

≡ *Burning News* from the Incinerator Theatre

July 2026

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

Editor:

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NEXT ILT COMMITTEE MEETING

7pm

Tuesday

18 August 2026

(note; the third Tuesday of
the month)

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*"I can be a rebel you know.
Sometimes I go into Coles
with a Woolies Bag."*



breakfast, lunch and dinner including the Sunday BBQ.

Bookings are now open .

ilt.org.au or VIC 3281 0555

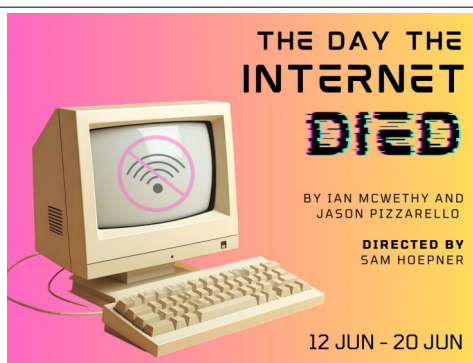
The Festival is an enormous undertaking which requires all hands on deck.

Firstly, we need help at the Annual Festival Working Bee to be held on Sunday 2 August from 9 am. Please spare us a couple of hours of your time to get our show piece into shape.

And we need help throughout the Festival. If you can spare some time during any of the sessions, Festival Director Aaron Evans would love to hear from you now so he can draw up a roster.

ajlevans@hotmail.com

Festival Director Aaron Evans was gobsmacked by the director of one of the plays being entered asking why our stage dimensions are so small!



Firebrands

The students and the audiences in their packed houses had a wonderful time performing in June.

Director Sam Hoepner and his team were understandably very proud of the dedication of the students and the standard of performance.



The very happy cast of *The Day the Internet Died*.



From the President

Congratulations to Sam, the cast and crew of Firebrands on their very successful season of *The Day the Internet Died*. Their performances were enjoyed by audiences and the growth of the young people in their craft was very obvious.

Next up we have the preview performance of *Daffodil* before it hits the Festival circuit. We wish Kate, Brittany and the crew a successful journey. And don't forget our very own One Act Festival is on the weekend of 8 and 9 August. Tickets are on sale now and it is always a great weekend. If you have a few hours to spare over that weekend and you would like to be involved I am sure that Aaron and his team would like to hear from you.

Ann

Daytime Theatre Troupe

The DTT ladies are into rehearsals for their Christmas show

Nixy Elf's Adventure in Santaland

with the following cast:

Santa – Di Johnston
Aurora the northern lights fairy queen– AnnMaree Ling
Nixy Elf – Margaret Martin
Eddie Elf – Liz Weier
Elsie Elf – Sue Van Der Meer
Rudolf – Robyn Harm
Cupid – Cynthia Graham
Frosty – Lonnie Rutland
Freezia Frost – Jane Brown
Chrissy Tree – Geraldene Fitzpatrick
Mrs Music – Chic Currie
Costumes/backstage– Marie Mortimer
Backstage helper – Bette Rose
Assistant director – Margaret Martin
Director and author – Kay McAllan

Santa has lost his HO HO HO and is not feeling himself. The Santa believe-o-meter is up, but the Christmas mail is down. Something isn't right!

Nixy, the youngest elf in Santaland, gets all the yucky jobs; feeding the reindeer and cleaning stables. He loves playing tricks and jokes, but though he doesn't feel important, everyone he meets helps him to see himself differently and realise just how kind and special he is. Can he help get Santa's HO HO HO back? And where are all the letters?

Chrissy tree, Rudolf, Frosty and his wife Freezia with the elves take us on a magical journey of Christmas joy.

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

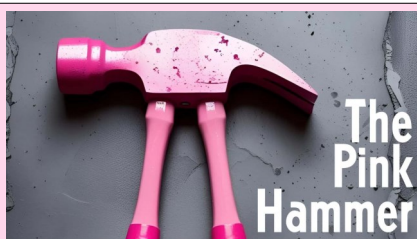
Youth Theatre

The **Sparks** have been in recess but about to resume preparations for *The Somewhat Accurate Adventures of Odysseus* written by Dior Austin.

The **Flames** and **Firebrands** students attended the Shake & Stir production of *Macbeth* at QPAC, with a total of 18 students and three leaders in the party. It was heart-warming to see the two groups interacting so well.

Rehearsals by the **Flames** for *The Playhouse* continue to progress well, with blocking work remaining the primary focus throughout June and July. The intention is to complete blocking early in Term 3 before moving into accent work and beginning costume discussions and fittings. The normal Saturday classes will not be held over the Festival weekend so that the students can attend the Youth section of the Festival.

After *The Day the Internet Died* and *Two Four Six Eight ...*and the term resumes, the **Firebrands** will commence serious work towards their showcase scheduled for the end of the year.



The Pink Hammer

Rehearsals are in full swing in the Jean Pratt Building until the Festival is over and the team can move into the Incinerator theatre itself. That will make Director Jim Orr and Assistant Director Chris Austin-Greenhill happy.

