

≡ *Burning News* from the Incinerator Theatre

March 2023

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

Editor:

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**NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE
MEETING**
7pm
Tuesday
11 April 2023

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"I used to be addicted to the Hokey Pokey but I turned myself around."



A One Act Play Season 11 - 27 MAY

Bookings open
20 March

for *From Here to Eternity?* comprising two short plays, *God Goes to a Shrink* by Hugh O'Brien and *Tracks* by Peter Tarsi.

Rehearsals for the two plays have so far been held in the Jean Pratt Building but will move to the Incinerator from 19 March.



The cast of *God Goes to a Shrink* in an early rehearsal: Sam Hoepner (Peter), Josie Yarham (Jasmine) and Zoe Wilson (Nareena)

God Goes to a Shrink is being directed by Tracey Spence with Chris Austin-Greenhill as Assistant Director. As usual with a play written by Hugh O'Brien the play is a comedy, but as always with a bite. The cast features two new members to look after seasoned veteran Sam Hoepner.



Publicity photo of Emily Sweet and Joseph Savage in *Tracks*

By contrast, *Tracks*, directed by Martie Blanchett with Jim Orr as her Assistant Director, is a challenging drama. Its large cast of ten is a mixture of newcomers and those who have trodden our boards before: Olivia Bird, Callum Campbell, Phil Diefenbach, Autumn Barn, Liz Ball, Michael Civitano, Jess Pitman, Kate Hoepner, Joseph Savage and Emily Sweet.

Bookings at:

**ilt.org.au or VIC 3281
0555**

Season 11 May – 27 May
Public Performances

Nights (at 8 pm) Saturday 13 May, Friday 19 May,
Saturday 20 May, Friday 26 May, Saturday 27 May
Matinees (at 2 pm) Sunday 14 May, Sunday 21 May.

Publicity photography by Amanda Waschevski of Ipswich Photography Studio
Appointments: ipswichphotographystudio.com.au. Phone: 0466 992 134



From the President

Thank you personally for those who have stepped in to cover for my absence. Hopefully I am on the mend.

Congratulations to Jane, Di, Dave and their wonderfully talented cast and crew for *The Ladies Foursome*. The audiences had a ball. Thank you for starting our year off on such a high.

I extend my, and the members of the Theatre's, condolences on the loss of Kay's mother who has been unwell for a period of time. The funeral made it obvious that she was well loved and feisty to the end. Many members of Daytimers also attended and it was lovely to see them offering the support to their friend.

Jim

Times Change so We Change the Times

For the first twenty five years of its existence, ILT held its AGM in January (Helen and I joined in January 1967). The meeting elected a President, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrative Committee, a Selection Committee and a Social Committee. Then those elected got on with organising the year, but somewhat bit by bit. The first play was selected, cast and presented before the next one was similarly processed. We then realised that we would get the year off to a better start if the office bearers were in place before the year began, so we moved the AGM to December. There were two AGMs in 1972 – January and December. Our Financial Year was set to conclude in October to give the Treasurer and Auditor time to complete the balance sheet.

Time passed, we expanded to include Junior Theatre, Building Committee, Young Theatricals, Daytime Theatre Troupe, S-Troupe, Tourific Troupers, Little Players and lots of other activities including the Festival. We thought that December was rather late to appoint the members responsible so we instituted the system where, through an expression of interest process, we appointed a large number of members to operational positions in September/October so that the next year could be well planned in advance.

Last year circumstances made it impossible for the audit to be completed in time for a December AGM, so we have decided to delay the AGM to January again. The operational officers will still be installed by October with the Administrative officers to be appointed at the AGM.

As the AGM has for many years concluded with the presentation of awards and a meal, we have decided to celebrate the end of the year with a barbecue. Aaron Evans has generously offered to organise the event. It will be a wonderful opportunity to catch up and enjoy each other's company.

The Ladies Foursome

By the time this Newsletter is distributed, our first season of the year will have been completed. Great enjoyment for the audiences. Of the 560 seats available at public performances all but 14 were sold – a record that would make other theatre groups extremely jealous.

Congratulations to Directors Di Johnston and Jane Sheppard and the cast and crew. .

Launch of Discover Ipswich

On 7 March Ipswich City Council used the Incinerator as the site from which to launch this year's edition of *Discover Ipswich*. There was a substantial attendance with some of the crowd discovering the Theatre. We are always amazed at the number of visitors who admit that they had no idea the Incinerator (let alone the Theatre) existed.

