

January 2025

## Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre  
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

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**NEXT ILT  
COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**7pm  
Tuesday  
11 February 2025**

From the President	2
Griffin Award	2
Full Attention at the AGM	2
Popcorn	3
Group Bookings	3
The New Year is Starting	3
Chimney	3
Auditions <i>Perfect Murder</i>	3
Vale Jan Paterson	4
A Wonderful Opportunity	5
Diary Dates	6
Terrors of Autocorrect	6
Contacts	6



*"I kept all my resolutions last year. I found them when I opened my diary."*

### Annual General Meeting for 2025

The Annual General Meeting was duly held in the Incinerator on Sunday, 19 January.

If you have a complex organisation with 29 reports to table, an Annual General Meeting is unavoidably long. That said, wrapping it up in two hours is amazingly brief. It is, in a way, a great shame that more members don't attend and hear just what has happened over the previous twelve months.

It is risky to summarise the reports as every aspect of our organisation is important. The success of our productions at every level is self-evident, but what goes on behind the scenes for example in Marketing and ICT is beyond impressive. Financial success is always a winner and a Bar and Catering profit of almost \$20,000 and Raffle takings of \$10,000 are astonishing.

Side by side with the highlights are the more mundane – sets get built, grass gets mowed, lights get hung, dishes get washed (but in a new dishwasher), newsletters get produced, regulations get revised, costumes get organised – the list is endless. How lucky we are to have people willing to undertake all these tasks.

Congratulations to the new Committee. Unexpected circumstances have led to Jim Orr again taking on the Presidency for which we should be very grateful. New to the Executive team is Julie-Anne Wright as Vice President and the Administrative Committee welcomed aboard Relle Scott, Kerri Jones and Kim Frohloff to give us a Committee of 26 to, hopefully, spread the load.

Thank you to all attendees. We trust 2025 will be another successful year as we collectively work together for the greater good of ILT.

The **Administrative Committee** for 2025 comprises: Executive plus Martie Blanchett, Ann Collyer, Desley Cronon, Tony Erhardt, Aaron Evans, Connie Foy, Kim Frohloff, Robyn Flashman, Robyn Harm, Sandie Henwood, Sam Hoepner, Phil Holmes, Di Johnston, Kerri Jones, Deirdre Lowe, Shane Mallory, Melinda Park, Ian Pullar, Relle Scott, Jane Sheppard, Tracey Spence.

**Building Committee:** Ian Pullar, Helen Pullar, Melinda Park, Jim Orr, Jane Sheppard, Chris Greenhill.

**Selection Committee:** Ann Collyer, Ian Pullar, Martie Blanchett, Julie-Anne Wright, Relle Scott, Shane Mallory.

### We Need Your Help

At the start of every year, a working bee is held to set up our wonderful Theatre complex for the year ahead. In February last year we had record attendance from members. This year we could do with even more help as even with the number last year we didn't get everything done. SO, if you could spare us a few hours of your valuable time, we'd love you to join us on

**SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY** any time after 8:30 am

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could set a new record for attendance?

**Remember, evening performances will commence at 7:30 pm from this year.**



## From the President

Firstly, thank you to those members who attended the AGM. We all know how long it can sometimes be, but you also need to know how much work is done on your behalf to ensure that ILT and its groups continue to provide entertainment, fun and learning.

I have been, and am very proud to be, President of ILT and the thoroughly professional way we present to the general public and services.

During the year we lost many long serving and Life members. They will all be missed by those who knew them for their talent and friendship: Jan Paterson, Kevin Steele, Shirlee Burns, Leesa Besgrove, Vicki Mil-som, Les Chappell, Bev Ralph, Helen Greenhill. Every one of them has given untold hours to the Theatre and they are missed by all who knew them.

I know that it is hard for everyone to agree with every decision made by Committee and Executive, but if you want to be a part of that decision making process you must become a member of Committee. This then enables you to fully understand the process and reasons for certain decisions. Being part of Theatre is supposed to bring fun and joy into our lives, as well as provide an outlet for our talents. Please remember this when you choose to be a member. I harp on respect and we must always try to be kind to each other.

I look forward to helping ILT be the wonderful group it is in 2025.

Congratulations to Connie Foy for being awarded the Griffin Award, in Memory of Judy Grant. Connie's commitment to the theatre and providing support to everyone is amazing – even dragging her Mother into cooking and serving in the Bar. Her willingness to accept and utilise new systems has blown me and everyone away. I so look forward to seeing what she and Ann bring to the Theatre and Bar Service in 2025. *Jim*

## Griffin Awards

Each year the President presents a Griffin Award in memory of former President Judy Grant to a member who has made an outstanding contribution to the Society during the year. The award is determined from nominations by members of the Committee and are sponsored by Ross Grant, Judy's husband.

