

January 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 February 2023**

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Rehearsals for *The Ladies Foursome* are in full swing (term chosen advisedly) and although the cast and crew have hit a few rough spots, they haven't been bunkered.

Unfortunately, Vicki Dwyer was forced to pull out of the production, but Julie-Anne Wright has stepped up and fits the role to a tee.



Hitting it off and playing a round are June Lambourne (Dory), Kim Frohloff (Tate), Julie-Anne Wright (Margot) and Jo Robbins (Connie)

Rehearsals have also been interrupted because of a case of Covid and an unexpected necessary absence by one of the cast for a week.

But the show is still on course to open on time and directors Di Johnston and Jane Sheppard have guaranteed a fun-filled evening or matinee. Bookings are open at:

ilt.org.au or VIC 3381 0555

Footnote: The photograph shows the cast treading the newly sanded boards (which will be overpainted again by the time audiences get to see them).

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.

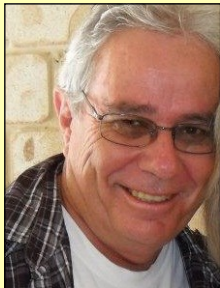
HELP WANTED — Working Bee

We are planning a massive **Working Bee** on Sunday 19 February. Our storage facilities are overcrowded and are in desperate need of rationalisation and re-organisation. We also need to carry out our annual sprucing up of the precinct. But to do these things, we need willing hands. PLEASE make yourself available and if you could let Helen (0400 801 443) know in advance that you are coming it would greatly assist in allocating tasks. Morning tea provided.

And 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

Thank you again for your support last year.

I thank everyone who has worked, and is still working, towards getting ILT restarted for 2023. Some great things have happened. The pictures of the sanding of the theatre floor are amazing and a work of art, themselves. A much bigger job than anticipated. Thank you Ian and Helen for continually following up on this.

The garden outside the Jean Pratt Building has finally been redone. Thank you Chris.

I again ask that each convener or team member who sends information out to members and the public ensure that a consistent message is being provided. What does this mean? I ask that any document/note be checked by the Secretary and Covid Team to ensure that we are all speaking from the same book. There is so much conflicting information around, we want our message to be consistent at all times. I am sure you can understand the need for this request.

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 that there will be a Working Bee coming up, with lots of things to do to spruce up the theatre ready for performance. Every additional helper makes it easier for everyone. I look forward to seeing you there.

Jim

From Here to Eternity?

Auditions will be held on 30 January for our second season *From Here to Eternity?* comprising two short plays

Tracks by Peter Tarsi, directed by Martie Blanchett with Assistant Director: Jim Orr

A group of strangers meet in a dirty Subway station. They have arrived with limited personal belongings and their watches have stopped. They all claim to be from different cities, and they soon realise there is no way out of the station. As they search for answers they reflect upon their lives – the good and the regretful. Why are they there? Where does this train take them? Who will board and who will be left behind?

Parts are available for 6 women: Homeless Girl - roughly 20 years old; The Lawyer - late 30s; The Nun - mature age; The Business Woman - mid 30s; High School girl - late teens; Waitress - late 30s.

And for 4 men: The old Man - early 80s; The Professor - early 50s; The Businessman - mid 40s; High School Boy - late teens.

More information can be found in the online audition forms or from Martie: mrsmbblanchett@gmail.com

God Goes to A Shrink by Hugh O'Brien, directed by Tracey Spence with Assistant Director: Chris Austin-Greenhill

What ifGod was one of us? Just a regular Joe or Joanne?

Dr Peter Fox, Clinical Psychologist, is about to meet a patient he has never seen before. "Messiah Monday" has never been so real or is it?

Cast required: 1 male old enough to be grandfather to a newborn baby and 2 females, preferably in their twenties.

More information can be found in the online audition forms or from Tracey on traceles1@gmail.com

Young Theatricals

YTs will recommence on 25 January with lots of continuing students, some new members "graduated" from Juniors and potentially, according to expressions of interest, a number of brand new thespians. The size of the group will be capped at 30.

