

≡ *Burning News* from the Incinerator Theatre

June 2026

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre
SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946

Editor:

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**NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE
MEETING**
7pm
Tuesday
14 July 2026

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OPHELIA CLOSES

After a very successful season our second production of the year has reached the end of its run, with very happy audiences. Congratulations to the team.



The *Firebrands* production of *The Day the Internet Died* opens on Friday 12 June in the Incinerator, with other performances on Saturday 13, Friday 19 and Saturday 20 June at 7:30 pm.

Bookings are open and the students would love to have an audience to see how well the group has progressed under the direction of Sam Hoepner and his assistants.

On a sunny day in the town of Bloomington, a devastating occurrence happens. No, it's not famine, or floods, or loss of your basic rights. The internet has gone down! And it will continue to be down! For a week! A whole week! Pandemonium! In a world that is so dependent on the internet how will society function? Not well as it turns out...

Bookings at ilt.org.au or

VIC 3281 0555



"When I read about the evils of drink I gave up reading."

ICT Manager Shane Mallory was gobsmacked by an enquiry to the Ipswich Little Theatre Society website that asked if there was a theatre group in Ipswich!



From the President

Congratulations to Alison, Robyn, cast and crew of *Ophelia Chooses*. This play was a very different version of Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'. All of our audiences enjoyed the production (even if they didn't know the original version) and the supper which followed each performance. Many thanks to Connie and the FOH volunteers who prepared these offerings, and the cast who served the supper each night.

Next up we have Firebrands and their performances of *The Day the Internet Died*, commencing on Friday evening. Congratulations to Kate, Sam, Mack and the team for helping our young people achieve their goals.

Ann

Editor's Note: Ann, herself, attended every performance and she and Connie spent hours in the kitchen cooking up a storm!

The Pink Hammer

Auditions were held for our third season on Monday 8 June. There was great interest in the play and the available parts as can be seen in the photo of the auditionees – 22 women and three men competing for the four female and one male role. With so much talent on display, Director Jim Orr, Assistant Director Chris Austin-Greenhill and Selection Committee were faced with difficult decisions.



However, the decisions had to be made and the following cast was chosen:

Annabel	Jo Robbins
Louise	April Anfruns
Helen	Vicki Murray
Siobhan	Jessica Pitman
Woody	Mal Farrow

Congratulations to the successful auditionees.

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

Daffodil - Our Festival Entry

Our Festival entry this year will be *Daffodil* by EM Lark directed by Kate Hoepner with Brittany Evans as her Assistant Director.

A deeply human, one-act drama following Cecilia and John, who retreat to a summer house on the coast to recover from her perceived "hysterics." Instead, she finds herself confronting deceitful yellow wallpaper

The play will be performed 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.).

There will be a special preview performance of *Daffodil* on 25 July at 7:30pm in the Incinerator. Tickets are \$10 each.

Group bookings at our major productions are a popular means of fund raising. There is a vacancy for *The Pink Hammer* and there are opportunities for our end of year show, *Ben Hur*. Anyone interested should contact Martie Blanchett on 0405 186 767.

Sparks

The team have been working with the actors around their main production for the year, *The Somewhat Accurate Adventures of Odysseus*.

Special thanks to Shane Mallory, Kim Froloff, Aria Froloff, and Lewis Chatton for workshops they are having with the actors to work on character development, creating accents and to Dior Austin for his session called "Meet the Playwright" where he was able to help them understand his vision for their characters.

The production is scheduled to be performed in the Jean Pratt Building on 5 September at 9 am.

Flames

Auditions have been conducted successfully for *The Playhouse* which is scheduled to be performed in October. Following the completion of casting, rehearsals and introductory workshops have commenced, allowing performers to begin exploring their characters, relationships, and the world of the play.

Additional specialist workshops are planned in the coming months, including accent development sessions. As *The Playhouse* is set in England, performers will be working towards developing consistent British accents to support the authenticity of the production.

Firebrands

As well as rehearsing for *The Day the Internet Died* (see page 1), a group of Firebrands actors is busily rehearsing *Two, Four, Six, Eight, Who Do We Resuscitate?* under the direction of Jess Pitman.

This play will compete in a number of Festivals including our own.

