

# ≡ *Burning News* from the Incinerator Theatre

February 2024

## Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre  
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

**Editor:**

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**NEXT ILT  
COMMITTEE  
MEETING**  
7pm  
Tuesday  
12 March 2024

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*I hate toll roads, so I go  
out of my way to avoid  
them.*



Ipswich Little Theatre presents

### AGEING DISGRACEFULLY

A series of monologues,  
10 minute and One Act Plays  
Produced by Helen Pullar

This season of short plays, opens on 28  
February

Bookings [ilt.org.au](http://ilt.org.au) or VIC 3281 0555

Two plays *Slow Dating* by Adam Szudrich, directed by Jane Sheppard, *Dotty's Inheritance* by Debra Chalmers directed by Jim Orr will be performed in the Incinerator. Another four *Ashes to Ashes* by Jill Curran directed by Di Johnston, *Heading for Home* by Ian Pullar directed by Helen Pullar, *Say Something Happened* by Alan Bennett directed by Robyn Flashman and *Away from Home* by Ian Pullar directed by Helen Pullar will be performed in the Jean Pratt Auditorium. Audiences will switch venues after interval..



Top row: Vicki Dwyer in *Slow Dating*; Jess Pitman & Dylan Clevens in *Dotty's Inheritance*; Catherine Edwards & Kerri Jones in *Ashes to Ashes*

Bottom row: Ian Pullar & Julie-Anne Wright in *Heading for Home*; Bob Gillian Simpson, Bob Polwvj & Audrey Raine in *Say Something Happened*; Peter Marshall & Ian Pullar in *Away from Home*.

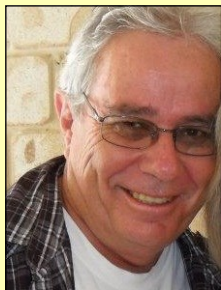
### HELP WANTED!

Once again we need the help of volunteers'

The annual start of year Working Bee will be held on **Sunday 25 February** from 9 am and your assistance would be much appreciated.

AND we need volunteers for Front of House during *Ageing Disgracefully*.

To offer assistance, please sign up at <https://www.admin.ilt.org.au/foh-roster/>



## From the President

Already February and the opening season is almost ready to start. So many have worked so hard to give the audience a fun night's entertainment. We are all looking forward to seeing all the plays.

If you can, please help front of house. As so many usual helpers are in the production we will need others to step up. So if you were in a production last year or hoping to be in a production this year, please help us now.

The working bee is on Sunday 25 February preparing the theatre for the upcoming performances. We would love to see you there.

*Jim*

## Booking *Disgracefully*

### *Confusion Reigns*

Despite every effort being taken to explain why there are two booking options for *Ageing Disgracefully*, many patrons are still uncertain as to how to proceed.

This season is being performed in two venues: the Incinerator Theatre & the Jean Pratt Auditorium.

Book only one venue. Pay only once.

Patrons who have booked a seat in the Incinerator will see half the programme in that building and then move up to the Jean Pratt after interval for the rest of the show. Those who booked in the Jean Pratt auditorium will go there first and move into the Incinerator after interval. Patrons of both venues will share the space in the courtyard before the start of the programme and during the interval for bar and kitchen service.

**Please book your tickets on the Jean Pratt site to even the current imbalance.**

Join us for an entertaining night with a difference in our unique ILT venue.

## Vale Kevin Steele 16 August 1938 – 25 January 2024

**Kevin Steele** first performed for ILT as a teenager in *Winter Sunshine* in 1956. Although this was a senior play he is recorded as appearing in the Festival in a Junior play in 1958. He appeared in at least twenty five full length plays during his acting career with a great variety of roles, ranging from Shakespeare to broad comedy and sensitive drama. He also appeared in at least eight one act plays in Festivals and other presentations. He won the Theatre's award for best actor in 1974 for *Hedda Gabler* and in 1977 for *Still Life*. In 1967 he produced the pantomime *Cinderella*. His last appearance on the Incinerator stage was in 1991 in the one-act play *Vacant Possession*.

He was stage manager for a dozen plays and contributed to the construction of the sets for these and other plays. He worked backstage for a number of other productions. In 1961 he was appointed Festival Director, a position he held until 1971. In this capacity he presided over festivals in the Town Hall and then moved it firstly to the Incinerator (1970) and the Ipswich Girls' Grammar School (1971). Together with his wife Judy he was responsible for Publicity Committee from 1969 to 1976. He served as a member of Selection Committee in 1962 and as Convener in 1963. He was a member of Admin for several years, serving as Treasurer in 1974, 1975 and 1976. He was a delegate to the Ipswich Cultural Centre in 1975. He organised the Pearl Anniversary Ball in 1976. His Life Membership was awarded in 1972.

Kevin worked as a bread vendor for many years – the early starts must have been difficult after rehearsals and performances – and later was the proud owner, along with Judy, of a Convenience Store on Pine Mountain Road, Brassall before they retired to what is now Ellen Grove. After finishing his acting career, Kevin continued to attend ILT plays as long as his health and diminishing hearing ability allowed. Actors in comedies loved to have Kevin in the audience because his policy was always "If it's funny, laugh loudly"..

Kevin passed away in Canossa on 25 January. His funeral was attended by a number of our current and former members with his eulogy being delivered by former member Neil Buchanan, a life-long friend. A memorial plaque for Kevin will be installed beside those of other members who have "left the stage."



