

# ≡ *Burning News* from the Incinerator Theatre

January 2022

## Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre  
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

### Editor:

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### NEXT ILT COMMITTEE MEETING

7pm  
Tuesday  
8 February 2022

From the President	2
Auditions	2
LED there be light	2
Sub-groups gird their loins	3
A busy 'break	3
A leak	3
Admin by Zoom	3
Diary Dates	4
For Those Who Have Left the Stage	4
Contacts	4

There will be an afternoon tea in the courtyard to welcome volunteers from 4 pm on 5 February.

We'd love to see you there.



Bookings have now opened for our first season of 2022

### *The Games People Play.*

The season comprises two plays *Golf, Marriage and Other Murderous Matters* by Debra Chalmers, directed by Aaron Evans

and *Murder Play* by Brian J Burton, directed by Ann Collyer.

Despite all the restrictions due to COVID, both plays are well advanced with their rehearsals. The set was constructed on 16 January as can be seen from the photograph. So *The 39 Steps* finally comes to the end, being overpainted for the next season.



Clockwise from left, Joseph, Tony. Chris, Gillian, Ian and Chris hard at work. (Photo Ann Collyer)

Since the cast returned from the Christmas break, they have followed Covid guidelines to ensure everyone has been safe. They even had a cast member, Georgie, the lead in *Golf*, spend two rehearsals on zoom while the rest of the cast were in the theatre due to her being a close contact. Fortunately, both her tests were negative!

Bookings promise to be heavy with 25% booked on the day the box office opened.

**Season: 3 – 19 March**

## A Fully Vaccinated Venue

In accordance with the resolution of the AGM, the Incinerator complex is now a vaccinated venue. This means that any person wanting to enter the premises must be fully vaccinated (or have a medical exemption) as per Government requirements and be able to produce proof, such as a green tick on a mobile phone or a paper copy. While this will create some inconvenience for our patrons and members, the situation is unavoidable and in our best interests in the longer term.

## Volunteers Wanted

Once again, we need volunteers to undertake bar/kitchen and check-in duties during *The Games People Play*.

The roster will be posted on our web site on 31 January. Don't miss out!



## From the President

Rehearsals for our 1st Season are currently proceeding, with restrictions making it difficult for cast and production teams. Hopefully this will ease and make things more productive for each cast.

Thank you again for your support last year, We started with a hope that 2022 would be a year where life would be easier for us all and ILT. Unfortunately COVID finds new ways to make what we considered to be normal seem still so far away.

I thank everyone who has been, and is still, working towards getting ILT restarted for 2022. Some amazing things have happened.

The WWII saying keeps coming to mind 'Keep Calm and Carry On'. That is what we will do.

Please help others both in the theatre membership and outside in any way you can. Each act of kindness may be just the boost that that person may need.

Also please remember the Working Bee on Sunday 20 February – lots of things to do to spruce up the theatre ready for performance. I look forward to seeing you there.

Jim

## Auditions

7:30pm 7 February 2022

An opportunity like this only comes along "Once in a Blue Moon". Now, 33 Years after the last time Ipswich Little Theatre did this production, it certainly qualifies as "Once in a Blue Moon".

*Once in a Blue Moon* by John Dole is a hilarious farce with non-stop pace, excitement and laughs throughout the play.

*Gregory, an amateur astronomer, stares night after night at the constellation Lyra until he arouses the interest of its resident goddess who comes down to offer him her supernatural powers. But there is nothing remote about Lyra to the embarrassment of Gregory who has problems enough already, what with his girl-friend Veronica and his flat-mate, lecherous Lionel. To complicate matters further, there are Hash Harriet, a burglarious lady, and Ganymede Prout, a dim electrician, not to mention Gregory's mum and a muscular Australian sheila from down under, or the flat below.*

Directors Tony Erhardt and Dave Dunkerley are seeking the following cast: Gregory (18 to 30); Lyra (18 to 30); Lionel (18 to 30); Selena, Lionel's girlfriend, (18 to 30); Veronica, Gregory's girlfriend, (18 to 30); Mrs Green, Gregory's Mum (50+), Ganymede Prout (18 to 41), Hash Harriet (18 to 40), Rosie (18 to 30), Young Man (18 to 35)

Performance Dates: 12 – 28 May 2022

See you at auditions. For further information email Tony on [tony.erhardt@gmail.com](mailto:tony.erhardt@gmail.com)



## LED There Be Light

Thanks to a subsidy from the Blair Electoral Office and a generous loan from President Jim, we were able to upgrade all the theatre lights in the Incinerator to LED lamps. This will improve our lighting and, because of energy efficiency, be cheaper to run and produce less heat. Many thanks to Phil Holmes and his offsider Tony Erhardt who installed them. This has also led to improvements in the Jean Pratt Building lighting.

It is hoped that an additional grant from the Blair Electoral Office will also allow us to install ground lighting from the front gate to both performance venues.



## Sub-Groups Girding their Loins

All the sub-groups have developed their plans for 2022 as follows:

**Junior Theatre** will meet as usual on Saturday mornings during school terms. They will present two shows this year – 17 & 18 June (three performances) and 3 December (two performances). **Little Players** to be advised.

**Young Theatricals** will meet on Wednesdays from 5 to 7 pm. They will present a showcase of their work to parents and friends on 4 June (to be confirmed). A production will be mounted on 9, 10, 16, 17 September.