Adjudicator for Festival 2026

Our Adjudicator – Arthur Frame AM

Arthur Frame's association with the Ipswich Little Theatre drama festival began when he pencilled for Joan Whalley OAM for her adjudication of our 14th annual festival in 1968. Subsequently he adjudicated our 30th and 60th anniversary festivals. It seems especially appropriate that he returns to adjudicate our 70th anniversary festival.

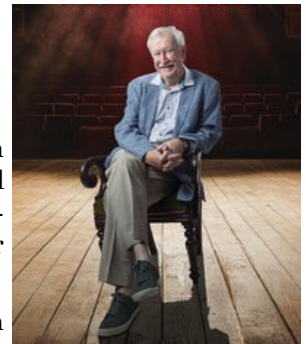
Arthur enjoyed a 50-year professional career in the Arts in Australia, working in radio, television, and extensively in theatre as an actor, director, artistic director, playwright, executive production manager, theatre manager, chief executive officer, administrator, and board director.

During his career he worked for the Macquarie Broadcasting Network in Far North Queensland and the radio drama department at the ABC, the Channel 9 Network (as Humphrey B. Bear), The National Theatre Company at The Playhouse in Perth Western Australia, Queensland Theatre Company, Queensland Arts Council, Arts Queensland, and co-created his own entrepreneurial company Frame and Kennett Promotions (which founded Brisbane's Gallery Theatre). He was also Assistant Director of London's Royal Court Theatre.

Throughout this Golden Age of the Arts in Australia, he played many pivotal roles in the entertainment industry, being acknowledged by the Australian Government in 2008 with his appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia.

Last year, Arthur launched his now multi-award-winning theatrical memoir, *The Arts Juggler – The Right Place at the Right Time*, here at The Incinerator Theatre. He chose this venue in grateful recognition of the nurturing role Ipswich Little Theatre played in launching his extraordinary professional career.

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of this unique drama festival, we are delighted to have Arthur back with us as our adjudicator.



Plays for 2027

This is a final call for offers from eligible members to direct a major play in 2027 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 Martie Blanchett is always available. mrsmbblanchett@gmail.com or 0405 186 767



Happy Birthday !!

On Friday 5 June a function was held to celebrate the 80th Birthday of Ipswich Little Theatre at Char'd in the Prince Alfred Hotel. Invited guests included members of the current Committee, Life Members, Past Presidents, partners and other members who represented the hundreds of people who have contributed to our success over all those years. The evening was illustrated by a video presentation of the development at the Incinerator complex and hundreds of photographs from many, many productions.

Finger food was served buffet style to maximise interactions.



Suzanne & Michele



John, Robyn & Harry

Photos pkf Robyn Flashman and Yvonne Gardiner



Helen & Ian



Di, Ally & Mack



Sam, Kim, Kate, Natalie, Brittany, Shane & Aaron



Jim & Jo



Aaron & Brittany



Deb & Joyce



Cup cakes



Above: Desley, Joyce & Ann



Sam, Dior, Ally, Mack & Connie

Right: Suzanne, Michele & Tony



Natalie & Shane



Ron, Jane & Melinda



Sandra & Suzanne



Brendish & Dior



Above: Jenny, Jane, Gary, Eleanor & Ron



Phil, Jim, Jo, Michele & Tony

Right: Chris & Ann



Martie and Clive were also present – I just don't have photos of them. Julie-Anne and Andrew rang in sick!



Yvonne & Suzanne

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

12, 13, 19 & 20 June @ 7:30 pm.	Firebrands <i>The Day the Internet Died</i>
25 July @ 7:30pm Incinerator.	Preview of <i>Daffodil</i>
27 July @ 7:30 pm in Jean Pratt Building	Auditions for <i>Ben Hur</i>
7, 8, 9 August	70th Festival

Open House

This year, 2026, is a year of celebration.

We have already celebrated the 80th Birthday of Ipswich Little Theatre (see pages 4 & 5). In August we will celebrate the 70th Festival. And in December we will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Walter Burley Griffin in whose wonderful building we carry out our business.

On the afternoon of Sunday 6 December, we will open our gate to our own members and supporters and interested members of the public to witness the planting of Australian native plants to commemorate WG's Birthday, and the installation of an artwork to recognise all our achievements. The doors of the Theatre will also be opened to allow inspection of how the Building once operated as an incinerator and how it is now operated as a Theatre.

Plans are also being formulated for the chance to enjoy food and beverages and good company in our lovely grounds.

Mark the date in your diaries –

OPEN HOUSE Sunday 6 December.

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