There were four nominations:

Robyn Flashman for her long service as Group Liaison Officer;

Di Johnston for her continuing efforts in so many areas and particularly the Festival;

Margaret Martin for her continuing contribution to Daytime Theatre Troupe and her assistance with the Festival barbecue and the winner;

**And the winner** – Connie Foy for her tireless efforts with Front of House service including Bar, Catering and Raffles.



Ross Grant presenting the Griffin Award to Connie Foy.

## Full Attention at the AGM



"Management" : Ian, Helen, Jim & Chris



The members rapt in the proceedings





After a short break over the Festive season, the cast are back to work with rehearsals, set painting and all the other activities required for a major production.

It's the late 1990s in Hollywood and Oscar season is in the air. Bruce Delamitri is thriving off the controversy of his newest masterpiece *Ordinary*

*Americans*, a film about a young hillbilly couple who have become mass murderers. The main motive for the controversy is that in the real world a copycat couple, Wayne and Scout, are doing exactly that! On returning from a wild night at the Oscars, Bruce has an unexpected social call from Wayne and Scout. They decide to take Bruce hostage demanding that he go on live TV and state that he's to blame for their violent actions, because of the movie he has made.

Directed by Aaron Evans, with Mack Groves as Assistant Director, *Popcorn* opens on 26 February.

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

Remember evening performances will commence at 7:30 pm



Vicki Dwyer, Robin Vary and Michael Civitano in *Popcorn*

## Group Bookings

There are still a few nights available for groups to book for *Popcorn*. Any group keen to make money while enjoying a good night out should contact Martie Blanchett 0405 186 767

There are also opportunities for the final production of the year *Waiting for God*.

## Chimney

Weather permitting, on Monday 3 February, bricklayers will swing into action (literally from a crane) to repair the brickwork on the northern chimney that has been held in place by a strap. Viewing is permitted from outside the grounds.

## The New Year is Starting!

Back to school, back to work and back to Theatre for sub-groups (Senior theatre is too busy for a holiday!)

**Young Theatricals** will resume on 29 January at 4:30 pm.

**Junior Theatre** will resume on Saturday 1 February 8:30-11 am

**Daytime Theatre Troupe** will resume on Wednesday 5 February from 9:30 am.

The directors of all three groups are keen to get going again.

## Auditions

**The Perfect Murder** Adapted for the stage by Shaun McKenna from the novella by Peter James.

Victor Smiley and his wife Joan have been married for nearly twenty years. Victor secretly loathes Joan more and more each day. Joan is bored by Victor, and his snoring drives her mad. Their marriage has reached a crisis point. Victor decides there is only one way to get Joan out of his life for ever, but he's about to get a nasty surprise. As it turns out, Victor's not the only one with murder in mind ...

Auditions will be held in the Jean Pratt Building at 7:30 pm on Monday 3 February for this thriller, to be directed by Helen and Ian Pullar with Assistant Director Julie-Anne Wright.

There are five parts available:

*Victor Smiley* is a middle-aged man, for whom "murder is my hobby". He is an obsessive compulsive.

*Kamila Walczak* is a "skinny Croatian prostitute in her 20s" (accent essential).

*Joan Smiley* is an incorrigible gossip who loves shopping – old enough to have been married for nearly twenty years but possibly young enough to have a baby.

*Detective Constable Roy Grace* is aged in his late 20s, dedicated but considerate.

*Don Kirk* is a middle-aged and fit taxi driver who loves using cockney rhyming slang.

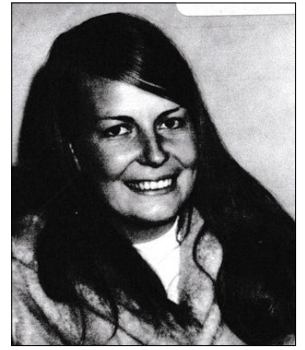
Further information and scripts are available from the directors ([hpullar@bigpond.net.au](mailto:hpullar@bigpond.net.au)) or you can complete an audition form via <https://www.ilt.org.au/getinvolved/auditions/>

Season 14 – 31 May

## Vale Janice Paterson 13 June 1948 – 20 December 2024

Jan and Col Paterson joined ILT in May 1972. Jan's first involvement was a minor role in the play *Not Now Darling* in July 1972. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Jan has appeared (for ILT) in 17 full length plays; 19 One-Act Plays, 7 Theatre Restaurants and 8 Daytime Theatre Plays. She has won ILT Best Performance of the Year Award three times before they were discontinued. Across all Drama Festivals, Jan has won the Best Actress Award 20 times. She has also won several Supporting Actress and Actress in a Minor Role awards. At the ILT Drama Festival, Jan has won the Best Actress Award 4 times, more times than any other ILT member and she is the only woman to have won every one of the available acting awards.