**Daytime Theatre Troupe** will meet on Wednesday mornings. During Book Week, 16 August to 2 September they plan a pantomime with performances to match demand. A Christmas pantomime will also be presented between 24 October and 11 November.

**Tourific Troupers** performances will depend on how manageable the COVID compliance rules are.

There will also be a **Directors Master Class Weekend** on 11 and 12 June.

And after the **Festival** having to be cancelled for the last two years, it will be back on 12, 13, 14 August.

## A Busy 'Break'

While no doubt many of our members enjoyed a restful Festive Season, here was a wonderful opportunity to get on with the tasks that simply need to be done.

Among the tasks carried out were:

- All electrical equipment was tested and tagged
- The new lights were installed (p 2)
- The Jean Pratt Annexe was repainted.
- All the carpets were cleaned
- The annual pest control was carried out.
- The memorial area was spruced up (p 4)
- A lot of clean-up and culling was carried out in the garden

Despite all these valiant efforts, there is always plenty to be done so once again we are calling for volunteers to attend a

### Working Bee Sunday 20 February

It would be really nice if the tasks were not left to only the regular few.

Please let the Secretary know that you are coming so we can prioritise the jobs. We only ask a few hours of your time and you get the benefit of the wonderful ILT camaraderie.

## A Leak

On Wednesday 5 January I was painting in the Jean Pratt Annexe when the heavens opened. Then Phil Holmes, who has been finishing the installation of the LEDs, arrived to tell me there had been a serious leak with water pouring into the Wendy House over the expensive light controller. We guessed rain must have blown up under the roof tiles and we would need to find a solution.

The next day it didn't rain, but Phil reported another leak. Because it was so hot and humid he had again turned on the air conditioning. The pipe that removed the condensate from the air con had ruptured at a bend over the Wendy House, spewing water over the plywood ceiling.

Fortunately Phil was able to dry out the equipment so there was no permanent damage. We called in the air con technician from Mansol who very obligingly rerouted the offending pipe. He reported the downpipe into which this had discharged was choked with leaves. An appeal to the Council brought a plumber next day who cleared this downpipe and the gutters. So it was a happy ending, but a real worry for a while.

## Admin by Zoom

The January meeting of the Administrative Committee was held perforce by Zoom, courtesy of Shane Mallory who set it up. While this served its purpose and was far better than trying to hold a meeting with all attendees masked, it is far from ideal. And we certainly missed the human interaction.

### The Perils of Zoom

A hushed solemn silence pervaded the room;  
we were watching a funeral service on Zoom  
when at the committal, the end very near,  
a voice cut the air waves so loud we could hear -  
"Just a moderate oven, I'm sure that will suit."  
A couple, still cooking, had forgotten to mute.

## 2022 Season in Brief

Season 1: 3 March — 19 March

### **The Games People Play**

Two short comedies:

**"Golf, Marriage and Other Murderous Matters"** by Debra Chalmers

Director: Aaron Evans, Assistant Director: David Austin

Rated: M Adult themes and some coarse language.

**"Murder Play"** by Brian J Burton

Director: Ann Collyer: Assistant Directors: Desley Cronon and Gillian Simpson

Rated: PG Some adult themes.

Season 2: 12 May — 28 May

**Once in a Blue Moon** by John Dole

Directors: Tony Erhardt & Dave Dunkerley  
Rated: PG Some adult themes

### **Annual Drama Festival**

12, 13, 14 August

Season 3: 22 September — 8 October

**Deliver us from Mama** by Jesse Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten

Director: Chris Austin-Greenhill:

Assistant Directors: Robyn Flashman and Martie Blanchett

Rated PG: Mild Adult Themes.

Season 4: 17 November — 3 December

**Breaker Morant** by Kenneth G Ross

Director: David Austin: Assistant Director: Aaron Evans

Rated: PG Adult themes

## DIARY DATES

Saturday 29 January 8:30 am 1 – 3 pm	Junior Theatre sign on Young Theatricals sign on.
7 February at 7:30 pm	Auditions for <i>Once in a Blue Moon</i>
3 March	Opening Night for <i>The Games People Play</i>

## For Those Who Have Left the Stage ...

Members are aware that it our custom to install a plaque in memory of valued members who have left the stage. This custom was initiated many years ago when the Daytime Theatre Troupe installed a memorial birdbath following the death of one of their members. A little later, we commenced the installation of the plaques, two of which (for Patti Pratt and Beryl Johnston) were installed as part of our 75th birthday celebrations.

Some years ago, the bath was relocated and filled with bromeliads to replace the some-times stagnant water. The whole area has now been given a facelift, thanks to the efforts of Jim Orr and Chris Greenhill. Feel free to admire it and reflect on those who have passed ...



### 2022 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 / 0413 636 249
Secretary	Helen Pullar	3281 4437/0400 801 443
Treasurer	Chris Greenhill	0427 977 007

### CONTACT DETAILS FOR OTHER IMPORTANT POSITIONS

Front of House Management Coordinator	Deirdre Lowe	0409 202 380
Subscription Secretary	Julie-Anne Wright	0419 758 724
Group Liaison	Robyn Flashman	0477 771 016/
Publicity	Robyn Harm	0413 742 116
Building Bookings	Desley Cronon	3288 8754 / 0435 309 352
Junior Theatre/Little Players	Deirdre Lowe	0409 202 380
Young Theatricals	Kate Hoepner Stephanie Groves Aaron Evans	0479 048 979 0439 202 955 0431 041 068
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 meet-ings	3812 2389

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