

December 2025

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre

SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946

Editor:

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**NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE
MEETING**

**7pm
Tuesday
10 February 2026**

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*"But if you make me go to bed
before Santa comes, how will
I know that he really exists?"*

Annual General Meeting for 2026

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc will be held
in the Incinerator Theatre
at 3.00 pm on Sunday 18 January 2025

Any one interested is invited to attend. Brief reports detailing the activities and successes of 2025 will be presented by the raft of office bearers who have worked so hard once again to make our Society the success that it is.

Election Office Bearers for 2026.

Nominations have been called for the following positions:

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and members of the Administrative Committee.

Nominations are also called for two vacancies on Building Committee and three vacancies on Selection Committee.

Nomination forms are available from the Secretary, Helen Pullar, and nominations must be in her hands no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting.

2025 Awards Ceremony .

At the conclusion of the AGM at 5.00pm our very significant Awards Ceremony will be held. Since 2012, Ross Grant has presented the Griffin Award in memory of his wife Judy, a Life Member, former President extraordinaire, actor and indefatigable worker. This award has acknowledged the outstanding efforts of individuals who have, in any year, made valuable contributions benefiting several sectors of our organisation.

This year our awards have been expanded and now we will acknowledge through the Phoenix Awards others who have contributed to the various groups within our organisation.

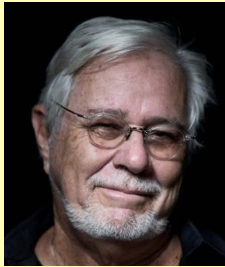
Celebratory BBQ

The AGM marks the end of one year and the start of yet another. To celebrate, members are invited to congregate afterwards for a simple informal barbecue. You don't have to attend the AGM to be admitted – though we would prefer you did – but we do need to know you are coming, or there may not be food for you.

RSVP ESSENTIAL

info@ilt.org.au

No later than Friday 9 January



From the President

Thank you all for your efforts on behalf of the Theatre this year. 2025 has again been a year of outstanding performances for our audiences and success for our actors and members.

It has not always been smooth sailing but I hope that everyone will have a safe a fun filled Christmas and New Year.

Personally I would like to express my thanks to the members of the Executive, who have supported, guided and encouraged me throughout this and all seven years of my time as President. It has at times been very challenging, but your advice and support has enabled me to be the figurehead for ILT with pride and commitment.

Congratulations to both Daytimers and Chris and his team of *Waiting for God*, for finishing the year with fun and laughter for all who attended.

We have so many amazing, hardworking members who all work hard and give up their personal time to ensure that the Theatre remains successful. Thank you to every one.

Bring on 2026!

Jim

Junior Theatre

The Junior actors have finished their formal classes for the year with a successful Theatre Sport Smackdown. Those who attended would have been impressed with how far these young people have come this year.



The Juniors entering the fray ...



The winning team with the adjudicators ...

The Juniors, Young Theatricals and Daytime Theatre Troupe have finished for the year but will resume revitalized and refreshed in 2026.

Youth Theatre 2026

For many years, ILT has operated two groups for young actors – Junior Theatre and Young Theatricals. But now, because of the great span of ages, it has been decided that from next year, there will be three divisions:

THE SPARKS: School years 4 – 6 will meet on Saturday mornings from 8:30 am to 10 am.

THE FLAMES: School years 7 – 9 will meet on Saturday mornings from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.

THE FIREBRANDS: School years 10 – 12 will meet on Wednesday afternoons from 4: 30 pm to 7 pm.

(Note: the divisions will not be completely rigid and progression from one group to the next will also depend on the level of maturity and desires of the student)

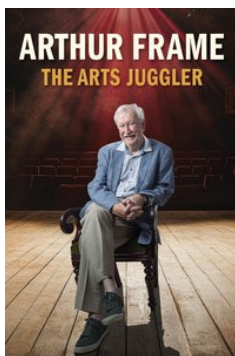
Ticket Vouchers

After many years of support from our audiences, we have decided to 'retire' our voucher system for discounted tickets purchased through the Visitor Information Centre. If you've been a regular purchaser of vouchers please keep an eye out for a communication from our Membership Secretary which will include a special 'Thank You'.

Discounted tickets will still be available to our members, with yearly memberships costing \$35 and 5 year memberships \$140. You can use your membership to purchase discounted 'member tickets' online or in person at the Visitor Information Centre.

All current vouchers will still be honoured, so if you have some at home, present them at the Visitor Information Centre as usual.

Membership entitles holders to discounted tickets for our productions, the right to attend and vote at General Meetings, the right to perform in our productions and discounts on our already remarkably cheap bar prices.



Following Arthur's entertaining presentation and Arthur signing all the purchased copies, the attendees enjoyed snacks and drinks in the courtyard.

Book Launch

On Saturday 29 November, a book launch was held of Arthur Frame's autobiographical work, *The Arts Juggler*. The event was well attended which must have been very gratifying for Arthur. The book is a lively account of Arthur's wide ranging career and we were happy to receive an autographed copy for our records.



Left: Mayor Teresa Harding launching *The Arts Juggler* in front of Arthur.

