



BURNING NEWS

from the Ipswich Incinerator Theatre

www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au

JULY 2008

Ipswich Little Theatre Newsletter

Forty years in the Incinerator!
No, not a penalty but a celebration
See page 2

Our 54th One Act Play Festival is next!

9, 10 August 2008

INTRODUCING OUR ADJUDICATOR

We are delighted to welcome Mr Patrick Mitchell as our Adjudicator for our 54th One Act Play Festival this year.

See page 2 of this newsletter for many of his achievements.

We are sure that you will make him welcome to our Festival and we can rest assured that ILT member, Bette Rose will look after him and be a wonderful Assistant to the Adjudicator again this year.

Although there is a smaller number of entries in our Festival this year, there are some very powerful plays making up the Program.

Those of you who came along to the preview night of the ILT pro-

duction of Mark Lucas' play *Domain* will realise that a very high standard has been set. Director, Jim Orr has already won a Best Director award for this play and we are sure that the play and its cast members will be harvesting more awards at the other festivals between now and when we see the play again in our Festival in August.

Tickets for the Festival are now on sale at the Ipswich Visitor Information Centre in Queens Park.

A season ticket for all four sessions of the Festival is only \$20 and it gives you the opportunity to secure the seat of your choice for all four sessions as well as receiving a free program.

HELPERS NEEDED

If you would like to be an active part of our Festival, helping to sell tickets at the door, liaising with the visiting theatre groups, assisting backstage etc please contact the Festival Director, Suzanne, on 0412 79 22 64 or Desley 3288 8754

Harvest Rain Theatre Co and Picasso

What is the connection?

Small theatre companies are taking a hit in the current economic climate. Harvest Rain Theatre Company has had significant downturn in attendances. With no government funding, a \$100,000 a year lease on their New Farm theatre and staging and administrative costs

running into several hundred thousand dollars, it won't be long before they may have to shut up shop. Their latest show, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is on until July 26, so see it if you can. There are gorgeous pictures of it online at www.harvestrain.com.au

The exhibition of Picasso's art and that of his contempo-

raries currently on show at the Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane has, however, just welcomed the 50 000th visitor in less than a month.

Is there a lesson to be learnt from these facts?

Is it a matter of spending large amounts of \$\$\$ in promotion or do people just prefer art to live theatre?

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NEWS FLASH

Meet our One Act Play Festival Adjudicator
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News from the groups within Ipswich Little Theatre four groups all based in the Jean Pratt Building

→ DON'T FORGET!

AUDITION

A further audition will be held at the Jean Pratt Building on Monday 4 August 7.30 pm for the October production.

Further details are available by phoning Doug Moses on 3281 2846.

Forty Years in the Incinerator.. what is this all about?

2009 marks the fortieth year that ILT has been performing at the Incinerator Theatre.

As you can imagine we will be holding special celebratory events throughout next year and planning is about to start.

If you would like to be on the planning sub-committee contact Helen 3281 4437

S-Troupe

Don't miss out on booking for S-Troupe's next production *Faster Higher Stronger* (a tribute to the Olympics). There will be 3 shows - 1 @ 6.30 pm on Friday 1st August, and then 2 shows Saturday, 12.30 pm and 5 pm. Please note these times are different to the yearly schedule.

Tickets are \$10 each which includes a small supper from each country. Bookings are essential because of the catering factor and public bookings can be made with the Visitors Info Centre on 3281 0555.

I will also have tickets with me on Saturday 19th July when we resume class (1pm start) if parents want to buy them then after class at 4pm - please have correct money.

At the performances the bar will also be open to purchase drinks.

Di Johnston

Daytime Theatre Troupe

See page 3 for all the details

Jan Paterson

Crossfyre Young Theatricals

Welcome back to all Crossfyre students for

term 3. After all the work in putting on *Life and Death in the City*, the students are now gearing up for a solid few months of rehearsal for the end of year performances of *Metamorphoses*, a play by Mary Zimmerman based on the myths of Ovid.

If you missed seeing the one act plays that made up the mid year production, you can catch them at the Festival on 10 August. We are performing all three of them again as there were no other Intermediate entries this year from other theatre groups. Don't forget that Tony Erhardt, Crossfyre assistant director is the playwright of one of the plays.

