

≡ *Burning News* from the Incinerator Theatre

August 2026

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

Editor:

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**NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE
MEETING**

7pm

Tuesday

15 September 2026

(note; the third Tuesday of
the month)

From the President	2
Bon Voyage, Ann	2
Daytime Theatre Troupe	2
Youth Theatre	2
Cast of <i>Ben Hur</i>	2
Plays for 2027	2
Festival Results	3
Festival Photographs	4, 5
Diary Dates	6
Galvanized	6
Open House	6
Contacts	6

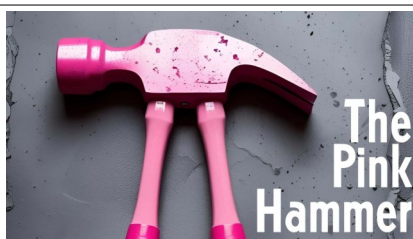


*"Predictions are so unreliable.
Especially in relation to the
future."*



A highly successful 70th Festival was held over the weekend of 8 & 9 August. Apart from organising a goodly number of entrants, Director Aaron Evans and his team of Jo Robins, Jessica Pitman and Mack Groves recruited the services of so many theatre members – too many to name – to help with the thousands of tasks. What a great effort!

Results from the competition can be found on page 3 and photographs on pages 4 and 5.



A sneak preview of a rehearsal of our next major production *The Pink Hammer* by Michele Amas. Director Jim Orr and Assistant Director Chris Austin-Greenhill report great enthusiasm from the cast of this heart-warming play. Don't miss it!



Who is teaching whom? Woody (Mal Farrow) with Annabel (Jo Robbins), Siobhan (Jess Pitman), Louise (April Anfruns) and Helen (Vicki Murray).

Season 16 September — 3 October 2026

Public Nights 18, 19, 25, 26 September, 2, 3 October at 7:30 pm

Matinees Sundays 20, 27 September at 2 pm

Bookings at ilt.org.au or

VIC 3281 0555

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



From the President

Congratulations to Aaron and his team on the successful 70th One Act Play Festival, held on 8 and 9 August. It was a great weekend of theatre and camaraderie. Congratulations to all participants and to the winners of each individual category. To Kate, Brittany and the cast of *Daffodil* and to our Firebrands in *Two, four, six, eight Who Do We Resuscitate* well done on your individual awards and combined efforts. To everyone who gave up their time to volunteer during the weekend thank you, without you events such as these are not possible.

Next up we have the season 3 production *The Pink Hammer* by Michele Amas, directed by Jim Orr. I am looking forward to seeing this play when I return from overseas. The sign up sheet is available on our website for anyone who is able to help out with this season.

Ann

Bon Voyage, Ann

President Ann will be taking a well-earned break as she sets off for the wilds of England. We wish her a very happy and refreshing trip. We will see her again in late September.

Daytime Theatre Troupe

will be presenting

Nixy Elf's Adventure in Santaland

Performances: 10 am and 12 noon November Tues 17, Wed 18, Fri 20, Tues 24, Thurs 26 and Fri 27. Saturday Matinee, November 21.

Bookings Marie Mortimer 0461 427 573

Youth Theatre

The **Sparks** are excited about a decision to stage *The Somewhat Accurate Adventures of Odysseus* written by Dior Austin in the Incinerator grounds. It will be an excellent opportunity for parents to come along and enjoy our gardens and have picnic rugs on **31 October from 9 am**.

Rehearsals by the **Flames** for *The Playhouse* continue to progress well, with blocking work remaining the primary focus throughout June and July. The show is scheduled to be performed in the Jean Pratt Building on 17 October.

The normal Saturday classes were not held over the Festival weekend and a number of the students attended the Youth section of the Festival.

A big shout out to the **Firebrands** team of 2, 4, 6, 8, *Who Do We Resuscitate* for their fantastic results on the festival circuit so far! At Beenleigh they took out 3rd Best Youth Play, with Liv receiving a nomination. At Ipswich, Kailen and Taylah received Adjudicator's Awards, Aria won Best Actor in a Female Role, and the team took out 2nd Best Play.

The students have been doing lots of groundwork for their upcoming Showcase. Students have now chosen their individual pieces and we're starting to get everything moving. We've also decided to bring improv back into Showcase this year, which the students are really excited about! The showcase will be staged on 16 and 17 October in the Jean Pratt Building at 7:30 pm.

Cast of Ben Hur

Auditions were held on 27 July for our final major production of 2026. The competition was very strong and the performances were hilarious – which bodes well for the audience enjoyment of the final product. The fortunate auditionees were:

Actor 1 - Sean Wilson. Actor 2 - Andrew Goyns. Actor 3 - Allie Harris. Actor 4 - Jason Lawson.

As the fast moving production requires multiple set changes, two stage hands are an integral part of the production. Recruitment is in hand.

Plays for 2027

Selection Committee is now considering the applications from budding directors in order to formulate an exciting programme for 2027. The season will be launched on a date to be determined in late October.

