

February 2016

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

Editor:

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NEXT ILT COMMITTEE MEETING

7pm
Tuesday
8 March

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All donations gratefully accepted!
Please encourage giving.

Green Light for New Roof

ILT is thrilled to be able to announce to the world that approval has been given for our new “glass” roof over the courtyard by both the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and Ipswich City Council.

A contractor has been engaged to undertake the work which will be done in April between our seasons of *Lipstick Dreams* and *The Glass Menagerie*. Most of the steel structure will be pre-fabricated and installed on site via a large crane. It will certainly be exciting to watch it grow.

This is a huge undertaking for our company, only made possible by the generosity of members who are lending us the necessary funds. We are, of course, anxious to repay those loans as quickly as possible, so we are appealing to members, businesses and our supporters for donations and support. The document included as page 5 in this newsletter is being circulated widely and any assistance you readers can offer in this respect would be very gratefully accepted.

Remember, we are all in this together.

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Presents

Lipstick Dreams



Directed by Doug
Moses and Chris
Austin-Greenhill

by Helen
O'Connor & Simon
Hopkinson

Performance Season
2-19 March 2016
Public Nights - 5, 11, 12, 18, 19
March at 8.00pm
Public Matinee Sunday 13 March at
2.00pm

By special arrangement with
Shanahan Management Pty Ltd on
behalf of Simon Hopkinson and
Creative Representation (Sydney)
Pty. Ltd. on behalf of Helen
O'Connor.

All performances at the Incinerator Theatre, Bunkie Giffels Drive, Ipswich. More info and tickets are available online at www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au or please book in person at the Ipswich Visitor Information Centre 0381 5555.

**Season
2 — 19
March**

Public Performances: 5,
11, 12, 13, 18, 19 March

*The ladies of “Lipstick
Dreams” (L to R) Kate
Mallory, Alizah Pomery,
Tracey Spence and Jo
Robbins,*



Don't forget to book tickets for you and your friends.

**Wine & Cheese Night
Saturday 5 March**

Front of House Manager Anne England is
looking for volunteers for the season.

Please contact her now on

3281 7654 or 0413 676 049.

From the Secretary

What an extraordinary group is ILT!!

At the February meeting a number of things occurred which blew me away.

I guess on the scale of financial enormity, the first would be the fact that we can go ahead with our incredibly ambitious plans to raise a "glass" roof over our courtyard because of the incredible generosity of members who are loaning amounts varying from \$10,000 to \$40,000. In anybody's world that is breathtaking!!!

Secondly, we are about to totally revamp our web site and, owing to the generosity of Kevin and Robyn Harm (our Publicity Convener) of Managed Solutions, this has been made totally affordable. Then we have Committee members Shane and Kate Mallory and Josh Nixon just bursting with ideas and enthusiasm for the potential of the web site they will create.

Our four sub-groups – Little Players, Juniors, Young Theatricals and S-Troupe – have all had their sign-on days with numbers up again from last year. S-Troupe also have a record twelve voluntary helpers.

Our first play is well on its way to delighting audiences. Our second play "Glass Menagerie" is cast and in rehearsal. All systems go! We have a heartening response to the appeal for helpers for the working bee on 28 February and a keen group volunteering to help with some form of entertainment to celebrate our 70th year.

And on top of all that Craig Taylor was able to tell us that he is up to date with his electronic recording of every play, with cast, performed by ILT since its inception in 1946. This has been a mammoth task.

I wonder how many other groups could boast the generosity, ability and dedication required to bring all these wondrous things about. And that's just one meetings output!!

Helen Pullar

The Glass Menagerie

Following auditions held on 1 February, *The Glass Menagerie*, by Tennessee Williams, to be directed by Jan Paterson assisted by Desley Cronon, was cast as follows:

Amanda Wingfield – Sally Jenkins

Laura – Margaret McGahan

Tom – Sam Hoepner

The Gentleman Caller – Nick Burton



L to R: Sam, Margaret, Nick, Sally and Desley

WORKING BEES

With the 2016 Season about to start, once again we need to get our premises into ship-shape condition.

PLEASE

do come along on **28 February at 9.00am** and help us carry out the necessary work. Only light tasks will be carried out on this occasion. It would be really nice if more than the usual suspects made themselves available.

Now that we have the go-ahead for our new Courtyard roof, we need to carry out the preliminary task of removing the existing coverings before the main contractor commences his work.