Suzanne Matulich

Smart Arts

Smart Arts is getting into the final stages of rehearsal for their annual performance.

It will only be one night, **Friday 12 September** and the theme will be Time Travel.

Kerri-ann is undertaking to write the script for this production so make sure that you support her and come along to the performance.

Kerri-ann McDonald

Meet Mr Patrick Mitchell



Mr Patrick Mitchell, adjudicator for our 2008 One Act Play Festival

Patrick has worked extensively in the arts industry in many parts of Australia. As an actor and director he has worked for companies such as the SATC, STC and Qld

Theatre Company

Patrick has been artistic director and production director for such theatre companies as Freewheels Theatre Company (Newcastle, NSW), the Australian Theatre of the Deaf (Sydney, NSW), La Boite Theatre (Brisbane, QLD) and Darwin Theatre Company (N.T).

In addition he has directed productions for companies including ToeTruck Theatre Company, Riverina Theatre Company, Theatre North (Lismore, NSW), and the Queensland Arts Council.

Recently Patrick worked with the Queensland Arts

Council as strategic facilitator on the *Good Night Out* project which saw him working with 18 regional and remote Queensland communities on arts projects that sought not only to have a cultural impact but also a social and economic impact.

Most recently he has been lecturing on theatre at the Mount Gravatt campus of Griffith University. During this time Patrick has completed a Master of Arts on arts in regional communities and has begun a PhD with a similar focus.

We welcome him to our Festival this year!

RUMORS

A play reading of this hilarious Neil Simon farce will be held Tuesday 5 August at 7.30pm in the Jean Pratt Building with a light supper to follow. The aim of the play reading is to provide people who may be interested in joining our group, the opportunity to meet some of our members and to find out more about us. Also, Director, Robyn Flashman, would like to determine the viability of casting this play in September as it requires 5 male and 5 female performers (a mix of age groups). The planned season for the play is 12 nights over 3 weeks, Wednesday —Saturday nights from 26 November to 13 December. If you require further information about the play reading or the play season give Robyn a call on 3812 3450.

A MURDER MYSTERY

Ipswich Quota Club is hosting an Italian Wedding Party (a Murder Mystery Night) on Saturday 13 September. One of our longstanding supporters, Carmel Kendrick, is organizing a table and is inviting theatre members to

come along and join the fun. The wedding is set in the 1970s and each guest will be a character (but not necessarily with a speaking part). You might like to dress for the occasion and the era but it is not essential. Tickets are \$28 and profits from the evening will fund the worthwhile community projects which Quota supports. Robyn Flashman is taking bookings for Carmel and can give you any further details. 3812 3450

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE INCINERATOR THEATRE?

A calendar is going to be put up in the Green Room of the Incinerator Theatre charting all use and bookings for that space. This should make sure that everyone knows whether they have the right to the use of the theatre at any time. The director of the current Major Program play must still always be consulted before bookings are made.

Daytime Theatre News

Daytime Theatre Troupe members are now in rehearsal for their final production for 2008 "Santa's Christmas Surprise!" written by Kay McAllan and featuring Chic Currie, Geraldene Fitzpatrick, Sue van der Meer, Jane Brown, Anne England, Elizabeth Murphy, Col Paterson, Carol Culey, Alan Brown and Robyn Harm.

All of your favourite characters [including Rudolf, Frosty, Chrissy-Tree, Jingle-Bell, Holly, Merry Clause, Trixy Elf, Nixy Elf and of course Santa] gather at the North Pole in Santa's Workshop for a wonderful surprise. Come along and join them.....

BOOKINGS are essential ADMISSION is \$5.00 per person. Telephone Chic Currie on 32889783 [home], 0409725315 [mobile] or each Wednesday at the Theatre [38122389] between 12 and 2pm.

PERFORMANCE DATES
Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 15th,
Friday 17th October, 2008
Tuesday 21st, Wednesday 22nd,
Friday 24th October, 2008
at 9.30am and 11.30am

MATINEE PERFORMANCE
Saturday 18th October, 2008 at
10am and 12noon.

Jan Paterson on behalf of the
Daytimers

Scene but Briefly: what is it?

