

≡ *Burning News* from the Incinerator Theatre

May 2026

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre
SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946

Editor:

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**NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE
MEETING**

7pm

Tuesday

9 June 2026

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"Serves you right, Madam": Beck, Kim & Mack

Opening Night

Wednesday 13 May kicked off ILT's latest season – a wonderfully colourful play with the added bonus of a supper for a happy audience.



Supper is ready: Ann Collyer & Connie Foy



After the show, time to relax and enjoy a bite to eat and a chance to evaluate.



The resplendent cast; *back row* Mack (Hamlet), Beck (Fay), Lewis (Shakespeare), Selena (Claudius), Helen (Gertrude). *Front row* Kim (Osric) Corinne (Ophelia)

Limited bookings are still available.



"From what disease was the ham 'cured'?"

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



From the President

Congratulations to Chris, Mack and the teams from Sparks and Flames on their successful Showcases on Saturday 9 May. Unfortunately, due to work commitments I was unable to attend, however, feedback from audience members has been very positive. I am looking forward to the upcoming performances in June from Firebrands.

Congratulations also to Alison, Robyn and the cast of *Ophelia Chooses*. Audiences from the first week really enjoyed the performances, even those members who didn't know Shakespeare.

Ann

Auditions – *The Pink Hammer*

Monday 8 June at 7:30 pm

The Pink Hammer is a New Zealand comedy by Michele Amas featuring four distinct women and one disgruntled man in a carpentry workshop. The characters often step out of their initial stereotypes, moving from comedy to deeper themes of empowerment, friendship and mortality.

Characters

- **Woody** (30s-60s range) Gruff, disgruntled builder/chippie. He is fiercely protective of his "man cave" and initially unwilling to let women use his tools. He develops from an inarticulate, stereotypically "macho" male into a more sympathetic, sensitive figure. (Australian accent)
- **Annabel** (30s-60s range) Staunch, modern feminist with an academic or professional background. She is a counsellor who can be preachy, often rubbing others the wrong way with unwanted psychoanalysis. She immediately moves to dismantle the patriarchy in the workshop. (Australian accent)
- **Helen** (30s-60s range) A hard-nosed, abrasive, and laconic horse breeder. She is dealing with personal demons/depression and is tough, not bringing a "plate" to the workshop. She initially finds Louise annoying. (Australian accent)
- **Louise** (30s-60s range) A mousy, nervous, and sweet nurse/baker who initially seems out of place. She is carrying a heavy burden/secret and can be found making gluten-free/vegan treats, but surprises others with her resilience. (Australian accent)
- **Siobhan** (30s-60s range) A vivacious, bouncy young traveller. She is charming, often finding sexual innuendo in the workshop tools, and is "running away" from her problems. She has a warm presence and a lovely singing voice. (Irish accent)

For more information, contact Director Jim Orr <jimmyorr2654@gmail.com> or Assistant Director Chris Austin-Greenhill Christopher Greenhill <christophergreenhill70@gmail.com>

Interested talent are encouraged to complete an audition form via

<https://www.ilt.org.au/getinvolved/auditions/>

Call for Directors for 2027

Prospective directors (with their Assistant 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.

Librarian Aaron Evans is happy to help members find a suitable script (0431 041 068).

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.

There will be more information about adjudicator Arthur Frame in the June Newsletter

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. There is a possible 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.

Daffodil- Our Festival Entry

Following a very well attended and highly competitive audition on 20 April, rehearsals have commenced under the direction of Kate Hoepner and her assistant Brittany Evans.



Danielle Roberts (Cecilia) and Garth Remington (John) at the back with Belinda Cornwell (Narrator) seated.

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.

Firebrands

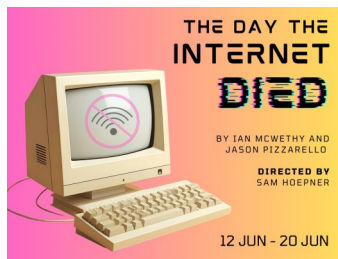
Tickets are now on sale, for *The Day the Internet Died*, directed by Sam Hoepner. On a sunny day in the town of Bloomington, a devastating occurrence happens. No, it's not famine, or floods, or loss of your basic rights. The internet has gone down! And it will continue to be down! For a week! A whole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

This challenging, absorbing play will be staged in the Incinerator. **12, 13, 19 & 20 June at 7:30pm.**

Tickets are now on sale.

Another group of Firebrands 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.



Sparks

At the Sparks Improvisation Showcase on 9 May the team did an exceptional job showing their parents what they do in their Saturday classes.



Eva, Fraser, Hamish, Lillian

The kids were very impressed by Tony Erhardt because he was so tall, a former Junior Theatre member and a Life Member. Hamish asked how he could get to be like Tony. Director Chris told him, **“Work hard, listen and trust yourself and eat your veggies!”**



Tyler, Briar, Nyrie, Danielle, Layla

Both Sparks and Flames will be holding auditions for their next shows on Saturday 23 May.

Flames

The Flames showcase was held on Saturday 9 May where students showcased the skills they have been working on in Term 1.

By popular choice, the games presented to an audience of roughly 30 during the performance included:

- Mime (Charades)
- Death in a Minute
- Subtitles
- Persuasion.

The students enjoyed wrangling their parents and loved ones into joining them on stage with Kitty Cat Career (yes it is a real improv game).

It went well and parents have reported back saying how proud they were of their child's progress. Some of those whose children were previously members of Junior Theatre (now Sparks) commented on the fact that their experience shone out over the performance of the newcomers. This is a real credit to the Youth Theatre Team.

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

Monday 8 June @ 7:30 pm	Auditions for <i>The Pink Hammer</i>
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>
7, 8, 9 August	70th Festival

Galvanized

Each year Ipswich City council hosts Galvanized, the city's festival of heritage, showcasing the best heritage experiences and events of Ipswich over 10 days in September. This year, the Festival will feature Queens Park, the oldest such park in Queensland.

On Saturday 12 September, paying patrons will be able to assemble in Queens Park where they will undertake a short walking tour of this iconic site. Through an arrangement with Ipswich Little Theatre, patrons will learn about the history of the park as told by former historical figures. Jim Orr, who will be producer/director of the presentation, will also play the part of Frederick Turley, former Park Curator. His successor, Thomas Wall will be played by Glen Smith while Di Johnston will portray former Mayoress Merle Finimore and Ian Pullar will personify architect George Brockwell Gill. The script will be written by Ian Pullar (who also wrote the script for the Cemetery Tours of 2021). At the end of the tour, patrons will have the additional option of moving to the Incinerator where Helen Pullar will deliver an illustrated talk on the history of our beloved home.

Look out for the opening of bookings.

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