

≡ *Burning News* from the Incinerator Theatre

February 2023

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

Editor:

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**NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE
MEETING**
7pm
Tuesday
14 March 2023

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*"What if the Hokey Pokey
is what it's all about?"*



There are still some seats available on some nights for our first production of 2023.

Bookings at:

ilt.org.au or VIC 3281 0555

Directors Di Johnston and Jane Sheppard are working tirelessly (as are their dedicated cast) to bring this highly entertaining show to our audiences.

But spare a thought for Lighting Manager Tony Erhardt who will be up before dawn to photograph the scenes that will be projected on the back wall.

Staging a play with an outdoor setting – let alone numerous outdoor scenes – inside a building, certainly presents a challenge for the team, but challenges are what Theatre is about. All we ask of the audience is the “suspension of disbelief” and the desire to be entertained.

And you will be!



Kim Frohloff (Tate), June Lambourne (Dory), Jo Robbins (Connie) and Julie-Anne Wright (Margot) in rehearsal.

Season 2 March – 18 March

Public Performances

Nights (at 8 pm) Saturday 4 March, Friday 10 March, Saturday 11 March, Friday 17 March, Saturday 18 March

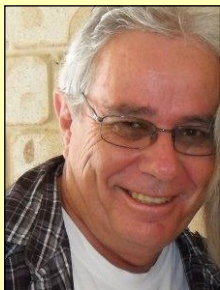
Matinees (at 2 pm) Sunday 5 March, Sunday 12 March.

HELP WANTED

We are again calling for volunteers to undertake front of house duties during *The Ladies Foursome*.

To offer assistance, please sign up by accessing the appropriate website roster

<https://www.admin.ilt.org.au/foh-roster/>



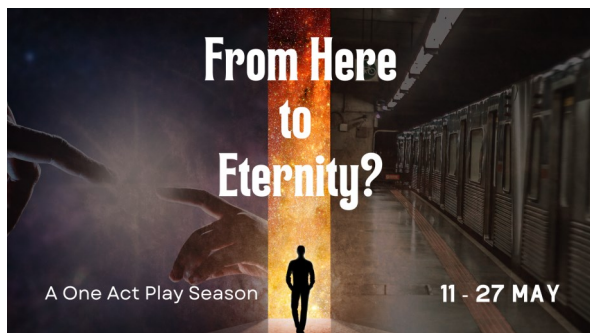
From the President

Again so many members have been working hard to prepare for the 1st Season and I know how many rehearsals have been held. I look forward to seeing this show presented by talented Directors, (Di told me to say that) and a great cast.

Thank you to all who put together the Volunteers Welcome and adjusted so well to the venue change due to the extreme heat.

And a special thank you to the members and volunteers who came to the working bee on Sunday 19 February and helped to keep our premises attractive, safe and functional.

Jim



Auditions for our second season, held on Monday 30 January, were extremely well attended, meaning there was strong competition for the roles. The selected casts are a mixture of returning members and newcomers as follows:

God Goes to a Shrink (by Hugh O'Brien)

Peter Fox	Sam Hoepner
Nareena	Zoe Wilson
Jasmine	Josie Yarham

Tracks (by Peter Tarsi)

The Homeless Girl	Olivia Bird
The Old Man	Callum Campbell
The Professor	Phil Diefenbach
The Nun	Autumn Barn
The Businesswoman	Liz Ball
The Businessman	Michael Civitano
The Lawyer	Jess Pitman
The Waitress	Kate Hoepner
The High School Boy	Joseph Savage
The High School Girl	Emily Sweet

Rehearsals have commenced under Director Tracey Spence and Assistant Director Chris Austin-Greenhill (*God Goes to a Shrink*) and Director Martie Blanchett and Assistant Director Jim Orr (*Tracks*) for the season running 11 to 27 May.

Junior Theatre

Junior Theatre and Little Players classes have commenced for 2023

There are 19 Juniors, 8 being new enrolments, and 8 Little Players this year. With some of her former helpers moving on, Director Deirdre Lowe is very keen to obtain a new offsider or two. Any volunteers? Deirdre can be contacted on 0409 202 380.



Little Players bonding at their first lesson of the year.

