

≡ *Burning News* from the Incinerator Theatre

April 2026

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

Editor:

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**NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE
MEETING**

**7pm
Tuesday
12 May 2026**

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"When I order a soft drink, I always ask for a glass. Straws are for suckers."

Our second major production of 2026 draws close to opening night with rehearsals resuming in earnest following the Easter and school holidays break under the direction of Alison Lees and assistant Robyn Flashman.



"Steady on, there!" Hamlet (Mack Groves) being restrained by Gertrude (Helen Ekundayo)



"Come on, Ophelia, you can make a choice!" Ophelia (Corinne Biddulph) being persuaded by Fay (Beck Haining)



"Revenge is sweet!" Laertes (Joan Camuglia-May)



The fact that audiences are in for a visual treat is revealed by the wonderful photographs taken by Kim Frohloff (who also plays Polonius in the production).

Bookings are still available for this great entertainment which also includes supper and a chance to discuss the merits and relevance of the Bard in the 21st century.



"My plays are classics—not to be interfered with." Shakespeare (Lewis Chatten)

Season 13 — 31 May 2026

Public nights 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 May

Matinees 17, 24 May

Bookings at ilt.org.au or

VIC 3281 0555

To volunteer for front of house work during *Ophelia Chooses*, click <https://www.admin.ilt.org.au/foh-roster/>



From the President

Following on from the success of *The Shawshank Redemption*, we have the cast of *Ophelia Chooses* busily preparing for their opening night in a few weeks. Tickets are selling quickly for the production so if you don't already have tickets, I suggest you secure yours soon.

Emails have gone out for FOH volunteers and I ask that if possible you try to help for a performance, either in the kitchen/bar or with raffles. Even a few hours help.

Ann

Youth Theatre

Sparks (School years 4,5,6). Director Chris Austin-Greenhill

The Sparks Youth group have been in recess during the school holidays. Upon their return they will resume work on *The Sort of Accurate Adventures of Odysseus* written by Dior Austin.

Flames (School years 7,8, 9). Director Mack Groves

The students have been focusing on improvisation skills in preparation for their upcoming showcase. Following this exploration, participants voted on four games to be performed in the showcase: • Mime (Charades) • Death in a Minute • Subtitles • Persuasion. Rehearsals will now focus on refining these pieces for presentation at their approaching Showcase: **Saturday 6 June 2026 @11am**. Tickets will go on sale very soon and the students would welcome a supportive audience at what is always an entertaining (and challenging) presentation.

The group will also be attending a performance of *Macbeth* (Shake & Stir production) at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre on Thursday, 18 June.

Firebrands (School years 10, 11, 12). Director Kate Hoepner

Firebrands have been busy working on two productions. *The Day the Internet Died* will be staged in the Incinerator on **12, 13, 19 & 20 June 2026 @ 7:30pm**. *Two, Four, Six, Eight, Who Do We Resuscitate?* will be performed in a number of Festivals including our own. The group has settled well into the rehearsal process, and when students aren't actively rehearsing their scenes, the focus has been on character development and accent work to support their performances.

The group is currently seeking assistance with sourcing a few props. If any members may have access to the following items, it would be greatly appreciated:

Product scanner

Old over-ear headphones (non-working is completely fine)

Air horn (non-working is also suitable)

Tickets for *The Day the Internet Died* will be going on sale shortly and the students would greatly appreciate support of their group.

Call for Directors for 2027

Prospective directors are invited to submit applications to direct full length plays, or One Act plays as part of a season.

The application should nominate a preferred play and an alternative and accompany the application with a script (hard copy or electronic text).

Applications will close on 30 June which will allow the Committee sufficient time to put together a balanced programme.

Librarian Aaron Evans is happy to help members find a suitable script.

Festival 2026

Entries have opened for our Festival to be held, as usual, during the second weekend in August. There will be the usual three sections; Ten Minute play section, Youth section and Open section.

The adjudicator this year will be Arthur Frame who launched his book of memoirs on the Incinerator stage last November. There will be more information about Arthur and his impressive credentials later.

As this will be our 70th Festival, there will be special celebrations, although the usual standard of presentation, atmosphere and catering will remain. We'd love to see you there.

Group bookings at our major productions are a popular means of fund raising. The Group Nights for both *Ophelia Chooses* and *The Pink Hammer* are fully booked (with waiting lists). But there are opportunities for our end of year show, *Ben Hur*. Anyone interested should contact Martie Blanchett on 0405 186 767.

2026 – A Year of Celebration

- 150 years** - Walter Burley Griffin, designer of our beloved Incinerator was born in Illinois, USA, in 1876.
- 90 years** - The Ipswich Incinerator for the disposal of municipal rubbish was opened in 1936.
- 80 years** - Ipswich Little Theatre Society was formed in August 1946.
- 70 Festivals** - The first ILT Festival was held in 1955 and has run continuously ever since, apart from the two Covid years when it could not be held.

