



May 2019

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre

SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946

Editor:

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NEXT ILT COMMITTEE MEETING

7pm

Tuesday

11 June 2019

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Thanks to those members who worked front of house during "Challenges".

Please volunteer for "Cemetery Club"

Daytime Theatre Troupe

Performances for our two week season of "Hurry Up Nate", written and directed by Jane Sheppard, commenced on Monday 13 May and have been well received by our audiences. It's interesting to note there are three people from the first DTT production in January 1984 involved in this current production – Anne England, Jay Mair and Jane Sheppard. Chic Currie who has been our Mrs Music since the second DTT production also in 1984 is also part of the current production.

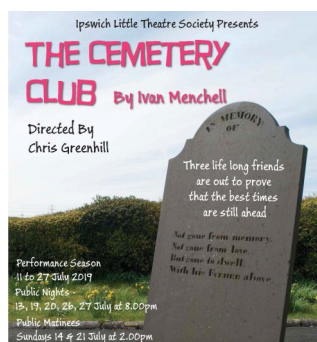


Kailen (Robyn Harm) is too much of a sooky-la-la to help Mia (Margaret Martin) find out what the fluffy white thing behind the tree is. It's Nate (Annette Kitching) who's lost his family and needs help to find the place where he belongs.

Hamonie (Jay Mair) and Farmers (Marie Mortimer, Lorraine Wilson, Jane Brown) admire the flower garden – "red and pink, orange and yellow, blue and purple too!"



Mia (Margaret Martin), Kailen (Robyn Harm) and Nate (Annette Kitching) have been getting up to mischief with Russell Crow (Sue Van Der Meer).



Bookings have opened for our third major production of 2019 and are available

on line at www.ilt.org.au

or Visitor Information Centre 3282 0555

See page 2 for more details



From the President

How busy are we? "Challenges" has just finished – congratulations to cast and crew for a fantastic production. Daytimers are in production with "Hurry up, Nate", another fun show. YT's are performing in the main theatre. "The Cemetery Club" is about to bump in.

None of this happens without FOH volunteers. No volunteers = no audience having the full theatre experience. Please make sure you try to give at least one night per season. It will make a huge difference and, who knows, you may even have a fun night.

I hope to see you at a night soon.

Jim

From the Administrative Committee

It seems that there is a feeling – at some level – that we are not a "classless" society. It appears that there are those amongst us who feel that their contribution pertains only to appearing on stage and therefore there should be no expectation that they volunteer at any other level.

This raises an interesting moral question? Yes, ILT's core business is putting on plays for a paying audience. But, could we do this if our membership comprised only actors and directors? Demonstrably, we could not. Behind any production is a considerably larger band of people who make it happen: set designers and builders, the publicity team, the lighting and sound operators, the backstage crew, the front of house workers and the raffle sellers – all of whom volunteer their time without the buzz of "the smell of the grease paint; the roar of the crowd".

The overheads for our company are very high and it costs us something in the order of \$1300 a week just to stay afloat. Our subsidiary groups contribute greatly to helping us cover this financial burden.

Does it not then seem an arrogance that someone can purport to belong to the company but say, "I only act."

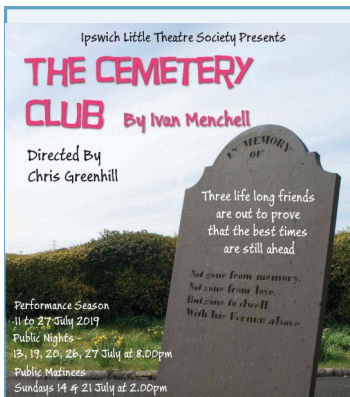
We are proud of our productions and laud our directors and actors, but if we don't all take our turn at the more self-less aspects of our success, there may cease to be an Incinerator stage on which to act. Food for thought!

Let's fill the next FOH roster in rapid quick time with actors thanking others for the support their production was given.

Vale Lorna Longston 1949-2019

With great sadness we report the death of Life Member Lorna Longston in Cairns on 1 May. Lorna was a member of our company for many years, appearing in numerous productions. She directed our Drama Festival for many years during the time when it was held on the Ipswich Girls Grammar School stage.

A larger-than-life character, she was loved by all and will be sadly missed.



The Cemetery Club

by Ivan Menchel

Director: Chris Greenhill; Assistant Director: Robyn Flashman

Three Jewish widows who have been lifelong friends meet once a month for tea before going to visit their husbands' graves. Ida is sweet-tempered and ready to begin a new life. Lucille is a feisty embodiment of the girl who just wants to have fun, shop, and catch the eyes of admirers. Doris remains fiercely devoted to her late husband and takes her grave-tending responsibilities very seriously.

