

March 2025

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

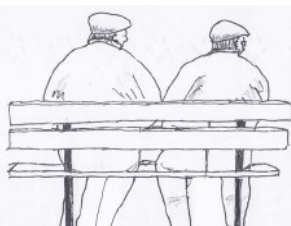
Editor:

Ian Pullar

07 3281 4437 or e-mail:
info@ilt.org.au

**NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE
MEETING
7pm
Tuesday
8 April 2025**

Plays From the President	2
<i>The Perfect Murder</i>	2
Group Bookings	2
Memorial for Bev Ralph	2
The Griffins in Canberra	3
Junior Theatre	3
Young Theatricals	3
Festival Play	3
Plays for 2026	3
Diary Dates	4
Chimney cleaning	4
Contacts	4



"My daughter persuaded me to watch 'West Side Story' with her. Once you got past all the singing and dancing, it wasn't too bad."

Alfred Was Not Great

Cyclone Alfred wreaked havoc in south-east Queensland and northern New South Wales. The damage was far, far worse in places other than Ipswich but we were not spared. For a start, on Thursday 7 March, the authorities decided to close schools, transport etc (for good reason). Clearly, Ipswich Little Theatre had no choice but to cancel performances of *Popcorn* on Friday and Saturday. But Alfred lingered, so the Sunday matinee also had to be cancelled. What a disappointment for the cast. Would it be possible to reschedule performances? All avenues were explored, but alas it proved impossible.

Not really surprisingly, water entered the Incinerator – it is a Burley Griffin building – and Lake Burley Griffin reappeared and of course it was lovely weather for ducks.



Photos pkf Phil Holmes



But Alfred eventually petered out and, after some drying out, *Popcorn* has been able to complete its season.

Unfortunately, many patrons (including this editor) missed out on seeing the show.

Needless to say, the cast were very disappointed by a truncated season, but had enjoyed the experience of performing in this very strong drama. The cancellations naturally led to refunds, so our Box Office was affected.

And the directors and cast of *The Perfect Murder* had no choice but to cancel two of their rehearsals but they still have time to catch up.

So Ipswich Little Theatre certainly didn't think Alfred was great.



Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with Front of House for *Popcorn*. With no Front of House there can be no back stage or on stage.

And if those volunteers who were rostered on for the cancelled performances are disappointed, there will be more opportunities with three more productions and a Festival to come.

Would any member who holds an RSA please let Connie Foy (Bar Manager) know as it is desirable to have one on site at each performance 0403 575 044 <thefoys@optusnet.com.au>. It is very easy to obtain an RSA through a simple course on the computer (it must be easy – I did it), so it would be appreciated if aspiring PICs could get the qualification..



From the President

Wow! So much has happened since the February meeting.

Working Bee – thank you to those who attended. A lot was achieved by those who did come. Alas not all jobs on the list were started or completed so we still need to consider how best to organise for these to be completed.

Popcorn opened and then was attacked by Cyclone Alfred. According to some ladies I know – typical male couldn't decide what he wanted to do; kept getting off track, wouldn't take directions, and finally just sat around making a mess.

Thank you to all who prepared the theatre for the weather issues and who monitored the situation. Also, to those who kept in touch with others during this time.

Commiserations to Aaron and his cast – the loss of three performances would have been a blow.

Glad to report that our wonderful FOH volunteer Joyce is doing well and currently staying with daughter Connie to ensure she behaves herself. *Jim*

The Perfect Murder

Bookings are open for our second season of 2025. An adaptation by Sean McKenna of a novella by widely published British crime writer Peter James, this play will please all lovers of this genre.

Directors Helen and Ian Pullar and Assistant Director Julie-Anne Wright are thrilled with progress and are delighted to have moved into the Incinerator and the new set (still in embryonic form), having completed rehearsals in the Jean Pratt Building at which these photos were taken.



Joan (Jo Robbins) consoles Victor (Gene Banyard) at losing his job.



Joan (Jo Robbins) has other ideas with Don Kirk (Shane Mallory)

Another slice of luck for this production. Not only does Rhian-non Pettett have her private tutor in Croatian (as reported in February's Newsletter), Sean Gibson has former Senior Sergeant Mallory to teach him to strut as Detective Constable Roy Grace.