Auditions will be held on 22 February for two plays *The Game* by Dennis E. Noble to be directed by Aaron Evans, assisted by Mack Groves, and *Mmmbeth* by Allison Williams to be directed by Kate Hoepner, assisted by Sam Hoepner.

These plays will be presented in the first YTs season of the year in the Incinerator on 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23 July.

The performance on 15 July will be the official celebration of the Young Theatricals 50th year. What better way to celebrate 50 years of Young Theatricals than supporting the current generation?

It is hoped that this performance will be attended by former members of YTs and the generations of theatre goers who have watched previous productions.



Modern Art?

Is this a work of modernistic art? Could we enter it in a competition and romp off with the winner's spoils? No: it is the sanding of the stage in progress.

The stage was laid in 1969 and about 250 productions have since performed on it, most with a painted floor. Needless to say, the paint was thick – a bit like Joseph with coats of many colours. Its removal by John the Sander chewed up sanding belts in their droves, partly because the heat of sanding melted the paint on to the paper. And there were three enormous bags of sanding residue. It was certainly a task way beyond his expectation and his initial estimate of cost. And he couldn't quite believe that we wanted to sand it back so we could start painting those lovely boards again!

I told him I wouldn't be around in another fifty years when it was next due for such treatment and he didn't think he would be either!

The Rosemary Garden

Gardener Chris Greenhill, who continues to work wonders on our grounds and gardens, has achieved another ambition. He has had the overgrown prickly cactuses and excess growth removed from the circular garden outside the Jean Pratt Building and has replanted it with rosemary and lavender. As the plants grow, we will enjoy their scents as well as their softer appearance.

Do you know that you could assist in developing our grounds without developing a green thumb or having to get your hands dirty? If you are an Ipswich resident and have no need to take up the Council's offer of free plants for ratepayers, you could simply let Chris borrow your rates notice and he will be able to select some more plants from the Council depot in the Park.

And of course, if you have a yen to get your hands dirty, there are also weeding and other tasks that Chris would be happy to share with you.



A Year of Anniversaries

In 1968 Ipswich Little Theatre created a Junior Theatre to cater for children of all ages. Obviously, though, there were difficulties in catering for a wide range of ages, so in 1973 Colin Payne established a group for students of High School age, which he named Young Theatricals. So this year there will be a celebration of the 50th year of its existence (see page 2). By now, the original YTs would be in their 60s and widely scattered. It would be lovely if a substantial number of former students could join the celebration on 15 July.

Back in the 1980s, ILT had a number of members who were young mothers who had difficulty in rehearsing at night. Taking advantage of the new Jean Pratt Building, a group of them, led by Jane Sheppard and Jan Paterson, formed the Daytime Theatre Troupe in 1983 which for the next forty years has entertained thousands of young and young-at-heart audiences with their wonderful pantomimes. Naturally the current ladies plan to celebrate their 40th year in style. Plans are being formulated and we can all look forward to the end result.

Incidentally, this year also marks 50 years since the said Jane Sheppard (then Anderson) appeared in the first of her many, many productions on the Incinerator stage, *Clearway*.

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

25 January	Young Theatricals resumes
28 January	Junior Theatre resumes
30 January	Auditions for <i>From Here to Eternity?</i>
22 February	Daytimers resume
2 March	Opening night <i>The Ladies Foursome</i>
20 March	Bookings open for <i>From Here to Eternity?</i>

Festival 2023**Under New Management**

The new Festival team of Di Johnston (Director) and Beth Martin (Assistant Director) have already sprung into action to organise this year's version of the longest running One Act Play Festival in Australia. They have engaged the services of an exciting Adjudicator, Allana Noyes from Toowoomba (details to be provided in future Newsletters) and have started to spread the news via emails and date claimers. They have been contacted by two groups from Sydney and one from Maryborough who have expressed an interest in participating (a first!).

So, dear reader, take this as your date claimer and put the second weekend in August into your diary for five sessions of entertainment.

You could also volunteer to help with all the work the Festival entails.

**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