

October 2023

## Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre  
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

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**NEXT ILT  
COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**7pm  
Tuesday  
14 November 2023**

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*I always go to other people's funerals. Otherwise they won't come to mine.*

The Daytime Theatre Troupe ladies are gearing up for their next extravaganza

### *Santa's Aussie Bush Christmas Surprise*

written and directed by Kay McAllan.

The season opens on 31 October and continues through until 10 November. As usual, the show will be full of colour, laughter, fun and singing to delight the young and young at heart,



Robyn Harm, Anne-Maree Ling, Sue Van de Meer and Margaret Martin



Margie Martin, June Lambourne, Sue Van de Meer, Lonny Rutland, Robyn Harm, Anne-Maree Ling, and Kerri Jones



Decorating the set: Chic Currie, Kay McAllan, Sue van de Meer, Margie Martin, and Robyn Harm

Performance dates on back page.

Public Matinee Saturday 4 November

The Daytimers also celebrated 40 years at the Metropole Hotel on 14 October. A report on the event will be included in the next Newsletter..



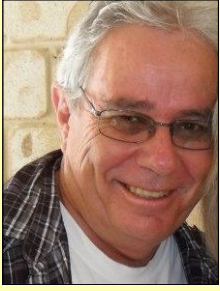
Rehearsals are in full swing for the much anticipated Theatre Restaurant season written and directed by David Austin-Greenhill.

Once again, the Incinerator auditorium will be transformed from its usual configuration to that of a restaurant.

Evening performances will be on 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 November and 1, 2 December from 7:30 pm with matinees on 12 and 26 November from 1:30 pm.

Tickets @ \$55 per head for a three course meal plus entertainment can be booked at [ilt.org.au](http://ilt.org.au) (for preference) or VIC 3281 0555

**More information on page 3 along with an appeal for Front of House assistance**



## From the President

Congratulations to Aaron, David and Cast for a superb production. Now we have to keep all of those men and women involved in the theatre – either helping out or in another production. Here's hoping that they are willing to help especially with the Theatre Restaurant coming up.

The YTs' showcase was well done and interesting for the audience and members – well done to Kate, Sam, Aaron (does he ever go home?), Mac and Jess.

Now to the next Daytimers Panto – it sounds like a lot of fun and we are looking forward to all the mayhem and joy that each show brings to its audience.

Then of course the Theatre Restaurant. All is falling into place – or is that warping??

*Jim*

## Young Theatricals

The Young Theatricals presented their Showcase *YTs Behind the Scenes* in the Jean Pratt Building on 6 and 7 October with the performance of a variety of improvisation games, monologues, duologues and a song. The audiences were well entertained and the youngsters found the experience demanding, terrifying and exhilarating. Congratulations to the players and their Directors Kate, Aaron, Mack, Sam and Jess.



The YTs take a bow.

## Christmas Party

Following the decision to move the AGM to January (to allow more time for the audit), the Committee has decided instead to host a break-up function. This will be held in the Theatre Courtyard on Sunday 10 December around 4 pm. This will give members and volunteers the chance to celebrate another successful year. Finger food will be served and the bar will be open.

For catering purposes, bookings will be required. More news to come.

## Junior Theatre

All aboard for *Marlins Great Ocean Adventure*, now well into preparation for the performances by the Juniors in the Incinerator on **Thursday 30 November at 7 pm** and **Saturday 2 December at 10 am and 12 noon**. The students are thoroughly enjoying their chance to rehearse and perform on the "big stage". The directorial team are delighted with their dedication and discipline.

## Season 2024 Launch

The programme for 2024 has now been finalised by Selection Committee and been ratified by the Administrative Committee. It will be revealed at the Season Launch to be held in the Jean Pratt Building on **Saturday 4 November at 2:30 pm**. This is a great opportunity for groups to learn what treats are in store for them next year and to make early bookings. It is also a great opportunity for thespians to learn what opportunities there could be for them to tread the boards next year. Anyone falling into either category is invited to attend. Would any member who is planning to attend please let Robyn Flashman know, for catering purposes. <nflashman@optusnet.com.au>

## Auditions: Ageing Disgracefully!

Auditions will be held on **Monday 23 October at 7pm** in the Jean Pratt Building for 14 parts in six plays. Potential auditionees can find more details of the plays to be performed on our web site or can contact Producer Helen Pullar. Quite a few budding thespians have already submitted audition forms and it would be appreciated if any others contemplating trying out would do likewise. This would greatly speed up the process of auditioning for six plays which may well be very time consuming.