Photo by Di Johnston

Bremer Radio

On Saturday 13 December, Bremer Radio Events held a successful function at the Incinerator Theatre. There were around 50 people in attendance, including local MP Jennifer Howard, all from the Ipswich Arts Community and Sponsors of events. Many had not been to the Theatre before – surprise! President Jim obligingly provided a truncated tour of the building

Ipswich Little Theatre was nominated in a number of categories, and won Best Comedy – *Secret Bridesmaids Business* – and Best Special Event – ILT One Act Play Festival.

Unfortunately there was an electronics malfunction at the till and it appeared for a time that the thirsty customers might remain that way. However the back-up system worked and joy was universal.

Auditions *Ophelia Chooses* : A Supper Season

Adapted for the stage by Buddy White from the tragedy *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare.

In this delightful comedy/drama, a modern-day playwright and feminist mysteriously enters the world of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in an effort to right the wrongs suffered by the character Ophelia. Ophelia becomes the architect of her own fate as she learns to stand up to those who would control her, including friends and foes of both the classic and modern varieties. A play for those who love Shakespeare (or not!), for those who know Shakespeare (or most definitely not!), and for everyone who wants to enjoy a fun romp at the theatre!

A delicious supper is included in the cost of the ticket. (Drinks extra.)

Auditions will be held in the Jean Pratt Building at 7:30 pm on Monday 2 February to be directed by Alison Lees with Assistant Director Robyn Flashman.

Each character is based on the parts in the play *Hamlet*, but when Ophelia changes as Fay alters the script, they must adapt to each new situation, and the contemporary language. The play is a combination of iambic pentameter (traditional Shakespearean text) and contemporary language.

All actors must be comfortable performing in "Shakespearean language" and therefore each actor must prepare a soliloquy from any Shakespearean play – comedy, tragedy or history, for the audition.

The auditions will also involve cold reads from the script. No accents are required.

There are eight parts available:

Ophelia is a dutiful young girl, aged 18+, who is in love with Hamlet, the Prince of Denmark.

Fay is a modern feminist and playwright, who is intent on showing Ophelia that she has options, other than complete obedience to the men in her life. Aged 40 – 60.

Hamlet is the handsome young heir to the Kingdom of Denmark, who cannot decide if he should kill his uncle Claudius, who is now his stepfather. Aged 20s+.

Laertes is Ophelia's older brother who cares for her and is suspicious of Hamlet's intentions. Aged 20s+.

Polonius is the traditional old-fashioned father to Ophelia and Laertes and servant/adviser to the King of Denmark. Aged 60s+

Claudius is brother to Hamlet's father and now his stepfather and King of Denmark since marrying Gertrude, Hamlet's mother. Hamlet suspects that he has killed his father. Aged 40s+.

Gertrude is Hamlet's mother and newly married to her brother-in-law. She is studiously ignoring what is happening around her and maintains her ignorance through drinking. Aged 40s+.

William Shakespeare is the famous playwright, towards the end of his career, where he is self-satisfied in his success. He is challenged by Fay about the way he creates his female characters. Aged 40s+

Further information and scripts are available from the director (alisonlees4305@gmail.com) or you can complete an audition form via <https://www.ilt.org.au/getinvolved/auditions/>

2026 Season in Brief

Season 1: 25 February — 14 March

The Shawshank Redemption by

Owen O'Neal and Dave Johns

Director: Shane Mallory

Assistant Director: Amanda Harrison

Rated MA15+ Strong Adult Themes, Violence and Coarse Language

Season 2: 14 — 31 May

Ophelia Chooses by Buddy White.

A Theatre Supper Season

Director: Alison Lees

Assistant Director: Robyn Flashman

Rated: PG .Adult themes

Annual Drama Festival

Director:: Aaron Evans

7, 8, 9 August

Season 3: 16September — 3 October

The Pink Hammer by Michael Amos

Director: Jim Orr

Assistant Director: Chris Austin-Greenhill

Rated M Adult themes, Coarse Language & Sexual References

Season 4: 18 November — 5 December

Ben Hur by Patrick Barlow

Director: Sam Hoepner

Assistant Director: Melinda Park

Rated PG Adult Themes and Religious References

DIARY DATES

18 January 3 pm	Annual General Meeting followed by barbecue
28 January 4:30 pm	Sign on for FIREBRANDS
31 January 8:30 am	Sign on for SPARKS
31 January 10:30 am	Sign on for FLAMES
2 February 7:30 pm	Auditions <i>Ophelia Chooses</i>

It's Who You Know

Shane Mallory has been working on the challenges of *The Shawshank Redemption* for four years. While all the actors who were cast spoke with convincing American accents, he was concerned that they all appeared to be derived from the archetypal "American" accent. To provide the desired variety, he has enlisted the aid of our own resident Yank, Martie Blanchett, as vocal coach.

While variety is desirable in the vocals, uniformity is essential in the costuming as all the characters wear the garb of prisoners or guards. In search of authenticity, Shane has sought assistance for insignia etc, and again Martie has come to the fore. Not only does her daughter live in the USA, her home happens to be a mere twenty minute drive from the prison where the *Shawshank Redemption* movie was filmed. What a serendipitous coincidence!



**Best Wishes to all members and friends
for Christmas and the New Year**



2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

President	Jim Orr	0402 377 258
Vice President	Julie-Anne Wright	0419 758 724
Past Vice-President	Ann Collyer	0400 997 365
Secretary	Helen Pullar	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 Flashman	0477 771 016
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
Theatre number		3812 2389