Jan in *Not Now Darling*

Not satisfied with being an outstanding actress, Jan turned her hand at directing. Her first dozen or so productions were with Junior Theatre and Young Theatricals. And then she started directing adult productions for ILT. Over the years Jan directed 27 full length plays, 31 One-Act plays, 4 Theatre Restaurants, 9 Daytime Theatre Plays, 17 S-Troupe productions, 12 Junior Theatre plays and 17 Young Theatricals plays.

Jan won the ILT Director of the Year 6 times. Across all Drama Festivals she won Best Director 15 times. In 1988, while directing for the Young Theatricals, Jan took the YTs to World Expo '88 to perform Dennis Betts' play *Just Equal* in the Australian Pavilion.

Over the years Jan has been responsible for some significant events at ILT. In 1983 she was part of the original group that started Daytime Theatre Troupe and in 1992 she devised and commenced S-Troupe. For the work done by S-Troupe, Jan was responsible for ILT receiving \$10,000 when she was awarded the Westpac Bank National Service Award. Several smaller amounts were awarded to ILT in the following years.

Acting and Directing were not the only strings to her bow. Jan has had lengthy stints as Secretary and Treasurer and was on Admin Committee for more years than anyone can remember. She has been Librarian, Wardrobe Mistress and has served several terms on Selection Committee. She lived and breathed Ipswich Little Theatre. In 1988 she was awarded Life Membership of Ipswich Little Theatre.

Jan also directed for other companies and really enjoyed directing musical theatre. She has directed musicals for the Ipswich Choral Society, the Orpheus Chorale, the Cambrian Choir and the Ipswich Musical Theatre Company. Jan is also well-known at Brisbane Arts Theatre where she directed several critically acclaimed productions, the standout being *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Jan is well-known and loved right across South-East Qld for her contributions to community theatre.

Some of you may not know this but Jan was an accomplished musician. She played drums in the band *The Murray River Mud-Skippers* along with Chic Currie on keyboards and Travis Taylor on guitar in the 2002 production of *Dimboola*.

In 2013 Jan appeared on stage for the final time in the Daytime Theatre production of *Ruby's Bush Christmas*.

Her final full length play as Director was *The Glass Menagerie* in 2016.

Her final festival play was in 2016 when she directed *A Talk in the Park* to win Best Play and Best Director.

The last play she directed (and her last involvement with Ipswich Little Theatre) was the 2017 Daytime Theatre production of *The Cute Little Bear from Peru*

As a performer she has no equal and, for me at least, these are the outstanding roles that she has played:

In 1984 she played "Aunt Abby" to Marguerite Ryan's "Aunt Martha" in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. The two of them were brilliant as the murderous Aunts.

In 1998 she teamed up with Paul Freeney in *Visitors from London*. She played "Dianna" the Academy Award nominated British actress in Hollywood for the awards ceremony. A truly memorable role.

Her favourite Daytime Theatre role was "Errol the Feral Fox" (I think a lot of the attraction has to do with the name). But for me, I will always remember her in the floppy hat and Wellington Boots as "Paddington Bear".

In 2013 she played her final serious role as "Lily" in *The Big Cats* opposite Les Chappell. This was Jan's magnum opus. During 2013 *The Big Cats* entered 9 Festivals in South-East Qld. The play picked up 28 Awards. Jan won 7 awards for her portrayal of "Lily". On more than one occasion adjudicators described the performances of Jan and Les as "a master class in the art of stage craft."

Rest In Peace Janice Paterson

This tribute was prepared by Craig Taylor.

Jan is survived by her husband Colin (also a Life Member), her sons Andrew and Nicholas and their families.



Jan as Paddington with her son Andrew



## A wonderful opportunity

At the end of 2024 ILT hosted a well-received presentation which dealt with the Reverberatory Incinerators and how they operated. We now have the opportunity to welcome any one interested to another presentation, this time about Walter Burley and Marion Mahony Griffin: their lives and achievements.