The planned date is

SUNDAY 20 March

On the same day, *Lipstick Dreams* is due to bump out and *The Glass Menagerie* bump in. Assistance would be much appreciated on this day.

Vacancy on Selection Committee

Unfortunately, David Austin has found it necessary to stand down from Selection Committee because of other commitments. Accordingly, there is a vacancy on this committee which is vital to our main core business.

Any member who is prepared to serve the balance of David's term (until the 2016 AGM) is invited to submit a nomination to the Secretary by 1 March. The vacancy will be filled by a vote of the members of the Administrative Committee.

Young Theatricals

The Young Theatricals had their sign on/information day on 23 January with a number of new students. The group now comprises 16 students – 9 boys and 7 girls. They were all given a poem and a monologue to prepare for the audition night on Tuesday 2 February. They had all considered the content and displayed some very promising insight and understanding of the pieces.

On 9 February, the group had its introductory lesson, where Helen Pullar gave the students some information about the Incinerator Theatre and Ian took them on a tour. They relished the opportunity to see the inner workings of the theatre, either again or for the first time, especially upstairs in the rafters.

The group will now move to theory and practical lessons in preparation for the Showcase, either at the end of this term or the start of term 2, depending on their progress. Guest speakers will also share their expertise with the students.

S-Troupe

Sign-on Day was held for S-Troupe on 31 January.

Welcome back to students (from left) Jillian, Peter and Samantha.

Also welcome back to helpers (in the middle of the circle) Shala and Sue.

S-Troupe's show later in the year is called *Colour my World* so classes at the moment are working on colour of course – Red, and Yellow were wonderful.



Students and helpers also had a tour of the theatre and the cast of *Lipstick Dreams* very kindly let us sit in on the end of a rehearsal session. Well it wasn't long before some of our students were up (plus Rosemary – a former - Lipsticker) and showing them how it's done!



Junior Theatre and Little Players

I.L.T. Junior Program began on Thursday 4 February with the first class of Little Players. There are 10 children enrolled in the group and all but four are siblings – including one set of twins which should prove interesting.

The first group of Juniors met on Saturday 6 February and appears to have a good balance.

The second group had more of the new students in it and has a wider age diversity and this could prove a challenge

The total of the three groups is 39 with a spare place in group 2 on Saturday morning.

Now that she knows which children are involved, Director Deirdre Lowe will finalise the scripts to be performed. The Junior production will be 'Make Hay While the Sun Shines'.

Little Players will have their own separate play this year, called 'A Rainbow Robbery'.

2016 Major Productions

Season 1: 2 — 19 March

Public Performances: 5, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 March

Lipstick Dreams

by Helen O'Connor & Simon Hopkinson

Directors: Doug Moses & Chris Austin-Greenhill

Rated PG – Contains some sexual references

Season 2: 4 — 21 May

Public Performances: 7, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 May

The Glass Menagerie

by Tennessee Williams

Director: Jan Paterson

Assistant Director: Desley Cronon

Rated PG

Season 3: 29 June — 16 July

Public Performances: 2, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 July

The Narcissist

by Stephen Carleton

Director: Shane Mallory

Assistant Director: Kate Mallory

Rated MA 15+ Frequent Coarse Language, Sexual References

Season 4: 21 September — 8 October

Public Performances: 24, 30 September, 1, 2, 7, 8 October

Deckchairs

by Jean McConnell

Directors: Chris Austin-Greenhill, Ann Collyer & Aaron Evans

Rated PG - Contains adult themes.

Season 5: 23 November — 10 December

Public Performances 26 November 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 December

The Final Test

by Chris Paling

Director: Jane Sheppard

Assistant Director: Anne England

Rated G - Suitable for all audiences

DIARY DATES

28 February from 9 am	Working Bee
2 March	Opening Night for <i>Lipstick Dreams</i>
5 March	Wine and Cheese night for <i>Lipstick Dreams</i>
20 March from 8:30 am	Demolition working bee
21 March	Bookings open for <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> Auditions for <i>The Narcissist</i>

FESTIVAL 2016

Preparations are well in hand for our 62nd Annual One Act Play Festival, to be held as ever on the second weekend in August.

Craig Taylor, Festival Director, was very pleased to announce that he had secured the services of very exciting adjudicator – Dani Rogers-Fernleigh.