Junior Theatre

Junior Theatre and Little Players classes are both up and running.

There has been some movement in the student's enrolments this year and there are now two vacancies. Director Deirdre Lowe would be happy to be contacted by the parents of any youngsters interested in joining.

Deirdre would also love to hear from any adult member or parent who would be willing to assist her with the running of the Juniors and Little Players. She can be contacted on 0409 202 380

Young Theatricals & 50 Years

Young Theatricals have now cast the plays that will be presented in a season in the Incinerator on 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23 July.

The cast for *A Game* is as follows:

Doctor Henning: Em Allen
Baker: Robin Vary
Carter: Ollie Gavranovic
Edson: TBA

Directed by Aaron Evans, assisted by Mack Groves

The cast for *Mmmbeth* is as follows:

Mmmbeth: Sean Gibson
Lady Mmmbeth: Lilly Bale
Banquo: Sophie Braga
Queen Duncan: Ellie Atkinson

Macduff/Son of Macduff: Gilbee Gibson

Daphne: Jorja Sargent

Doris: Evie Farrow

Twit: Nat Byrnes

Murderer 1/Soldier 1: Taylah White

Murderer 2/Soldier 2: Kailen Trewben

Directed by Kate Hoepner, assisted by Sam Hoepner

Bookings open 29 May

Adult tickets - \$18 Children/concession - \$12

Plans are also well in hand for the Special Night on 15 July to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the forming of the Young Theatricals.

The night will include reminiscences from the previous 50 years, illustrated by video material, with presentations from past members and directors. There will also be food and a celebratory cake as well as the presentation of the two plays by the YTs of 2023. And all this can be yours by simply registering your interest with tony.erhardt@gmail.com

And it will all be absolutely free for patrons (apart from drinks from the bar!)

On the Boards Again

In the February Newsletter, members were invited to suggest or offer scripts that could be included in a production similar to the very successful *Back on the Boards* of 2021. To date offers have been conspicuous by their absence, from which one could conclude that members are diligently searching but have so much material they are having trouble reducing their offers to a workable number.

But seriously, if there are insufficient offers by the next Admin meeting, there will be no option but to call the proposed venture off. Last time we had a ball as the format of presenting several plays in two venues gave acting opportunities for a number of actors who may have felt unable to commit to a major, full-length production and a novel experience for audiences with the fun of relocating for a smorgasbord of entertainment.

For additional information, contact Helen Pullar as per Contact Details on page 4.

Plays for 2024

Prospective directors are reminded that Selection Committee has called for proposals for major productions in 2024. The deadline for submissions is 30 June, but early submissions would make life easier for the members of the Committee. For nominations or further information contact Convener Shane Mallory (0403 175 702 or mail@shanemallory.com)

Origin of a Phrase

Notice of the YTs' upcoming production of *Mmmbeth* reminded me of the origin of a common phrase. For his play *Appius and Virginia* (1709), John Dennis invented a new and more effective way of simulating thunder - by shaking a sheet of tin. The play soon folded, but a rival company employed his device in their production of *the Scottish Play*. When Dennis heard it, he rose in his seat and called "See how the rascals use me! They will not let my play run, yet they **steal my thunder!**"

Tourific Troupers

For the past few years the Tourific Troupers programme has been severely disrupted by the advent of COVID.

But now that we have returned to the "new normality", we are again open for business and are happy to take bookings from groups for our luncheon package of a two course meal, an interpretive talk on our historic Incinerator plus a bonus short play. Spread the word.

Enquiries Helen or Jane (page 4 for contacts).

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

20 March	Bookings open for <i>From Here to Eternity?</i>
11 May	Opening night <i>From Here to Eternity?</i>
29 May	Bookings open for YTs season
5 June	Auditions for <i>12 Angry Jurors</i>
16 June at 6 pm 17 June at 10 am & 2 pm	Junior Theatre and Little Players presentations
14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23 July.	Young Theatricals presentations

Set for Eternity

As usually happens, one play finished on a Saturday, by Sunday it had bumped out and the set for the next play was under construction.



Jim Williams cutting timber for steps



Brendish Blanchett building steps

2022 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

Front of House Management Coordinator	Deirdre Lowe	0409 202 380
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/Little Players	Deirdre Lowe	0409 202 380
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