### My Fair Empire



The cast are all working hard, learning the script as well as to sing and dance. Fortunately, they are enjoying themselves. Apart from performing, the cast are also the wait staff, but they can't do it on their own. They need help ...

For each performance they need two people to man the bar and two people to manage the dishwashing. They also need two more volunteers to assist with food preparation in the afternoon (or morning for matinees).

Di Johnston is the Front of House Co-Ordinator for this season and she would love you to offer assistance, by signing up at <https://www.admin.ilt.org.au/foh-roster/>

### The Cost of Business

Other Theatre groups remark enviously that ILT is so lucky because we don't have to rent performance venues. BUT...

We pay a lease fee, rates, licence fees, water and sewerage charges public liability insurance, cleaning (obligatory), gardening and maintenance (obligatory under our lease), fire protection, government returns etc. These amount to around \$1300 per week before we even think about production costs (sets, costumes, royalties, box office management etc).

Yes we are extremely lucky to have a place that we can call our own (almost) but it doesn't come free – or even cheaply. And that is why we came perilously close to going broke in 2020 when Covid meant no audience or income.

### RSA's

Connie Foy has taken on the role of Bar Manager for next year, She is asking that all those members who hold an RSA contact her so that she can compile a list and ensure that we meet our licence conditions. <thefoys@optushome.com.au>

### Important Positions Vacant

Despite the call for help with members to serve in key positions, we are still in need of volunteers.

**Box Office Manager.** The Society simply cannot function without audiences and audiences cannot exist without being able to buy tickets and book seats We really do have to have someone who will manage our box office – someone with technical skills and dedication.

**Raffles Co-Ordinator.** Not only do raffles provide us with essential funds, they are very popular with our audiences. There must be someone out there with time, energy and creativity who could take on this task or oversee a team. We have ticket sellers and plenty of ticket purchasers, but we NEED the goods to raffle.

**Anyone interested in either of these positions should contact Secretary Helen Pullar to apply**

### Garden Seats

After an extensive search, we have selected the type of garden seat (below) that will replace many of the ageing timber seats in the grounds. We are asking if any of our members would like to have their name inscribed on a seat as a donor. A donation of \$150 will pay the cost of the seat and a plaque displaying your generosity to posterity.



Contact Helen Pullar if you are interested.

**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**

Monday 23 October 7 pm	Auditions <i>Ageing Disgracefully</i>
31 October to 10 November	Daytime Theatre Troupe <i>Santa's Aussie Bush Christmas Surprise</i>
4 November 10 am	Public Matinee
Saturday 4 November 2:30 pm	<i>Launch of Season 2024</i>
10 November	Opening Night <i>My Fair Empire</i>
30 November, 2 December	Junior Theatre <i>Marlins Great Ocean Adventure</i>
10 December	Christmas Party
Sunday 21 January 2024	Annual General Meeting

**The Perils of Live Theatre**

Casts never know what audiences will do and sometimes they can be taken completely by surprise. The cast of *12 Angry Jurors* were no exception. Immediately after interval the actors return to their positions and Juror 3 (Adrian Carr) proceeds to adjust his dishevelled costume. One night a helpful woman in the audience pointed out that he'd missed one shirt button. Another night, he accidentally broke a glass and the cast, without missing a beat, cleaned it up. One audience member later commented to the director that there must have been additional expense in doing that every night. And during Juror 10 (Shane Mallory)'s racist rant, an audience member ordered him to sit down on his chair! His well-portrayed character was not much-liked by our audiences.

**2023 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**

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	David Austin	0422 620 851
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