

IPSWICH LITTLE THEATRE SOCIETY PRESENTS

THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY
OWEN O'NEILL AND DAVE JOHNS

DIRECTOR: SHANE MALLORY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: AMANDA HARRISON

RATED MA15+ STRONG ADULT THEMES, SIMULATED VIOLENCE AND COARSE LANGUAGE

PERFORMANCE SEASON
25 FEBRUARY - 14 MARCH 2026
PUBLIC NIGHTS 27 AND 28 FEBRUARY, 6, 7, 13 AND 14 MARCH AT 7.30 PM
PUBLIC MATINEES 1, 8 AND 14 MARCH AT 2 PM

AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH PLAYSSCRIPTS, INC.
ALL PERFORMANCES AT THE INCINERATOR THEATRE, 15 BURLEY GRIFFIN DRIVE, IPSWICH.
MORE INFORMATION AND TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.ILT.ORG.AU
OR PHONE, OR IN PERSON AT THE IPSWICH VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE 32810555

2026: A YEAR TO CELEBRATE

150 years

The renowned American architect, Walter Burley Griffin, was born in 1876 -150 years ago. Known in Australia as the designer of our national capital, Canberra, he was also responsible for many other significant buildings, including our very own Incinerator. In 1969 this, the only Burley Griffin building in Queensland, was converted to an intimate theatre, the home of Ipswich Little Theatre Society.



80 years

Eighty years ago, in August 1946, a small group of like-minded Ipswich people formed an amateur acting society - Ipswich Little Theatre Society. Unlike many similar groups, it survived the advent of television and then, after 96 productions, the closure of the Ipswich Town Hall, its performance space. This, however, resulted in the move to our current home which has witnessed the company's expansion into a thriving community theatre. With this current production, we celebrate 370 major productions, 274 of them in this venue.



70 Festivals

In 1955, ILT hosted its first One Act Play Festival, drawing competitors from far and wide. Known as the friendliest festival on the circuit, it is now the longest continuous drama competition of its type in the Southern Hemisphere, having been held every year since ILT's inception, apart from the Covid years of 2020 and 2021.



Behind the scenes

ILT will be holding special celebrations this year to mark these amazing milestones, in conjunction with the Burley Griffin Society and Ipswich City Council.

Our faithful patrons who have sat in this auditorium on many an occasion, waiting for the curtains to open, will have the opportunity for a behind the scenes experience while hearing of our fascinating history.

A tree-planting ceremony will take place in our grounds, as at all Griffin buildings, and we will be significantly involved in the Galvanize Festival.
70 + 80 + 150 : What a year to celebrate!



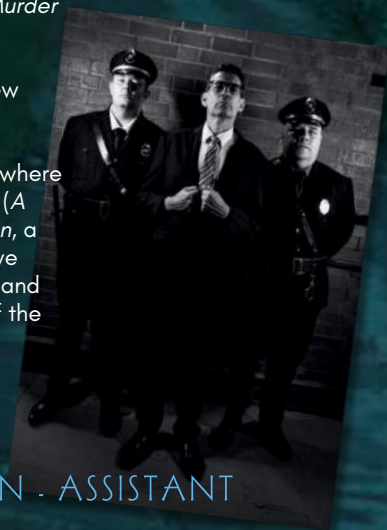
DIRECTORIAL TEAM

SHANE MALLORY - DIRECTOR

Having been with ILT since 2005 and now a respected Life Member of the Society, Shane has directed the smash-hit comedy *The 39 Steps* in 2011, *A Few Good Men* in 2013, *The Narcissist* in 2016, *Fully Committed* in 2017, *A Bunch of Amateurs* in 2019 and most recently a revival of *The 39 Steps* in 2021. *The Shawshank Redemption* marks Shane's return to the director's chair for the first time in four years. Prior to this, he has worked with aspiring ILT directors to foster the ongoing legacy of this incredible theatrical group. His recent acting credits include Tony Wendice in *Dial M for Murder*, Jesse Jardine in *The Narcissist* in 2016, Barney Cashman in Neil Simon's *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, as Sam Callahan in the one-man show *Fully Committed* in 2017, as the Butler in *CLUE: On Stage* in 2024 and most recently as Don Kirk in *The Perfect Murder* in 2025.