Please join us

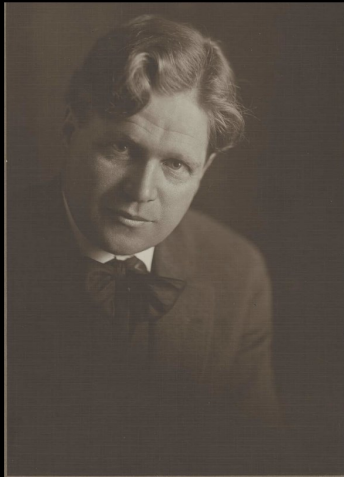
**Saturday 22 February**

**following wine and cheese in the Incinerator Courtyard at 7.00pm.**

The event is free and open to anyone who is interested, but bookings are essential. The direct link for booking is <https://iplt.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/145229>

## The Griffins' Canberra: The Promised Vision

The disappointing saga of Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin's unfulfilled plans and the lost opportunity for our nation's capital.



Michael Thomson is a 1950 'baby boomer' who was born in Newtown, Sydney (Australia). Six years of art history lessons in high school nurtured his passion for architecture. He undertook a Diploma of Art (Education) at the National Art School and Alexander Mackie Teachers College, graduating in 1971. He then taught at various high schools in New South Wales until his retirement in 2010.

His early exposure to Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture later led to an equal enthusiasm for the work of Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin. He is currently vice president of the Walter Burley Griffin Society.

In 2018 and 2019 he made two trips to the US, photographing buildings by Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Burley and Marion Mahony Griffin, as well as a host of other significant architects' work. On each of these trips he delivered presentations about the Griffins to the Friends of the Historic Park Inn Hotel at Wright-On-The-Park, in Mason City, Iowa. The 2019 one was repeated for the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians of the USA.

In 2020 he delivered an online presentation on the Griffins' Australian work, "A Tale of Three Cities", hosted by the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation. He was also one of six presenters for the 2023 Wright Sites x Pecha Kucha 20 / 20 Series, where talks are limited to only twenty seconds for each of twenty slides.

## 2025 Season in Brief

**Season 1: 26 February — 15 March**

**Popcorn** by Ben Elton

Director: Aaron Evans

Assistant Director: Mack Groves

*Rated: MA 15+ Adult themes, sexual references and coarse language..*

**Season 2: 14 — 31 May**

**The Perfect Murder** adapted by Shaun McKenna from a novella by Peter James.

Directors: Helen and Ian Pullar

Assistant Director: Julie-Anne Wright

*Rated: PG .Some adult themes*

## Annual Drama Festival

Director:: Di Johnston

**8, 9, 10 August**

**Season 3: 17September — 4 October**

**Secret Bridesmaids' Business**

by Elizabeth Coleman

Director: Martie Blanchett

Assistant Director: Shane Mallory

*Rated PG: Some coarse language and adult themes.*

**Season 4: 19 November — 6 December**

**Waiting for God** by Michael Aitkens

Director: Chris Austin-Greenhill

Assistant Directors: Jessica Pitman and Alison Lees

*Rated: PG Some coarse language and adult themes.*

## DIARY DATES

Wednesday 29 January @ 4:30 pm	Young Theatricals resume
Saturday 1 February 8:30 –11 am	Junior Theatre resumes.
Monday 3 February 2025 7:30 pm	Auditions <i>The Perfect Murder</i>
Wednesday 5 February 9:30 am	Daytime Theatre Troupe resumes
Sunday 16 February from 8:30 am	Working Bee
26 February	Opening Night <i>Popcorn</i>

## The Terrors of Autocorrect

I'm sure Mr Gates and his crew intend to be helpful, but as often as not predictive text or Autocorrect get in the way. Recent events caused me to remember that when Shayne Neumann made his maiden speech in Parliament, he talked about ILT and named members including Jan Paterson. But Hansard (pkf predictive text) recorded her as January Paterson.

Not long ago I read a book published in Britain and was taken aback by the spelling of 'Booker Prize'. And later the spelling of 'citizen'. An editor's note on the end pages apologized for a computer error whereby words ending in -ize e.g. size, had been changed to -ise endings. My guess is that a valiant attempt had been made with 'find and replace' to deal with the ubiquitous American -ize ending but it failed. (I have even had trouble typing this because Autocorrect insists on putting in zeds (or more likely zeas).

### 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

President	Jim Orr	0402 377 258
Vice President	Julie-Anne Wright	0419 758 724
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	Martie Blanchett	0405 186 767
Marketing	Robyn Harm	0413 742 116
Building Bookings	Desley Cronon	3288 8754 / 0435 309 352
Junior Theatre	Chris Greenhill	0427 977 007
Young Theatricals	Kate Hoepner Aaron Evans	0479 048 979 0431 041 068
Daytime Theatre Troupe	Kay McAllan	0439 305 658
Tourific Troupers	Helen Pullar or Jane Sheppard	H 3281 4437 .J 5464 5363
Theatre number		3812 2389