

≡ *Burning News* from the Incinerator Theatre

January 2019

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

Editor:

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**NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE
MEETING
7pm
Tuesday
12 February**

From the President	2
Auditions and Challenges	2
Chris Who?	2
Library	2
S-Troupe	2
Junior Theatre & LPs	3
Young Theatricals	3
Daytime Theatre Troupe	3
Garden	3
Raffles	3
Diary Dates	4
And the Winner Is ?	4
Contacts	4

Is a New Year's Resolution more than an agenda for the first two weeks of January?

Quartet

Season 1 of 2019

Three old friends Cecily, Reggie and Wilfred, who had been quite famous in the opera world in their day, reside in a retirement home for opera singers and musicians in Kent. They are enjoying their retirement and looking forward to 10 October when, each year, there is a concert to celebrate Verdi's birthday at which they have been asked to sing for the first time.

However, their peace is destroyed when, Jean, a friend from their days as performers arrives as a new resident of the home. She is still a diva and refuses to sing with them at the concert. Old hurts and rivalries resurface as secrets are revealed. Their plans for the concert fall into disarray, but, in true theatrical tradition, the show must go on!

A funny and poignant play which celebrates the twilight years and the hilarity of growing old disgracefully.



Tracey Spence (Cecily Robson/Maddelena), Ian Pullar (Reginald Paget/Duke of Mantua), Gillian Simpson (Jean Horton/Gilda) and Calum Campbell (Wilfred Bond/Rigoletto) sing the famous Quartet from *Rigoletto*.

Bookings are open and selling fast—particularly the two matinees.

Bookings are available on line at

www.ilt.org.au

or Visitor Information Centre

3282 0555

The season runs from 28 February to 16 March.

Public performances: 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 March including two matinees.

We Need Your Help!

Once again our Theatre Complex is in need of its annual maintenance clean up and re-organisation. There are many, many tasks that need to be carried out to get the place into ship-shape order for our patrons. So PLEASE make yourself available to give us only a few hours of your time on

SUNDAY 10 FEBRUARY from 9 am.

It would also be appreciated if you could let us know in advance of your attendance so that tasks can be allocated efficiently.



From the President

Welcome to 2019. Thank you for your trust in allowing me to be President and thank you to the members of the Committee for being willing to give of their own time to help ILT be the blend of talents that we are, and to help others to express their talents in whatever way they can.

This year is another filled with challenges for all facets of this wonderful group.

I see the task of the Committee as working to provide every member with the best facilities and conditions possible. We need to ensure that they and our patrons are in a safe environment, but also an environment that encourages all to have a great experience when here.

I look forward to the year and to seeing and enjoying the great entertainment that we provide for our patrons at every production either in the Main House or in the JP Building. And I hope as many of you as possible will join me.

Jim

Auditions and Challenges

Our second season for 2019 is about to get under way. This will be a season of three One-Act plays collectively titled *Challenges*. Prospective actors are invited to Auditions at ILT on 4 February at 7.30pm and, if required, Saturday 9 February at 2.00pm. The three plays are:-

Bubbles by Tara Routley (Adams). Directed by Jim Orr and Sam Hoepner, the play is set in the present and requires a cast of 3 Females (60+, 40+ and 20+). This heartfelt play deals with the difficulties presented when someone you love has dementia.

All By Myself by Robert Scott. Directed by Sam Hoepner, assisted by Jim Orr, it requires a cast of 5 of whom the main character must be male – age indeterminate. The other 4 characters can be any age or sex, This is a Monty Pythonesque comedy showing you don't always want what you wished for.

Farmer Will Swap Combine Harvester for Wife by Hugh O'Brien. Directed by Jim Orr and Courtney Murrin, the play is set in the present and requires a cast of 3 Males - 2 x 45+ 1 x 25+ and 3 Females 1 x 45+, 1 x 30+ and 1 x 25+. A fun play by a master playwright that shows how community can make a difference when unexpectedly confronted with domestic violence.

These are three contrasting one-act plays which deal with different challenges that life can present and how resolving them is never easy. We hope to take the audience on a roller coaster of emotions that will have them laughing and crying at the same time.

Contact Jim Orr 0402377258 and Sam Hoepner 0434 184 113 for further information.

Chris Who?

One of our entries on the Festival circuit this year will be *Chris Who?* by Tony Erhardt, directed by Tony assisted by Shala Wilson.

The cast, selected at audition, is:

Sarah Barry (Tigger), Sandie Henwood (Piglet), Laura Keating (Chris), Kierstyn Miller (Pooh), Lauren Fry (Rabbit) and Amy Fry (Eeyore).

Tony will take the role of A.A.

We wish Tony, Shala and the cast well.

Library

Hard to believe as it may seem, our library currently contains 1311 play scripts – an impressive tally.

Over the past year Librarian Aaron Evans and his assistants Doug Moses and Deirdre Lowe have catalogued every one of these plays on to an Excel spreadsheet, available to members.

This has been an enormous task, requiring the cataloguers to peruse every play in order to list the cast accurately and ensure that the play is properly categorised (some websites claim that comedies are dramas and vice versa, etc).

Many thanks to these members for their herculean efforts.

S-Troupe

Sign-on day was held for S-Troupe on Sunday 20 January 2019. Everyone was really thrilled to be back and certainly to fill out their forms in the air-conditioning!

This year we have 31 students and 10 helpers. A couple of students and helpers from last year were not able to return, but a couple of new ones arrived.

Di Johnston's script for the July show has been approved by Selection Committee and we are sure the students will be excited to get things underway for a great 2019.



