Burning News from the Incinerator Theatre

October 2026

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter

PROUD OF OUR HISTORY
EXCITED BY OUR FUTURE

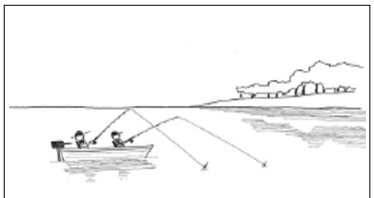
Editor:

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NEXT ILT COMMITTEE MEETING
7pm
Tuesday
10 November 2026

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"I don't remember if I loaned you $50 last month. Did I?"
"I think we both know the answer to that question."



Four actors and dozens of characters! One stage and multiple scenes – from Bethlehem, to the desert, to the ocean, to the Roman Hippodrome and more! More than Charlton Heston, (or Lew Wallace) could have imagined!



The four actors: Allie Harris, Andrew Goyns, Sean Wilson and Jason Lawson in rehearsal.

Don't forget to suspend your disbelief when you come along. If they say it's a camel, then it is a camel. If they say it's a Roman trireme, then it is. Get the picture?

And don't forget to bring your sense of the absurd for a good night of laughter and entertainment.

The *Ben Hur* season runs from 18 November to 5 December. Public matinees are on Sundays 22 and 29 November.

Bookings are available, as always, at **ilt.org.au or VIC 3281 0555**

2027 Launched

On the afternoon of 17 October our programme for 2027 was announced to a large audience of members of groups keen to make fund-raising bookings, and budding actors, keen to learn what parts will be available for audition next year. (See page 2 for details of the plays.)



Vice President Julie-Anne Wright opening proceedings at the launch.

Each of the directors outlined the plays and casts before the audience members were provided with afternoon tea – again prepared by the incomparable Connie Foy – and were given the opportunity to book for their season of choice.

To volunteer for front of house work during *Been Hur*, click https://www.admin.ilt.org.au/foh-roster/



From the President

Congratulations to Jim, Chris, the cast and crew of *The Pink Hammer* on a very successful and entertaining season. Also congratulations to our two Festival entrants for the 2026 season. Kate, Brittany and the crew from *Daffodil* and Jess, Ollie and our young people from *Two, Four, Six, Eight* on their very successful Festival results. Well done everyone.

Ann

Programme for 2027

Season 1: 24 February - 13 March

Midnight Murder at Hamlington Hall

by Mark Kilmurray & Jamie Oxenbould. Director: Jo Robbins. Assistant Directors: Leanne Bamford & Shane Mallory

It is the opening night of director-writer Shane Tweed's new murder mystery, Midnight Murder at Hamlington Hall. *Seven of the amateur theatre company's cast are down with the dreaded lurgy. So the director and two of the remaining actors pitch in to continue the long tradition of 'the show must go on'. Juggling nerves, props, and absurd miscasting, will they manage to pull it off? Or will everything go horribly, terribly and awfully wrong?*
Rated M Adult Themes and Coarse Language

Season 2: 26 May - 12 June
Money & Friends
by David Williamson. Director: Suzanne Matulich. Assistant Director: Dorothy Walsh

This classic social comedy follows a tight-knit circle of wealthy Sydney couples who escape the city for the coast year after year. But when Peter, an easy-going mathematician, falls into sudden financial ruin, the group's comfortable camaraderie is tested. A hilarious Australian masterpiece that asks the ultimate question: Is friendship merely for exchanging gossip, or do we stand by our mates when everything is on the line?
Rated M Adult Themes and Coarse Language

Season 3: 15 Sep - 2 Oct
Gaslight (Deceived)
by Patrick Hamilton - Adapted by Johanna Wright and Patty Jamieson
Directors: Dior Austin-Greenhill & Jo Robbins
Bella Manningham thinks she's losing her mind. In the evenings, she hears strange sounds and the lights dim for no apparent reason. But is she losing her grip on reason, or is it being loosened for her? Patrick Hamilton's 1938 play gave us the word we now use for an insidious form of mental abuse. This new 2022 adaptation is a gripping thriller: Will the light have its intended, murderous effect?
Rated M. Adult Themes and Suicide Ideation

Season 4:17 Nov - 4 Dec
It's Only A Play by Terrence McNally
Director: Chris Austin-Greenhill. Assistant Director: Jessica Pitman
The reviews are about to drop, and the drama hasn't even hit the stage!
A neurotic playwright, a pill-popping diva, an eccentric director, and a brutal critic lock themselves in the bedroom of a classy Manhattan hotel to await the opening-night reviews. What follows is a hilarious, star-studded meltdown of fierce gossip, massive egos, and pure showbiz panic. It's a laugh-out-loud love letter to the theatre—proving that when your sanity is on the line, it's never just a play.
Rated M. Adult Themes, Coarse Language and Sexual References

Youth Theatre

The youngest of our Youth Groups, ***Sparks*** will be staging *The Somewhat Accurate Adventures of Odysseus,* written by Dior Austin-Greenhill. It was to have been performed in the Incinerator grounds on **31 October from 9 am.** Current weather conditions may mean that the Incinerator stage is the venue.

Bookings are available on line.

