, sexual references and low level violence.

Season 4

25 September - 12 October (Public Performances: 4, 5, 11, 12 & Matinee 6 October)

Good Things by Liz Lochhead

Director: Jane Sheppard

Romantic comedy - contains mild sexual references.

Season 5

20 November – 7 December (Public performances: 29, 30 Nov 6, 7 & Matinee 1 Dec)

Butterflies Are Free by Leonard Gershe

Director: Les Chappell; Assistant Director: Desley Cronon

Comedy - contains mild sexual references.

Bookings for ALL of above: Ipswich Visitor Information Centre (3281 0555) or on line from the Mondays following each previous final night

DIARY DATES

Monday 25 March	Bookings open for <i>Five Women Wearing the Same Dress</i>
Monday 25 March	Casting for <i>A Few Good Men</i> director Shane Mallory
21, 22, 24, 25, 28, 29, 31 May	Daytime Theatre Troupe presents <i>Nina in Numberland</i> in the Jean Pratt Building
31 May, 1 June	Performance of Festival Plays <i>The Big Cats</i> and <i>Pier 12</i>
2, 3 August	Performance by YTs of <i>Train of Thought</i> and <i>Living with Lady Macbeth</i> in Incinerator
9, 10, 11 August	59th Festival
9 November	Daytime Theatre Troupe 30th Birthday Party

Scripts for Sale

As previously advised, Librarian Jan Paterson identified a number of play scripts surplus to requirements and is offering them for sale at only \$5 per script. She has already attracted a number of customers, but the opportunity is still available.

Anyone interested can inspect the list of available scripts on our website. Alternatively, those without internet access can contact Jan directly and she will be only too happy to provide the list and to make the sales.

Lucky

I recently heard Kelly Higgins-Devine interview Anne Wilson of ACT 1 Theatre on ABC radio (Anne used to be a member of Sandgate Little Theatre and performed in our Festivals from way back in the Town Hall days). She is now 81 years old and is still directing plays.

She said her group really did only English farces and 'Agatha Christies' because they were the only ones to attract an audience.

Aren't we lucky! - Ed.

2013 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

President	Suzanne Matulich	3281 4748 (ah) 0412 792 264
Vice President	Robyn Flashman	3812 3450
Past President	Jim Orr	0447 200 006
Secretary	Helen Pullar	3281 4437
Treasurer	Jan Paterson	3810 5884 0419 787 130

CONTACT DETAILS FOR OTHER IMPORTANT POSITIONS

Front of House Management Coordinators	Pam Floris Kate Mallory	5467 2895 0438 886159 3201 7998 0479 048 979
Subscription Secretary	Di Johnston	3812 9141 0407 074 752
Group Liaison Secretary	Robyn Flashman	3812 3450
Jean Pratt Building Bookings	Desley Cronon	3288 8754
Junior Theatre	Deirdre Lowe	0409 202 380
Young Theatricals	Craig Taylor	3201 4444
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