FESTIVAL 2026 RESULTS

Youth Section

Best Play: *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* (Brisbane Arts)
 2nd Place: 2, 4, 6, 8, *Who Do We Resuscitate?* (ILT Firebrands)
 Best Director: Natalie Murtagh *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* (Brisbane Arts)
 Best Actor: Alex Bunker *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* (Brisbane Arts)
 Best Actress: Aria Frohloff 2, 4, 6, 8, *Who Do We Resuscitate?* (ILT Firebrands)
 Best Supporting Actor: Jett Yeomans *Dead Highway* (Bremer State High)
 Best Supporting Actress: Chloe Ancheta *Tomorrow Was Our Wedding* (St Peter Claver College)
 Best Actor in a minor role: Jean Gridasov *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* (Brisbane Arts)
 Best Actress in a minor role: Scout Graham *Dead Highway* (Bremer State High)
 Est New Australian Script: *Tomorrow Was Our Wedding* (St Peter Claver College)
 Costume design: Ruhlika Somal *The Importance of Being Earnest* (St Peters Lutheran College)

Adjudicator's Certificates

Taylah White 2, 4, 6, 8, *Who Do We Resuscitate?*
 Kailen O'Dea 2, 4, 6, 8, *Who Do We Resuscitate?*
 Siena Sos *A Weekend Mystery*
 Elizabeth Williams *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*
 Melika Reid *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*



Open Section

Best Play – Drama: *Even Numbers* (Footlights Theatrical)
 Best Play - Comedy: *All Strings Attached* (North Brisbane Theatre Co)
 2nd Place Play – Drama: *Tickets Please* (Toowoomba Rep)
 2nd Place Play – Comedy: *A Blooming of Ivy* (Toowoomba Rep)
 Best Director – Drama: Kate Hoepner *Daffodil* (ILT)
 Best Director - Comedy: Jessica Bradford & Helen Bradford *All Strings Attached* (North Brisbane)
 Best Actor – Dramatic role: Grant Caldwell *Parachute* (Mousetrap Theatre)
 Best Actress – Dramatic role: Danielle Robert *Daffodil* (ILT)
 Best Actor – Comedic role: Neil Melville *A Blooming of Ivy* (Toowoomba Rep)
 Best Actress – Comedic role: Jessica Bradford *All Strings Attached* (North Brisbane)
 Best supporting actor: Michael Pitman *Even Numbers & All Strings Attached* (North Brisbane)
 Best supporting actress: Belinda Cornwell *Daffodil* (ILT)
 Best actor – minor role: Max Phythain *All Strings Attached* (North Brisbane)
 Best actress – minor role: Susan Harding Smith *Still Here Luv* (Mousetrap Theatre)
 Best New Australian Script: *Still Here Luv* (Mousetrap Theatre)
 Costume design: Cecilia *Daffodil* (ILT)

Adjudicator's Certificates

Dom Bradley *Final Days* (Final Days Players)
 Helen Bradford *All Strings Attached* (North Brisbane)
 Kezzy Le Gros *Still Here Luv* (Mousetrap Theatre)
 Daniel Lelie *Final Days* (Final Days Players)



During the Festival barbecue, I was chatting with Suzanne Matulich and regular attendee Peter Carmichael. Peter suggested that he would be willing to make his services available in the future to help with the cooking as he was a very experienced barbecuer at his Samford Mens Shed. Suzanne must have misheard as she asked. "What Secret Mens Shed?" Peter enlightened us.



The welcome tent



Bougainvillea



The wall of memories



The Festival team: Jess, Aaron and Jo

Photos by
Kim
Frohloff
and Aaron
Evans



Queens of the kitchen; Ann and Connie



These are our Salad Days: Liz, Sue and Helen



Anyone for a sausage?
Ian



Julie-Anne and Andrew as always



Three raffle
tickets for \$5?
Joyce & Beth



Alan and Charmaine – have they
ever missed a Festival?

Stop press: Results from Toowoomba Drama Festival

2468

Best Production

Best Director - Jess Pitman

Best Actor in a Female Role - Aria Frohloff

Best Supporting Actor in a Male Role - Liv Stephenson

Best Supporting Actor in a Female Role - Taylah White

Adjudicator's Award - Kailen O'Dea

DAFFODIL

Best Production

Best Director - Kate Hoepner

Best Actor in a Female Role - Daniellé Robert

Best Supporting Actor in a Female Role - Belinda Cornwell

I had to delete some photos to squeeze this in!



Corinne (scribe) and Arthur (adjudicator)



The trophy table



Courtney (Jennifer Howard's representative) with Arthur



Festival Director Aaron with Mayor Teresa Harding



(Some of) the cast of *Two, four, six, eight, Who Do We Resuscitate?* with Kate and Jess.



Kate with Aria and her best actress award



Former Festival Directors: Ian, Helen, Di, Suzanne and Sandra ready to present trophies



Suzanne, Kate and trophy and Arthur



Garth and Belinda from *Daffodil* with Director Kate and Assistant Director Britty



Above right: Sandra with Belinda and her award



Above: Helen (who attended the first Festival in 1955) closing the 70th Festival



Left: The cake

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 Michele Amas

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

16 September	Opening night <i>The Pink Hammer</i>
16, 17 October 7:30 pm	Firebrands Showcase (Jean Pratt Building)
17 October 11 am	Flames <i>The Playhouse</i> (Jean Pratt Building)
31 October 9 am	Sparks ... <i>Odysseus</i> (Grounds)
17 – 27 November (see page 2)	Daytime Theatre Troupe (Jean Pratt Building)
18 November	Opening night <i>Ben Hur</i>

Galvanized

As noted in the July Newsletter, Channel 7 filmed members of ILT as part of the advertising for Galvanized. Despite the claim that it would be screened just prior to Galvanized and we would be forewarned, it was screened on Saturday 8 August as part of *The Great Outdoors*. It can still be viewed on 7+ (all 2 minutes of it!).

Our contribution to Galvanized will be presented in Queens Park on Saturday 12 September at 10:30 am and 12:30 pm. Tickets and further details are available through ICC.

Open House

Remember our Open House on 6 December when we will be celebrating the wonderful milestones of 2026

We are inviting the general public to share this event which will include the installation of a commemorative sculpture and tree planting.

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