Plans are currently being developed to celebrate these milestones which will culminate in a special event on 6 December at which we will host an Open Afternoon/Evening to the public, plant a garden of Australian natives to commemorate Burley Griffin's birth and install a marker of all the anniversaries.

More news to come.

Footnote: Coincidentally, it is also the 60th year of membership of Ipswich Little Theatre by Helen and Ian Pullar.

Galvanized

Galvanized is the city's Annual Festival of heritage, showcasing the best heritage experiences and events Ipswich has to offer. This year the festival will incorporate the Great Houses of Ipswich programme and will feature Queens Park.

Ipswich Little Theatre has entered into a partnership with Ipswich City Council to conduct a ticketed public event in Queens Park on 12 September. Participants will be invited to take part in a heritage walk in part of the Park where they will meet historical figures of Ipswich who were associated with the Park and its development over the years. Through their stories and reminiscences the history of the Park will be brought to life.

ILT will provide a script (written by Ian Pullar) and four of our actors will play the roles under the production and direction of Jim Orr. The tour will gradually move in a circuitous downhill route towards the Incinerator where the participants will be given the opportunity to enter the grounds and building and listen to an illustrated talk on the history and use of this historic building delivered by Helen Pullar as she has done in previous years for Galvanized and our own Tourific TroupersTours.



Vicki Dwyer (with Geoff's great grandson, Teddy, in front), Deanne Tuggle, Christian Dwyer (Geoff's youngest grandson), Kelly Dwyer (Matthew's wife/Teddy's mum), Matthew Dwyer (Geoff's elder grandson), Jenny Hughes and Tony Dwyer (Vicki's husband).

Memorial for Geoff Burns

On Sunday 22 March a little ceremony was conducted outside the Jean Pratt Building to add Geoff Burns' memorial plaque to those of others "who have left the stage". A number of members joined Geoff's family for reminiscences of Geoff's theatre career, the laying of the paver and for morning tea to honour a much loved former member.

Geoff performed in numerous plays between 1961 and 2012 and was President from 1977 to 1980.



Geoff's daughters Vicki and Deanne laying the paver and plaque.

The Final Word on *Shawshank*

While our production was universally lauded, director Shane Mallory was gob-smacked by one attendee who thought this play with a large, entirely male cast of prison inmates was "a bit blokey"!

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: 13 — 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

Adjudicator Arthur Frame

Season 3: 16 September — 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

20 April	Auditions for <i>Daffodil</i>
13 May	Opening Night <i>Ophelia Chooses</i>
6 June @ 11 am	<i>Flames</i> Impro showcase
8 June	Auditions for <i>The Pink Hammer</i>
12, 13, 19 & 20 June @ 7:30 pm.	Firebrands <i>The Day the Internet Died</i>

Auditions *Daffodil*

Daffodil by E.M. Lark is a haunting stage adaptation inspired by *The Yellow Wallpaper*. This intimate psychological drama explores themes of isolation, control, and identity, set within a summer home in the late 1800s.

The production, directed by Kate Hoepner, is anticipated to perform at **five venues** as part of the **South East QLD Drama Festival Circuit**: Beenleigh (31, 1, 2 August); Ipswich (7, 8, 9 August), Toowoomba (22, 23 August), KSP (28, 29, 30 August), Nanango (5,6,7 Sept.).

Audition Date: 20 April 7:30pm

Characters:

- Cecilia – A young housewife experiencing “nervous depression.” Creative, intelligent, and increasingly obsessive.
- John – Cecilia’s husband and physician. Confident, clinical, and firmly convinced he knows what is best for her.
- Narrator – A mysterious storyteller figure who observes and interacts with the unfolding events.

Audition sides are available on the website.

2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

President	Ann Collyer	0400 997 365
Vice President	Julie-Anne Wright	0419 758 724
Past President	Jim Orr	0402 377 258
Secretary	Helen Pullar	0400 801 443
Treasurer	Chris Greenhill	0427 977 007

CONTACT DETAILS FOR OTHER IMPORTANT POSITIONS

Membership Secretary	Julie-Anne Wright	0419 758 724
Group Liaison	Martie Blanchett	0405 186 767
Marketing	Kim Frohloff	0428 725 379
Building Bookings	Desley Cronon	3288 8754 / 0435 309 352
Youth Theatre – Sparks	Chris Greenhill	0427 977 007
– Flames	Mack Groves	0439 202 955
– Firebrands	Kate Hoepner	0479 048 979
Daytime Theatre Troupe	Kay McAllan	0439 305 658
Theatre number		3812 2389