Daytime Theatre Troupe

The Daytimers will be regrouping on 8 March at 10 am to plan out the year. The current intentions are to stage two of their wonderful pantomimes – one in August and the second in late October and early November. Watch this space.

And of course there will be plans hatched to celebrate the forty years over which this group has presented their magic to generations of youngsters and the young at heart.

Again, watch this space.

For further information, contact Convener Jane Sheppard 5464 5363 / 0419020675

Young Theatricals & 50 Years

Young Theatricals has kicked off 2023 with a bang! There is now a total of 29 students plus a waiting list! They held their first class/induction day on 25 January and have had a couple of classes since then. One of the classes was a workshop on “how to audition” in preparation for auditions for two one act plays, *The Game* and *Mmmbeth*.

These plays will be presented in a season in the Incinerator on 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23 July. There will be a Special Night on 15 July to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the forming of the Young Theatricals.

50 years ago, the Ipswich Little Theatre Society’s fledgling Young Theatricals started with 18 members. Fast forward 50 years and over 80 plays and over 400 YT members later, and it is still going strong to this day.

To mark this milestone, the Theatre is planning a Gala Celebration on 15 July and we are reaching out to anyone who was involved with Young Theatricals or Crossfyre Young Theatricals in any capacity, and who would like to attend this Gala evening to contact us.

It will be a wonderful night filled with reminiscing, laughter, food, drink and a great show from the current Young Theatricals; however, seating is limited to 80 people in the historic Incinerator Theatre.

If you can’t make it there but want to be involved, we would love to hear from you and collate your memories into a presentation for the evening. This can be a message or a video relaying your favourite moments of your time with the Young Theatricals.

So, ask your neighbour, ask your friends, and let’s get as many old and new YT members there as possible. We anticipate a wonderful evening for all.

Email: tony.erhardt@gmail.com or reach out through the Ipswich Little Theatre Website www.ilt.org.au.

On the Boards Again

Selection Committee has accepted a tentative proposal to revisit the “Back On the Boards”-style of programme which was such a success when we emerged from the dark COVID days of inaction.

- both buildings will again be used
- casts will perform the same programme twice
- the audience will change venues at interval
- content will vary in length from short monologues to one act plays and anything in between.

For 2021, the decisions regarding content were made quickly and, for the most part content was selected by the Producer. This time potential directors are being asked to submit material they would like to direct.

Selection will be made with specific criteria in mind eg a balanced programme with minimal staging which complies with set changing constraints.

Expressions of Interest are called for and must be in the hands of Selection Committee by 31 May to allow the Selection Convener and the Producer to put together a proposal for consideration when plays are being selected for 2024.

This is an excellent opportunity for those who have time constraints to perform in a ten or 15 minute play or a monologue. It is a great chance to try your hand at directing with a mentor. It’s an opportunity to do something a little different.

For additional information, contact Helen Pullar as per Contact Details on page 4.

Tourific Troupers

For the past few years the Tourific Troupers programme has been severely disrupted by the advent of COVID.

But now that we have returned to the “new normality”, we are again open for business and are happy to take bookings from groups for our luncheon package of a two course meal, an interpretive talk on our historic Incinerator plus a bonus short play.

Enquiries Helen or Jane (page 4 for contacts).

2023 Season in Brief

Season 1: 2 March — 18 March

The Ladies Foursome

by Norm Foster

Directors: Di Johnston and Jane Sheppard

Assistant Director: Dave Dunkerley

Rated: PG Contains some mild language and adult themes.

Season 2: 11 May — 27 May

From Here to Eternity?

Two short plays:

Tracks by Peter Tarsi

Director: Martie Blanchett

Assistant Director: Jim Orr

Rated: PG Adult themes and references.

God Goes to a Shrink by Hugh O'Brien

Director: Tracey Spence:

Assistant Director: Chris Austin-Greenhill

Rated: PG Some adult themes.

Annual Drama Festival

Director : Di Johnston

11, 12, 13 August

Season 3: 7 September — 23 September

12 Angry Jurors by Reginald Rose
adapted by Sherman L Sergel

Director: Aaron Evans:

Assistant Director: Dave Dunkerley

Rated PG: Adult Themes.

