

# ≡ *Burning News* from the Incinerator Theatre

June 2025

## Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre  
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

**Editor:**

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**NEXT ILT  
COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**7pm  
Tuesday  
8 July 2025**

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"It's time you and your Dad  
had a talk about the facts of  
life."

"Right. What does he need to  
know?"

### Out With the Old ...

In our theatre, as soon as one show finishes, the next one bumps in. *The Perfect Murder* finished on Saturday 31 May and by lunch time on Sunday 1 June its set was gone to be replaced by a new configuration that will serve for both the Young Theatricals' Showcase later this month and the Festival in August.



The YTs have been working hard to bring a riveting showcase to our audiences and are looking forward to working on the "big stage".

The Showcase will be presented in the Incinerator Theatre on 20, 21, 27, 28 June @ 7:30 pm.

Here is your opportunity to see the YTs in action displaying the skills they have learnt during the semester.

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

The Young Theatricals are working with Director Jim Orr on an intriguing play *Whispers from the Wardrobe* by Paula-Marie Camilleri for possible entry in our Festival. One or two items from the Showcase may also be entered in the ten minute section. Jim will also be directing our entry in the Open Section, *Watch Your Head* by Lynda Rodriguez.

### Junior Theatre

You're never too young to get to know the Bard. That certainly applies to the present bunch of students who are currently immersed in Shakespearean language, albeit as slightly modified by the contemporary writer Dior Austin to *A Midsummer Night's Fun*.

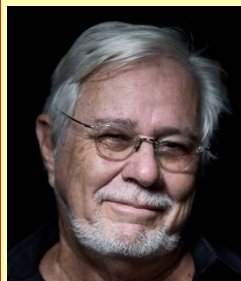


Director Chris Austin-Greenhill and his assistants Dior Austin, Josie Yarham and Artie Cown are enjoying the experience as much as the youngsters are.

The play will be presented in the Jean Pratt Building on Saturday 30 August with performances at 8:30 am and 10:30 am.

Great news! The roster of volunteers to man Front of House during the YTs season is full! Many thanks to all who spring to our aid.

If you missed out on this opportunity, the Festival is coming up!



## From the President

Congratulations to Helen, Ian and Julie-Anne on the success of *A Perfect Murder*. Lots of fun and providing a platform for new actors to perform on our stage. A fun play which our audiences loved. Thanks to Robyns, Connie and Ann and the amazing band of front of house workers, for ensuring that our patrons enjoyed themselves just as much in the courtyard as inside the theatre.

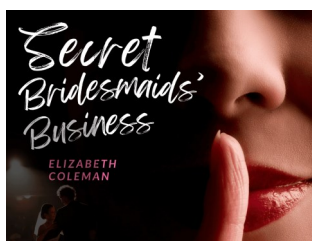
Now for the YTs Showcase. Come and see the potential and talent our teenage members have – support them as they start their journey on the Stage. Thanks to Aaron, Sam, Mack and the team for helping them achieve their goals.

*Jim*

### Cast of *Secret Bridesmaids' Business*

Auditions were held for our third season of 2025 on 9 June. A strong attendance made the selection process challenging, but the following cast was selected:

Colleen Bacon	Natalie Pedler
Meg Bacon	Kate Hoepner
Angela Dixon	Amanda Harrison
Lucy Dean	Liz Ball
Naomi Bartlett	Stephanie Collins
James Davis	James Sheehan



**Season 17 September - 4 October 2025**

## A Hearing Impairment

It was wonderful to have so many new volunteers working Front of House during *The Perfect Murder*. Curious to know how these people came to be involved, I asked President Jim if he knew anything about newcomer Kim. I heard him say, "Her Dad's had dementia." What he actually said was, "Her Dad's at the Men's Shed." I have ordered my new hearing aids!



In *Go Bang Your Tambourine* 1979.

## Vale Margaret Wellings 1936—2025

Very sadly, we report the death of Margaret Wellings who was a long standing member of our Society. She first joined as a young woman in 1959. Between then and 2003 she appeared in 16 full length plays, five One Act plays and had four appearances for the Daytime Theatre Troupe. Her roles ranged from drama to high comedy, but she specialised in elegance – as she did in real life. I had the pleasure of directing Margaret in four plays and found her an accomplished actress who was very easy to work with. She was a faithful supporter of our company and even attended our latest production only days before her death.