Auditions were held for our second major production of the year on 7 February with a very healthy list of talented auditionees

This made the selection process challenging in itself, but after deliberation the following cast was selected – a mixture of repeat performers and new blood: :-

|                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Vera – Alison Lees      | Dorothy – Amaya Yee          |
| Mavis – Venessa Kohl    | Lynne – Corinne Biddulph     |
| Rose – Linsey Sullivan  | Andy – Lily McLean           |
| Sylvia – Cara Macarthur | Mrs Fraser – Courtney Murrin |
| Maxine – Josie Yarham   | Geoffrey – Chris Smith       |

Rehearsals have commenced with all the players brushing up their dancing steps and Director Tracey Spence and Assistant Director Kim Frohloff leading the dance!

Bookings open on Monday 18 March at  
[ilt.org.au](http://ilt.org.au) or VIC 3281 0555

## Junior Theatre

Junior Theatre has been back in action for three weeks already. A number of juniors from 2023 have “graduated” but three of four new recruits have joined the ranks.

Junior Theatre Director David Austin has announced that the young actors will be starting to work very soon on their mid-year production of *Wishes!* loosely based on *Into the Woods*, devised by David and Chris Greenhill who will be directing the action. The actors will have a ton of fun creating such characters as Red (Riding Hood), Grandmother, the wolf, Jack (of bean-stalk fame), his mother, Rapunzel, Cinderella, the Ugly Sisters, Hansel and Gretel and Snowflake (the cow).

## Daytime Theatre Troupe

Once again the creative juices of author/ director Jane Sheppard have been active resulting in a beautiful script for the re-assembled (after the holidays) group to rehearsals. *Picnic in the Woods* to be directed by Jane and Margaret Martin, will feature all those well-known characters: the three bears, Paddington Bear, Peter and Puff Rabbit, Pooh Red Riding Hood and BBWolf.

Readers may have noticed that the DTTs and the Juniors have a common theme. That is because they will be using a common set – on the stage rebuilt after the water incursion in December.

## Young Theatricals

The Young Theatricals are also back in business with – can you believe it? – thirty members! Some are continuing members, some “graduates” from Juniors and some newbies.

Initially the directors have been conducting valuable lessons in body language, voice, and the art of failing and how to accept it. Next will be auditions for their mainstage show – *Antigone 3021* – with Jessica Pitman and Mack Groves as the directors, and Aaron Evans as the assistant director. Some students who are interested in directing, stage management and lighting will be given the opportunity to help with those aspects for the show. The group are excited to be embarking on our big post-apocalyptic, Greek tragedy in the coming weeks.

The juxtaposition of classical Greek theatre and ultra-modern technology will make for a very interesting production.

## Plays for 2025

We know it’s still only February, but it’s not too early for budding directors to be looking out for plays they would like to direct in 2025. Selection Committee would appreciate early applications to direct so that proper consideration can be given to presenting a balanced programme for the year. Applications are open until the end of June and can be made to Selection Committee Convener Ann Collyer.

Selection Committee would also be happy to consider offers of potential Festival entries. Robyn Flashman’s production of *Say Something Happened* will be entered in our Festival and some others but there could still be opportunities for other entries.

The library houses hundreds of scripts and librarian Aaron Evans would be happy to help any budding directors in their search for appealing plays.

## DIARY DATES

## 2024 Season in Brief

## Season 1: 28 February — 17 March

**Ageing Disgracefully**

Producer Helen Pullar  
Six short plays staged in the Incinerator Theatre and the Jean Pratt Auditorium

Rated: PG Some adult themes.

## Season 2: 15 May — 1 June

**Stepping Out** by Richard Harris

Director: Tracey Spence  
Assistant Director: Kim Frohloff

Rated: PG.

**Annual Drama Festival**

Director:: Di Johnston  
9, 10, 11 August

## Season 3: 18 September — 5 October

**Clue: On Stage** adapted from the Paramount Pictures film written by Jonathan Lynn and the board game from Hansbro, Inc written by Sandy Rustin, based upon the works by Jonathan Lynn, Hunter Foster, Eric Price

Director: Tony Erhardt  
Assistant Directors: Jo Robbins and Dave Dunkerley.

Rated PG: Adult Themes.

## Season 4: 20 November — 7 December

**Bondi Legal** by Tony Laumberg

Director: Chris Austin-Greenhill  
Assistant Director: Liz Ball

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Sunday 25 February from 9 am   | WORKING BEE                                       |
| 28 February  | Opening Night <i>Ageing Disgracefully</i>         |
| 18 March   | Bookings open for <i>Stepping Out</i>             |
| 27 May 7:30 pm   | Auditions <i>Clue: on Stage</i>                   |
| 30. 31 May 6 pm<br>1 June 10 am & 2 pm                                   | Junior Theatre <i>Wishes!</i>                     |
| 10 June to 21 June (booked sessios)<br>15 June 10 am Matinee performance | Daytime Theatre Troupe <i>Picnic in the Woods</i> |
| 19, 20, 26, 27 Junly   | Young Theatricals <i>Antigone 3021</i>            |

## What Would Prompt People to Act?

Why would any sane minded person want to go on stage to act? Why would anyone willingly suffer the agonies of stage fright and the trauma of learning lines?

Well, Dame Judi Dench explained her reason in her *Shakespeare: The Man Who Pays the Rent*.

“*Macbeth* was the reason I went into theatre. I saw my brother Peter play King Duncan in a school production. He had to say ‘What bloody man is that?’ and I thought: My God swearing! If this is Shakespeare, this is for me.”

But for mere mortals, why would they do it? There is nothing like the terror of treading the boards for the first time. But then there is nothing like the exhilaration of performance.

## 2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

|   |                 |                        |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|
| President                                 | Jim Orr         | 0402 377 258           |
| Vice President & Selection Committee Con- | Ann Collyer     | 0400 997 365           |
| Past President                            | David Austin    | 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<br>Aaron Evans             | 0479 048 979<br>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 meet-ings | 3812 2389                    |