Season 4: 10 November — 2 December

Theatre Restaurant

My Fair Empire written and directed by
David Austin-Greenhill:Assistant Directors: Courtney Murrin and
Tracey Spence

Rated: PG Mild adult themes

DIARY DATES

8 March: 10 am	Daytimers meet to plan the year
2 March	Opening night <i>The Ladies Foursome</i>
20 March	Bookings open for <i>From Here to Eternity?</i>
11 May	Opening night <i>From Here to Eternity?</i>
5 June	<i>Auditions for 12 Angry Jurors</i>

Plays for 2024

We know it seems a trifle premature, but Selection Committee is hoping that prospective Directors for 2024 would submit their chosen scripts early. This will allow the members to take a more leisurely approach to their evaluations to ensure that we have a varied and balanced programme to suit a range of tastes of our loyal patrons. Convener Shane Mallory (0403 175 702 or mail@shanemallory.com) would love to receive early applications from members who would like to direct a major production soon, but no later than 30 June.

He would also love to hear from any member who would like to direct a play to be entered in Festivals this year – One Act or ten minute play (see page 6 for a call for entries in one of the many Festivals).

**2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS**

President	Jim Orr	0402 377 258
Vice President	Shane Mallory	0403 175 702
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/
Marketing	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 Aaron Evans	0479 048 979 0431 041 068
Daytime Theatre Troupe	Jane Sheppard	5464 5363 / 0419020675
Tourific Troupers	Helen Pullar or Jane Sheppard	H 3281 4437 .J 5464 5363
Theatre number	NB: Only during rehearsals or meetings	3812 2389

Volunteers

Ipswich Little Theatre is a voluntary organisation. Virtually all of its operations depend entirely on volunteers. While most of these are members, we do have the good fortune to be able to enlist the help of supporters. In order to thank those who help and to recruit others, a Volunteers Afternoon Tea was held on Sunday 12 February. Because of excessively hot weather, the event was held in the air-conditioned Jean Pratt Building. Approximately 22 people attended with 5 of those being new to ILT. A number of our members spoke about the multitude of tasks the attendees might volunteer for, such as Front of House, backstage, set building, gardening, marketing, tours etc. The presentation was followed by an enjoyable afternoon tea.

There was an immediate spin-off with a number of the volunteers joining members in the mammoth working bee and sign-ons for Front of House for *The Ladies Foursome*.

The Mammoth Working Bee

On Sunday 19 February, we mounted the best attended working bee of our entire history with 26 volunteers – Aaron, Beth, Chris, Connie, Dave, Di, Helen, Ian, Jane, Jess, Jim O, Jim W, Kate, Kelvin, Kerrie, Kerry, Marilyn, Martie, Melinda, Robyn F, Robyn H, Sam, Sandie, Shane, Tony and Tracey – turning up for duty.

We moved mountains – at least the removalist who took the over-filled skip away on Monday morning might have thought so. The accumulation of the “stuff” of years went into the skip – stuff we no longer needed, at least till when we can’t find those valuable articles again.

The place was such a hive of activity, that there wasn’t even time to photograph everyone in action, but be assured that they were. You don’t get that much done without all the hours well spent. So there is a limited selection of photos.



L: Kerrie, Robyn H, Sandie & Connie in the kitchen



R: Jess on the cushions

R: Beth & Kerry sorting a big donation to Lifeline



Below: Marilyn in form



Above: Kelvin & Sam cleaning out the paint cupboard

Despite all the effort by all those people over all those hours, we didn’t get anywhere near the Jean Pratt lofts. Next time?

We hope President Jim makes a speedy recovery and bounces back to his old self very soon.



L: Melinda and her twin sister Moo in the dressing room



R: Kate, the Lady with The Lamp

R: Aaron and Jim W with the near impossible task of tidying the loft (a long way to go with the skip!)



Above, R & Below: Morning tea was very welcome!



Above: The immaculate Wendy House



L: The shed like you've never seen it.

R: Kate's colour coordinated cushion cupboard (fabulous alliteration as well!!)



Stop Press
We have received notice of the Port Macquarie Drama Festival to be held on 9, 10 and 11 June and calling for expressions of interest by 3 March (entries close in April). Anyone interested in entering a play needs to contact Selection Committee promptly (see p 4).

Marketing in action (the never ending story).
The two Robyns in an interview with Glen Smith at West Bremer Radio