Margaret performed with many of the Musical groups of Ipswich where she was renowned for her engaging personality, stage presence and powerful speaking and singing voice. There were no microphones needed for Margaret Wellings! As a performer for the Orpheus Chorale she is probably best remembered for her performance as Dolly Levi in *Hello Dolly*,

She was part of the Old Time Music Hall Group formed by Colin Payne in the 1970s. The group initially performed for the Ipswich Service Groups such as Rotary and Lions. The group also brought concerts to the residents of Aged Care facilities, a forerunner to the understanding of the importance of music and music therapy in so many settings.

Her husband Brian predeceased her. She is survived by her three sons Mark, Adam and John and their families. We will miss her.



In *The Cemetery Club* 1998

## An Accidental Choice of Plays

The passing of Margaret Wellings reminded me of the serendipitous choice of plays for 1979 – *There Goes the Bride*, *Not Now Darling*, *Wait Until Dark*, *Go Bang Your Tambourine* (although not in that order!)

## Daytime Theatre Troupe

With no production in the first half of the year, Daytimers have continued being active while in recess. They had movement lessons with belly dancing ladies (watch out for the belly dancing Christmas tree later in the year) ...



..and a fabulous Cancer Council morning tea, organised by Bette. They remembered all those who have been touched by cancer and raised over \$350.

Also in recess, the ladies have still been meeting and doing wardrobe jobs and script development.

On a more sombre note, Chic Currey (Life Member and Mrs Music) has now undergone successful surgery for a brain tumour. The really good news is that the tumour is benign. But Chic still faces a long recovery and convalescence. We wish her well.

## Festival 2025

This year's Festival will be held, as usual, on the second weekend in August. It is anticipated that the Ten Minute Play section will be held on the evening of Friday 8 August, the Youth Section during the day on Saturday 9 August and the Open Section on Saturday evening and Sunday 10 August during the day. The programme, once finalized, will be published in the July Newsletter.

The highlight of Sunday will be our renowned Barbecue Luncheon.

Tickets will be available on line very soon, once entries and the programme are finalised.

The adjudicator this year, Timothy Wynn is the Artistic Director of THAT Production Company. Since 2009, he has directed over 40 productions, including Australian premieres at Studio 188, Old Courthouse, Roundhouse Theatre, and Metro Arts.

He studied at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in New York and trained at the JUTE Theatre Company's Director Development Program. Timothy has worked with Backbone Youth Arts, JUTE Theatre Company, Spotlight Theatre, and Fractal Theatre Company. His production of *Così* was nominated for seven Gold Coast Theatre Awards in 2017, winning two. In 2018, he directed *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* and *Baal*.

In 2021 and 2023, Timothy was nominated for the Matilda Awards for his direction of *Sea Wall* and *Every Brilliant Thing*, respectively. At the 2024 Matilda Awards, he accepted the inaugural Tony Gould Award for THAT Production Company. Recently, he served as the adjudicator for the Beenleigh Drama Festival. We look forward to his input at the Ipswich Drama Festival.



## Plays for 2026

This is a final call for offers from eligible members to direct a major play in 2026 with the deadline for applications 30 June. <https://www.ilt.org.au/apply-to-direct-with-ilt/>. There have already been some submissions, but more are known to be in preparation.

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



## 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

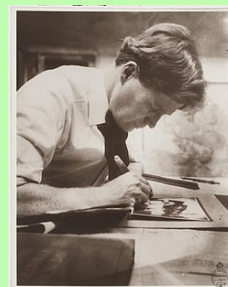
20, 21, 27, 28 June @ 7:30 pm	Young Theatricals <i>Showcase</i>
Monday 28 July 7:30 pm	Auditions <i>Waiting for God</i>
Friday 8, Saturday 9, Sunday 10 August	<i>Festival 2025</i>
Saturday 30 August 8:30 am & 10:30 am	Junior Theatre <i>A Midsummer Night's Fun</i>

## Burley Griffin Anniversary

Michael Thomson from the Burley Griffin Society (the man who presented his very informative talk about Griffin and Canberra last November) has contacted us, reminding us that 24 November 2026 will be the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the architect who designed our home.

The Burley Griffin Society is planning to mark this event in a number of ways which will include the planting of trees (preferably of the eucalypts which he championed for Canberra) at the sites of his buildings throughout Australia.

Naturally, as our Incinerator is his only building in Queensland, we have been invited to contribute to the celebrations, which we will do. One word of caution though – it would probably be wise to plant commemorative trees in Autumn rather than in an Ipswich Summer!



### 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