What is *Scene but Briefly*? It is a smorgasbord of short plays of various genres written by Ian Pullar and presented by the Tourific Troupers, a group of dedicated ILT players and directors and accompanied by delicious food served in our lovely Burley Griffin Incinerator Courtyard.

Following the success of our short August season in 2007 when audiences really responded to our daytime presentations, Ipswich Little Theatre is again giving patrons the opportunity to enjoy Theatre in pleasant surroundings with friends, good food and light entertainment, hence the inclu-

sion of weekend luncheons.

These cameo plays have been delighting Daytime Tour Groups and we are pleased to have the opportunity to present them to our local patrons.

Casts and directors include: Dianne Adams, Alan Brown, Geoff & Shirlee Burns, Desley Cronon, Robyn Flashman, Pam Floris, Judith Grant, Di Johnston, Clive Lowe, Jenny Pearce, Erin Pearl, Patti Pratt, Ian & Helen Pullar, Jane Sheppard, Craig Taylor, Ken Wall and members of our own S-Troupe.

Plays are performed by some of very own "Tourific Troupers" a group of local Ipswich Little Thea-

tre members formed specifically for Tour Groups visiting our theatre.

If you are keen to be a part of this different theatre experience

Available bookings are as follows:

Luncheons: **23, 24 August**,
11.30 am, Price: \$28 per head
Supper: **23 August**, 7.30
pm, Price: \$26 per head

Also **Wednesday 20 August**:
a half Group Night Booking for
fundraising is available
40 seats at \$440

For further information or to book
tickets please contact Ian or
Helen Pullar Phone 3281 4437



CONTACT DETAILS

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The Ipswich Little Theatre complex, including the historic Incinerator Theatre designed by Walter Burley Griffin, is in Burley Griffin Drive, off Griffiths Road, Ipswich.

To ring the theatre when there is a class or rehearsal **PHONE 3812 2389**.
NOTE: this phone is not staffed all the time.

**NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE MEETING:
12 AUGUST
7.00 PM**

2008 DATES TO PUT IN YOUR DIARY

2—19 July	Love and Other Reasons Directors Doug Moses and Jan Paterson Tickets at VIC 3281 0555
8, 9, 10 August	One Act Play Festival director Suzanne Matulich 3281 4748
16-24 August	Scene but Briefly —collection of 10 min plays by Ian Pullar 3281 4437

Vale—Bob Lynch

Those of us who were members of Ipswich Little Theatre Society in the sixties and seventies were saddened to hear that Bob Lynch passed away on 29 June 2008, aged 91 years.

Bob was originally a member of the St Mary's Players, and joined ILTS in the early 60's. Initially he worked backstage. His first 'on stage' role was in 1963 in a season of *One Act Plays* performed at the Town Hall. In 1963 he moved into the role of director and his first production was *Behind My Skull*. Beryl Johnston and Wally Ryan were in the cast.

Throughout the sixties Bob continued to work in roles of stage manager, actor and director. He worked backstage in our One Act Play Festival with Kevin Steele, who was Festival Director from 1961 – 1971.

Bob directed *Chase Me Comrade* in 1969, our final production to be staged at the Town Hall. He continued to direct plays at the Incinerator in the early 70's. He loved farce and directed both *Wild Goose Chase* and *Post Horn Gallop* in 1970.

In later years Bob moved to the Gold Coast, but kept up his strong friendship with Kevin and Judy Steele. He spent his final weeks in hospital, where Kevin and Judy report that he kept the nursing staff entertained with stories of his days in the theatre. We were both honoured and privileged to have him as a valued member of our theatre family for many years.

Judy Grant

Contact details that you might need to know

President	Judy Grant	3288 0717
Vice President	Desley Cronon	3288 8754
Immediate Past President	Pam Floris	3288 6159
Secretary	Helen Pullar	3281 4437
Treasurer	Jan Paterson	3201 7974

Smart Arts Director	Kerri-ann MacDonald	3812 7368
S-Troupe Director	Di Johnston	3812 9141
Crossfyre Director	Suzanne Matulich	3281 4748
Daytime Theatre Troupe Coordinator	Jan Paterson	3201 7974
ILT One Act Play Festival Director	Suzanne Matulich	3281 4748
Front of House Management Coordinator	Desley Cronon	3288 8754
Group Liaison Secretary	Robyn Flashman	3812 3450