Ida is not used to being alone after a long marriage, but doesn't think she's ready to get involved with a man – that is, until Sam enters the scene. Lucille and Doris see the budding romance between Ida and Sam as a threat to their monthly ritual and begin interfering with devastating results.

A bittersweet comedy about love, marriage, death and the challenges of moving on.

Challenges

The season of *Challenges* has completed its run to great acclaim from very happy audiences.

Hugh O'Brien, the author of *Farmer Will Swap Combine Harvester for Wife*, came to see the show and was so impressed he came again to video the production to show to a wider audience.

Congratulations to Jim Orr, Sam Hoepner and three wonderful casts and crew on a job very well done!

If you missed *Bubbles*, there will be another opportunity to see it at our Festival in August.

S-Troupe

The S-Troupers are working away at their production of *The July Grinch* to be presented, not surprisingly, in July,

Don't miss it. These shows are always so heart-warming.

Young Theatricals

The students will be presenting their showcase in the Incinerator on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 May. Two plays will be presented— *The Friends of Valerie Lane*, and *The Patient*.

It would be wonderful if lots of senior members came along to support and encourage the youngsters.

It was very gratifying to see two of the YTs performing in *Challenges* – Georgia Wright and Alisha Djemal-Mawer – very creditably.



Junior Theatre and Little Players

These youngsters are hard at work preparing for their presentations on 21 and 22 June. The Juniors will be presenting *The Great Grain Robbery* and the Little Players *Where's Jack*, both scripts by Director Deirdre Lowe.

This performance will bring to an end the Little Players for the year.

Deirdre and her husband Billy celebrate their Golden Wedding this year and so will be taking some time off to travel. In Deirdre's absence, Ann Collyer will act as Director and be assisted by Melinda Park. Many thanks, Melinda, for stepping in.

Plays for 2020

Selection Committee would like to receive offers from prospective directors for next year before 30 June.

As all six members of the Selection Committee have to read all plays submitted, early selection would be appreciated.

Festival 2019

As usual, this year's Festival will be held on the second weekend in August. Preparations are well in hand, even though Festival Director Craig Taylor is heading off overseas for a holiday. There is no reason to suppose that this year's festival will be as enjoyable as all those that preceded it. So don't forget to book your seats – the theatre still has a limited capacity.

We will be looking for the usual swag load of volunteers, starting with the working bee to set up the event on Sunday 4 August. And then throughout the weekend to assist with a multitude of tasks.

Our volunteers always look resplendent in their uniform black shirts and are easily recognised because of them. This year we are arranging to acquire a batch so that we all look alike. If you would like to acquire your very own light-weight shirt with the embroidered ILT logo, please let Sandie Henwood know before 30 June, telling her your size and whether you want your name on the right breast. The embroidered shirt will cost you \$40. For an additional \$5.50 you can have your name embroidered and a further \$6.50 will get you a pocket. Payment by 30 June.

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

24, 25 May	YTs Showcase
21, 22 June	Juniors & LPs Showcase
Wednesday 12 June	Auditions for <i>A Bunch of Amateurs</i>
Thursday 11 July	Opening night <i>The Cemetery Club</i>
20, 21, 27, 28 July	S-Troupe <i>The July Grinch</i>
Monday 28 July	Bookings open for <i>A Bunch of Amateurs</i>
Monday 5 August	Auditions for <i>Boeing Boeing</i>
9, 10, 11 August	<i>Festival 2019</i>

Auditions— “A Bunch of Amateurs”

Auditions will be held on Wednesday 12 June for “A Bunch of Amateurs” by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman, directed by Shane Mallory, assisted by Aaron Evans. Performance season 19 September to 5 October.

Cast required are: 2 males aged 40 to 65; 1 female aged 35 to 65; 1 female aged 35 to 55; 1 male aged 20 to 65; 1 female aged 28 to 38; 1 female aged 18 to 28.

A great opportunity for all aspiring actors!

Roofing Material

Over the past month, we have improved our weather security for both buildings. The pergola outside the Jean Pratt Building has acquired insulated roofing material which provides protection from sun and rain. And the leaks in the courtyard roof have been eliminated.

2019 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-Coordinators	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 Ipswich City Council Community Office for the monthly printing of *Burning News*,

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