Shane is thrilled to be working with the amazing cast and crew assembled for this production.

'I love to create cinematic experiences on stage, particularly where a script exists that was perhaps first a play and then a movie (*A Few Good Men*) or, in the case of *The Shawshank Redemption*, a film and then a play. The cast and crew in this production have worked tirelessly to bring you a show of despair, desperation and freedom, but above all, hope. The immediacy and intimacy of the Incinerator Theatre provide the perfect venue to present this production. Please enjoy, *The Shawshank Redemption*.'

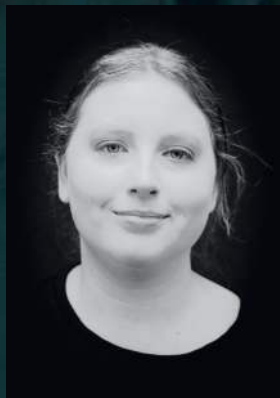


AMANDA HARRISON - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Amanda's livelihood is the arts; she dabbles in acting, directing and playwriting. She most recently performed with ILT in *Secret Bridesmaids' Business* as Angela in September - October 2025. She is also directing *Murder Incorporated* with Mayhem Theatre to be produced at PIP Theatre, Brisbane, in February this year. She won best original play for her work, *The Mind's Eye*, on the South East Queensland One-Act Play Festival circuit in 2025.

She is excited to bring the complexities of such a prestigious play to the ILT stage.

Amanda plans to complete her degree in acting at JMC Academy and keep working as a director to move audiences.



THE CAST OF THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION



JON DARBRO - ANDY DUFRESNE

Jon has performed in community theatre in Southeast Queensland for twelve years. His most recent endeavours were Juror Number 8 in *Twelve Angry Men*, Randall P. McMurphy in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (both Ghostlight Theatre), and Henry Condell in *The Book of Will* (Growl Theatre). *The Shawshank Redemption* is Jon's first play with Ipswich Little Theatre, and he's excited by the challenge of portraying such a complicated character like Andy Dufresne. Fun fact: Jon was once in a play directed by Brian Brophy, who played the head of the parole board in the 1994 film *The Shawshank Redemption*.

CHEMARK REHDER II - ELLIS BOYD REDDING (RED)

Chemark is very excited to make his acting debut in Ipswich Little Theatre's *The Shawshank Redemption*. He is a rising stand-up comedian who has performed in stellar venues across South East Queensland, including the Ipswich Civic Centre, Kingston Butter Factory, and The Star Casino. Chemark has also performed in shows overseas, including Dubai and the United States. When he's not in the spotlight, he enjoys the calm and quiet environment of working in a public library.

Acting is something he's always wanted to try and is grateful to ILT for the opportunity and to his family for their support. He takes inspiration from perhaps the most memorable quote in the play, 'Get busy living, or get busy dying'.



JAMIE SPENCE - WARDEN SAMUEL NORTON

Jamie has a wide range of experience in The Arts. From appearing as an extra in the movie *Anaconda* (2025) to reading audiobooks for radio and performing stand-up comedy at various venues, Jamie has a colourful history of performing. Musical Theatre has always held an appeal for Jamie, and he has appeared as the Rum Tum Tugger in *Cats*, as The Artilleryman in *War Of The Worlds*, and as Nathan Detroit in *Guys & Dolls*. Ipswich Little Theatre has seen him performing in shows such as *Holiday*, *Golf, Marriage & Other Murderous Matters*, and *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*. He's looking forward to this new challenge of donning the mantle of Warden Norton in *The Shawshank Redemption*.