Sign-on day for S-Troupe

Junior Theatre and Little Players

Fresh from a welcome break, Director Deirdre Lowe, together with assistant Ann Collyer, are ready for Sign-on days for these groups on 2 February and 7 February respectively.

Young Theatricals

Sign-on was held on Saturday 19 January and 17 students were enrolled. However there is still a maximum of 8 places available. Anyone who is interested is invited to email yts@ilt.org.au to organise attendance with the Directors.

Classes commence on 2 February and will be held every Saturday from 1pm to 4 pm.

Each year starts with a return to the basic building blocks of a production so getting in early is a great idea.

Directors Kyle Breese and Samantha Johnson look forward to kicking off another fantastic year.

Daytime Theatre Troupe

The ladies are currently enjoying a break. Well, most of them are. Jane Sheppard, hot on the heels of her successful mainhouse production of *A Piece of Cake*, has dusted off some cobwebs, sharpened her pencil (or more likely plugged in her computer), communed with all the animals in her imaginary farmyard, sweated and slaved to provide yet another delightful script for the first production of their year.

The rest of the Troupe will reassemble on 30 January to embark on their 36th year of quality entertainment for the young and young at heart.

Garden

Like all of us, the garden is struggling without rain. But Di Johnston is soldiering on maintaining our beautiful grounds. To assist her in this task, she would very much appreciate donations of plants. In particular, she would like cuttings of yellow dietes, yellow strelitzia, kangaroo paw, day lilies, salvia bethelii, myoporum ground cover, white geranium, solid red hippeastrum, variegated salmon hippeastrum, red begonia, white begonia.

Members will also have noticed that the bougainvillea is reshooting vigorously – about which Di has mixed feelings!

Raffles

Christmas is over. It is possible that Santa Claus, or other loved ones, gave you presents which you do not require or do not fit in with your décor or lifestyle. Well, don't just throw them away. Remember one man's rubbish is another man's treasure. Helen Greenhill would love to have them and recycle them as raffle prizes.

As you all know, the efforts of Helen and her partner in (whatever term you may like to use), Bev Ralph, have helped us in paying our debts. Any donations of possible prizes would be gratefully welcomed by these ladies.

Helen can be contacted on 3812 9431. She would love to hear from you.

2019 Season in Brief

Season 1: 28 February — 16 March

Quartet

by Ronald Harwood

Director: Ann Collyer; Assistant Directors:
Desley Cronon and Rebecca Noble

[Rated M: Some Coarse Language, Sexual References and Adult Themes.]

Season 2: 2 — 18 May

Challenges — A One Act Play Season

by Tara Routley (Adams), Robert Scott & Hugh O'Brien

Directors: Jim Orr and Sam Hoepner

[Rated M: Sexual references and Adult Themes]

Season 3: 11 July — 27 July

The Cemetery Club

by Ivan Menchel

Director: Chris Greenhill; Assistant Director:
Steven Carmichael

[Rated PG: Mild Sexual References]

Season 4: 19 September — 5 October

A Bunch of Amateurs

by Ivan Hislop and Nick Newman

Director: Shane Mallory; Assistant Director:
Aaron Evans

[Rated M: Coarse Language, Sexual References and Adult Themes.]

Season 5: 14 — 30 November

Boeing Boeing

by Marc Camoletti

(Translated by Beverley Cross and Francis Evans)

Directors: Helen Pullar and Robyn Flashman

[Rated PG : Mild Adult Themes]

DIARY DATES

30 January	Daytime Theatre Troupe recommences
Saturday 2 February 10 am	Sign on for Junior Theatre
Monday 4 February 7:30 pm	Auditions for <i>Challenges</i>
Thursday 7 February	Sign on for Little Players
Saturday 9 February 2 pm	Auditions for <i>Challenges</i> (if required)
Sunday 10 February from 9 am	Working Bee
Thursday 28 February	Opening night <i>Quartet</i>

And the Winner is ?

Each year, Ipswich City presents Australia Day Awards to members of the community who have made a significant contribution to the city. The awards are presented in the following categories: Spirit Award of the Year, Cultural Award of the Year, Event of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year, and Citizen of the Year.

The awards ceremony was held on 19 January. The winner of the cultural award was Arthur Frame. Arthur has been heavily involved in the Arts all his life, having started his acting career as a teenager with Ipswich Little Theatre. Not only has he acted for us, he has been engaged as a professional Director and has adjudicated both our 30th and 60th Drama Festivals. He is President of National Trust (Ipswich) and was very prominent at the convention held on our premises recently.

Congratulations Arthur.



2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

President	Jim Orr	0402 377 258
Vice President	Ann Collyer	3288 7053/ 0400 997 365
Past President	David Austin	3812 9431 (ah) / 0422 620 851
Secretary	Helen Pullar	3281 4437
Treasurer	Chris Greenhill	0427 977 007

CONTACT DETAILS FOR OTHER IMPORTANT POSITIONS

Front of House Management Coordinator	David Austin	3812 9431 (ah) / 0422 620 851
Subscription Secretary	Di Johnston	0447 191 954
Group Liaison/ Publicity Co-Coordination	Robyn Flashman/ Robyn Harm	3812 3450/ 3812 3516
Building Bookings	Desley Cronon	3288 8754
Junior Theatre/Little Players	Deirdre Lowe	0409 202 380
Young Theatricals	Kyle Breese Samantha Johnson	3201 6758/ 0423 278 833 0415 453 952
S-Troupe	Di Johnston	0447 191 954
Daytime Theatre Troupe	Kay McAllan	5464 3965/0439 305 658
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 the Division 8 Community Office for the monthly printing of *Burning News*,

For more details about Ipswich Little Theatre: www.ilt.org.au