Season 14 – 31 May

Public Performances 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31 May @ 7:30 18, 25 @ 2 pm

Bookings at ilt.org.au or

VIC 3281 0555

Group Bookings

Sessions available for groups are fully booked for *The Perfect Murder* (with a waiting list). However for groups wishing to fundraise, there is still one half night available during *Secret Bridesmaids' Business* and one whole night and two half nights available for *Waiting for God*. Any group interested should contact Martie Blanchett 0405 186 767.

Memorial for Bev Ralph

As previously reported, a memorial plaque will be installed in memory of Bev Ralph and her contribution to Ipswich Little Theatre.

If anyone would like to join members of her family and members of ILT at the ceremony at midday on Saturday 29 March, please let Chris Greenhill know 0427 977 007 or christophergreenhill70@gmail.com

The Griffins in Canberra

On Saturday 22 February, an audience of 50+ were entertained by a most interesting and informative talk on the Griffins, presented by Michael Thomson from the Burley Griffin Society. Walter Burley Griffin and his wife/partner Marion Mahoney Griffin arrived in Australia in 1913, having won the prize for the design of the Nation's new capital. Integral to their entry was the beautiful drawings done by Marion. They had high hopes, but World War I put a serious dampener on funding and then the bureaucrats got involved. The Griffins eventually had little choice but to resign – just in time for the Depression! So the Canberra of today bears only a passing resemblance to their original plan.

But to look on the bright side, if their involvement had been what they expected, we wouldn't have had our beloved Incinerator!

We are very grateful to Michael for his presentation for which President Jim thanked him on behalf of the attendees,

Photos by Melinda Park



Junior Theatre

The Juniors are continuing their journey with Shakespeare and have been doing a lot of word games. At the last session, the actors were asked to make up words that rhyme with the first word given, preferably made up words.

That easily segued to Shakespeare's "made up" words that we use in everyday conversation such as accommodation, suspicious, majestic and ob-scene. They were very surprised.

Then came the part that they all enjoyed the most, Shakespearean insults. They were wonderful in delivering the words and there was many a "How dare thee!"

These activities are a preamble to the production of *A Midsummer Night's Fun*. More details to come.

Young Theatricals

There have been a number of changes in the group from last year with some members "graduating" and new ones joining. So there is now a period of orientation to help bring the environment and culture of what the group is about to fruition.

Workshops have covered lessons in Body Language, Voice and Accents, and in script reading, in which the students took the chance to read Aaron Evan's published one act play, *Odd Chemistry*.

Inevitably, Cyclone Alfred caused the cancellation of a regular Wednesday class but lessons resumed once the rain depression had passed. Fortunately there was no long term impact on the Jean Pratt Building.

Festival Play

Selection Committee would love to hear from potential directors for plays to be entered on the Festival Circuit, including our own Festival. As usual, our Festival will incorporate ten minute plays, Youth plays and the Open section.

It would be very unfortunate if we didn't have an entry in our own Festival, let alone the other Festivals organised by groups we hope will enter ours.

Librarian Aaron Evans would be happy to help with play selection from our extensive library.

Plays for 2026

Although it is still early in 2025, we need to plan ahead and so it is time for budding directors to give serious thought to what plays they would like to submit to Selection Committee for possible production in 2026.

Applications can be submitted any time between now and the closing date of 30 June. <https://www.ilt.org.au/apply-to-direct-with-ilt/>.

For further information or guidance, Selection Committee Convener Ann Collyer is always available. <amcollyer58@gmail.com> or 0400 997 365

And librarian Aaron Evans is also available to assist with play selection.

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

14 May	Opening Night <i>The Perfect Murder</i>
Monday 9 June	Auditions <i>Secret Bridesmaids' Business</i>

Chimney Cleaning

On 7 September 2023 (opening night of Aaron Evans' production of *12 Angry Jurors*), Ipswich City Council hired a very tall crane to allow men to remove growth from the Eric Nicholls chimney and place strapping around the chimney to prevent any loosened bricks from falling.

On 27 February 2025 (opening night of Aaron Evans' production of *Popcorn*), Ipswich City Council hired a very tall crane to allow bricklayers to remove seven courses of the decorative brickwork on the side of the chimney, clean the bricks and reinstall them.

The work was carried out very efficiently and was over by mid-afternoon, creating no impediments for our opening night audience. The job was declared as lasting for evermore! But if it isn't, we may have to get Aaron to undertake another production!

On the same day, men in the cage removed growth from the central chimney and applied a substantial spray of herbicide. (We've been there before!)



2025 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 0400 801 443 .J 0419 020 675
Theatre number		3812 2389