Forewarned

Our normal programme will be somewhat interrupted in 2027 as the Ipswich City Council undertakes essential maintenance works at the Incinerator complex.

The major fuse box outside the Jean Pratt Building is scheduled to be replaced during the first week in February. This will mean no power will be available and no classes or rehearsals can be held during that time. Timetables will be adjusted to cater for this interruption.

And, beginning in March, immediately after our first season, scaffolding will be erected around both chimneys to allow essential maintenance and repair work to be caried out. There will be no access to the balcony or the courtyard for a period of around eight weeks. Rehearsals will be able to be held with cast and crew entering the Incinerator through the stage door.

The last time scaffolding was erected to deal with vegetation growth in the chimneys, it was realised that the chimneys themselves were in need of basic restoration – a much more time-consuming task.

Because of these planned works, the opening of the second season will be later than normal.

Council officers have been extremely cooperative in endeavouring to minimise the disruption to our programme, recognising that our financial situation is entirely dependent on our box office.

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



In rehearsal: Liz Weier, Sue Van Der Meer, Ann-Maree Ling, Geraldene Fitzpatrick, Margaret Martin, Jane Brown, Di Johnston, Lonnie Rutland

The Daytimers were saddened to hear of the recent death of Ann Wall, a former member of the Troupe, at the age of 80. Ann performed in a number of the DTT productions. One of her most memorable performances was as Rafiki in *The Lion King* many years ago.

The Flames

On 17 October The ***Flames*** presented *The Playhouse* in the Jean Pratt Auditorium to an (almost) full house. This was quite an ambitious play (set in and around the Globe Theatre), but the youngsters pulled it off admirably. Congratulations to the cast and their leaders.

There is certainly some talent coming through so the future looks bright.





Kate Hoepner, Macy Hews, Taylah White, Ellie Atkinson, Kailen O'Dea

The Firebrands

On 16 and 17 October the ***Firebrands*** presented their showcase in the Jean Pratt Auditorium. This was a mixture of monologues (a number of them written by the students), set pieces and improvised games. Their leaders would have been very proud of them and their performances.

It was also gratifying to see a number of former Young Theatricals come along to support the students.

It is really great to see so many former students being involved in Senior Theatre. When you come to see *Ben Hur* you will see two on stage.

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

31 October 9 am	Sparks ... *Odysseus*
9 November 7:30 pm	Auditions for *Midnight Murder at Hamlington Hall*
17 – 27 November (see page 3)	Daytime Theatre Troupe (Jean Pratt Building)
18 November	Opening night *Ben Hur*
Sunday 17 January 2027 3 pm	*Annual General Meeting*

Auditions

Auditions will be held for our first production of 2027 on 9 November – ***Midnight Murder at Hamlington Hall*** to be directed by Jo Robbins with Assistant Directors Leanne Bamford & Shane Mallory.

The plot of this outrageous comedy can be found on page 2.

The characters required are:

- Karen (Female 30-40ish)
- Phillipa (Female 30-50ish)
- Shane (Male 30-50ish)
- Barney (Male 40-60ish)
- Richard (25+)

The directors are looking for actors with experience or intuitive comic timing and flexibility to play multiple characters with differing accents and characterisation. More information is available from the Director Jo Robbins <jrobbins@faithlcs.qld.edu.au>

Or you can complete an audition form via https://www.ilt.org.au/getinvolved/auditions/

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 – Flames – Firebrands	Chris Greenhill Mack Groves Kate Hoepner	0427 977 007 0439 202 955 0479 048 979
Daytime Theatre Troupe	Kay McAllan	0439 305 658
Theatre number		3812 2389

Ipswich Little Theatre Society is opening its gates to the community with

A Milestone Matinee

on Sunday 6 December

to celebrate

- 150 years since the birth of architect Walter Burley Griffin
- 90 years since the construction of the Ipswich Incinerator
- 80 years since the foundation of Ipswich Little Theatre and
- 70 years of ILT drama festivals

Gates open at 1.00pm

Performances will be held in both the Incinerator and the Jean Pratt theatres commencing at 1.30pm. Attendees are invited to attend a performance in one venue before the afternoon tea break and then swap to the other venue for the afternoon session showing the same content as it did in the first session.

Enjoy an afternoon of reflection including a virtual "behind the scenes tour" with entertainment provided by Senior Theatre members, the Daytime Theatre Troupe and our Youth Theatre.

Afternoon tea will be available in our courtyard café.

The programme will culminate at 5.00 pm with the unveiling of a commemorative installation – *Thalia: the Muse of Comic Theatre* – and the planting of trees in the new Burley Griffin Memorial Garden.

Join us afterwards to cut the birthday cake and toast our great company,

Admission will be free but booking is essential using the following links.

If you choose to start at the Incinerator, click link A

https://IPLT.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/171100

If you want to start in the Jean Pratt Auditorium, click link B

https://IPLT.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/171101

Whichever you choose, you will see the same show by moving from one theatre to the other.

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Members & Volunteers

This is a great opportunity to showcase what ILT has to offer, but a lot of help is required to make the day a success.

The organising Committee would love to hear from anyone interested in giving even a small amount of time to ensure the success of this event.