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

A vacancy has become available for a Group Night booking on Wednesday 16 September

Anyone interested should contact Martie Blanchett on 0405 186 767 or <mrsmbblanchett@gmail.com>

Festival Programme

SESSION 1		SATURDAY 8 AUGUST 9:30 AM		YOUTH PLAYS	
1	<i>The Importance of Being Ernest</i>	St. Peter Lutheran College, Springfield – Drama Troupe	Comedy	10	
2	<i>Tomorrow was our Wedding</i>	St. Peter Calver College Drama Club	Suspense Drama	10	
3	<i>The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon</i>	Brisbane Arts Theatre	Comedy	45	
SESSION 2		SATURDAY 8 AUGUST 1:00 PM		YOUTH PLAYS	
4	<i>A Weekend Mystery</i>	Valmy Academy	Comedy	20	
5	<i>Dead Highway</i>	Bremer State High School Drama Club	Thriller	35	
6	<i>TWO, FOUR, SIX, EIGHT, WHO DO WE RESUSCITATE?</i>	Firebrands - Ipswich Little Theatre	Black Comedy	45	
YOUTH PLAY SECTION		ADJUDICATOR'S REMARKS & AWARDS			
SESSION 3		SATURDAY 8 AUGUST 6:30 PM		OPEN PLAYS	
1	<i>Daffodil</i>	Ipswich Little Theatre	Drama	40	
2	<i>Final Days</i>	Final Day Players	Drama	45	
3	<i>A Blooming of Ivy</i>	Toowoomba Rep	Romantic Comedy	20	
SESSION 4		SUNDAY 9 AUGUST 10:00 AM		OPEN PLAYS	
4	<i>Still Here Luv</i>	Mousetrap Theatre	Comedy	35	
5	<i>Tickets Please</i>	Toowoomba Rep	Drama	20	
6	<i>All Strings Attached</i>	North Brisbane Theatre Company	Comedy	45	
FESTIVAL BARBEQUE APPROX 12:30 PM – 1:50 PM					
SESSION 5		SUNDAY 9 AUGUST 2:00 PM		5 x OPEN PLAYS	
7	<i>Blood On Canvas</i>	Toowoomba Rep	Drama	45	
8	<i>Even Numbers</i>	Footlights Theatrical Inc.	Drama	35	
9	<i>Parachute</i>	Mousetrap Theatre	Dramedy	30	
OPEN PLAY SECTION		ADJUDICATOR'S REMARKS & AWARDS			
70 th FESTIVAL CELEBRATION – AFTER THE OPEN AWARDS					

Festival Entries

Ipswich Little Theatre will be performing in two sections of our own Festival. Our Firebrands group will perform *Two, Four, Six, Eight, Who Do We Resuscitate?* in the Youth Section on Saturday 8 August. And *Daffodil* will be presented on Saturday night.

Daffodil will be having a pre-Festival try-out on 25 July with the performance booked out. If you miss it then, you can still see it at our Festival. *Daffodil* will also be performed elsewhere on the circuit.

Plays for 2027

Selection Committee have received a number of applications from budding directors for next year and are currently reading the submitted scripts. From this they will formulate a programme of plays for approval by the Administrative Committee.

The programme will be announced at a Season Launch towards the end of 2026.

Galvanized

As noted in the May Newsletter, ILT will be making an historical presentation in Queens Park during Galvanized. As part of the publicity, Channel 7 will be screening a preview shortly before the event. They persuaded us to be involved in filming footage, so on 8 July, Jim Orr dressed up as Frederick Turley (former Park Superintendent) and Ian Pullar as George Brockwell Gill (architect) while members of the Daytime Theatre Troupe formed part of a crowd for the camera.

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

25 July @ 7:30pm Incinerator.	Preview of <i>Daffodil</i> (sold out)
27 July @ 7:30 pm in Jean Pratt Building	Auditions for <i>Ben Hur</i>
8, 9 August	70th Festival
16 September	Opening night <i>The Pink Hammer</i>

Auditions

Auditions will be held for ILT's final season of 2026, *Ben Hur* written by Patrick Barlow, on Monday 27 July at 7pm.

Ben Hur is a tale of epic proportions, with naval battles, chariot races, and vast Roman cityscapes. Thousands, if not dozens, of characters, all performed by.... four actors. (Remember Barlow's treatment of *The Thirty Nine Steps*?)

The cast required is 1 male 30s to 40s, 1 male 20s to 30s, 1 female 20s to 30s and 1 other actor aged 40+.

The production also requires a couple of visible stage hands who are very keen but only vaguely competent.

You could have a part in "the greatest story ever told"...we hope.

Open House

If you haven't yet pencilled in our Open House on 6 December, it's time you did so. On that afternoon we will be celebrating the wonderful milestones of 2026: 150 years since the birth of Walter Burley Griffin; 90 years since the opening of the incinerator; 80 years since the foundation of Ipswich Little Theatre; and our 70th Festival.

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