Older members will remember Dani Rogers, who was a foundation member of both Junior Theatre and Young Theatricals. Not only was she an actress who won a number of awards in Festivals, she was the author of a number of original plays for Juniors and YTs and also for Daytime Theatre Troupe. Her mother, Joyce Rogers, was a stalwart of ILT.

As a 'grown-up', her many activities include being Associate Producer for *Paperback Hero* which 'discovered' Hugh Jackman. She was Queensland editor for *TV week*.

Married to an engineer in the mining industry, Dani has spent much time overseas in countries as diverse as Malaysia, Norway and South Africa. She now calls Australia home with husband Peter and daughter Isabella.

More information later. It will be a joy to welcome Dani back.

2015 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

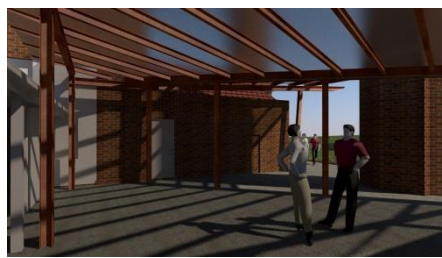
President	David Austin	3812 9431 (ah) 0422 620 851
Vice President	Doug Moses	3281 2846
Past President	Jim Orr	0447 191 954
Secretary	Helen Pullar	3281 4437
Treasurer	Jan Paterson	3282 4250 0419 787 130

CONTACT DETAILS FOR OTHER IMPORTANT POSITIONS

Front of House Management Coordinator	Anne England	3281 7654 0413 676 049
Subscription Secretary	Doug Moses	3281 2846
Group Liaison/ Publicity Co-Coordination	Robyn Flashman/ Robyn Harm	3812 3450 / 3812 3516
Jean Pratt Building Bookings	Desley Cronon	3288 8754
Junior Theatre/Little Players	Deirdre Lowe	0409 202 380
Young Theatricals	Liz Ball	0439 642 259
	Rebecca Noble	0422 449 291
STroupe	Di Johnston	0447 191 954
Daytime Theatre Troupe	Sandie Henwood	0439 744 641
Tourific Troupers	Helen Pullar or Jane Sheppard	H 3281 4437 J 5464 5363
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



Raising the roof at Ipswich Little Theatre

1936 – 80 years ago – a little building designed by Walter Burley Griffin, architect of our capital city Canberra, was opened in Ipswich. It was the city's municipal incinerator.

1946 – 70 years ago – one of Queensland's oldest amateur dramatic companies, the Ipswich Little Theatre Society, was formed.

1961 – 55 years ago – the building was abandoned as an incinerator after 35 years and condemned to demolition

In 1969 the Town Hall was closed down, and desperate for a performance space, members of ILT with public support obtained a lease for the Incinerator and converted it to an intimate theatre, thereby saving the iconic building.

Over a period of 47 years the company has changed the building from

← this to this →



with virtually no funding and no borrowing power as we do not own the property. Over the years we have spent (in today's money) approximately \$3,000,000 on the complex. This has come from box office sales and our own enterprises. This has significantly increased the value and usefulness of the building and preserved it for our city.



Ipswich Little Theatre is a multi-cultural community theatre of voluntary workers. We have groups for primary school children from ages 6 to 13, a youth group, a group for people with disabilities (the only such volunteer group in Queensland) and a group who perform for the 'early childhood' market, thus introducing the children of Ipswich to live theatre. We run the longest existing Drama Festival in Queensland, and offer the complex for a Theatre Lunch experience, thereby helping our tourism industry. Our main house Theatre offers half its performances, at a 50% discount, to charitable organisations for fundraising. Over the years we have put in the order of \$1,000,000 back into the community through this scheme.

Now – for the first time – we are appealing to the community to help us.

For the comfort of our patrons, we are about to construct a 'glass' ceiling to fly over our courtyard area which will greatly enhance this beautiful building. This will cost \$250,000. Our own members are lending us money to allow us to proceed. We want to repay this extraordinary generosity as quickly as possible.

We are looking for **donations** of any amount, **sponsorship** or just **box office support** as you spread the word about our activities. Please consider how you could help us.

- donations of \$50 or more will be acknowledged in one newsletter and one programme
- donations of \$1000 or more will be acknowledged in newsletters and programmes for 12 months.
- donations of \$5000 or more will be permanently recorded in the courtyard

All donations (other than anonymous) will be permanently recorded on our web site

To find out how you can **contribute** email us: info@ipswichlittletheatre.com.au