SHANNON GRIFFITHS - CHIEF GUARD BRYAN HADLEY

Shannon is a New Zealand-born actor with a knack for creative writing. Previously seen in ILT's productions of *Jack*, *An Inspector Calls* and *12 Angry Jurors*, this is Shannon's first show since performing as Freddie Filmore in Switch Up Productions' inaugural production of *It's A Wonderful Life* in 2023. He is thrilled to be bringing to life the sadistic, evil tyrant, Hadley, who answers only to Warden Norton. A corrupt man who constantly abuses his power, Hadley's ultimate goal in *Shawshank* is to destroy whatever hope the inmates may have. 'You eat when we say you eat'..





DANIEL STANTON - BOGS DIAMOND

Daniel is a stage actor with credits including Lewis in *Così* by Louis Nowra, Sandy Tyrrell in Noel Coward's *Hay Fever*, and Malvolio in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. His passion for theatre began in high school and has grown through a range of classical and contemporary productions. This is his first production with Ipswich Little Theatre and he is thrilled to be playing Bogs, the head 'Sister'. Offstage, Daniel enjoys baking, gardening, and hiking—interests that keep him grounded and creatively inspired.

JASON LAWSON - BROOKS HATLEN (BROOKSIE)

Originally from Melbourne, Jason has become a familiar face on stages in and around Brisbane in a theatre career spanning over 35 years. His most notable stage credits include *Les Misérables* (Javert), *Guys & Dolls* (Nathan Detroit) and *Oklahoma* (Will Parker). Shawshank is Jason's first show with Ipswich Little Theatre, and he is thrilled to be able to bring the character of Brooks to life. 'Brooksie is one of those long-term cons who are part of the furniture, but there is a lot more to him than meets the eye.' Outside of theatre, Jason has a keen interest in trivia and even appeared as a contestant on TV's *The Chase Australia*, where he won a share of \$27,000. He hopes you enjoy the show.

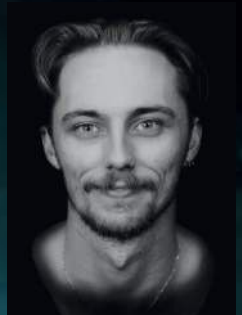


MICHAEL CIVITANO - GUARD MERT ENTWISTLE

Since moving to Australia, Michael has appeared in numerous productions, most recently in lead roles including *Popcorn*, *How The Other Half Loves*, *Noises Off*, and *Pulp*. He holds a BA in Philosophy and Theatre Arts from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Michael is thrilled to be part of this production as Entwistle, a long-serving prison guard who is very much "part of the furniture" at Shawshank. A well-meaning jobsworth in Hadley's long, intimidating shadow, Entwistle tries (not always successfully) to play tough while quietly going easy on the inmates — and possibly the doughnuts. 'Do I keep my doughnut receipts?'

GAIGE HARRISON - ROGER COOGAN (ROOSTER)

Gaige is new to the ILT stage in his first production with the theatre. He has had some prior acting experience, debuting in a performance of *Murder Incorporated* at Studio 188 in 2025. He played a swing role, which involved five different characters, quite a challenge for his first foray into acting. After trying comedy, he's now having a swing at drama by bringing Rooster to life. 'Rooster is a perverse character who is definitely making no friends of the audience, but is proving fun to portray.' How perverse? Let's just say Gaige's favourite line is 'Yeah, gonna invade you like a disease!'



THE CAST CONTINUED



AARON EVANS - JORDAN DAWKINS

Aaron is an award-winning director, published playwright, producer, adjudicator, teacher, and actor, having worked in these capacities since 2007. The shows Aaron has worked on around South East Queensland include, as Director, *Popcorn*, *12 Angry Jurors*, *The Ladykillers*, *Wait Until Dark*, *Orphans*, *The 39 Steps*, and *Antigone*. Assistant Director, *Breaker Morant*, *Two Weeks with the Queen* and *A Bunch of Amateurs*. As an actor, *The Odd Couple*, *A Few Good Men*, *An Inspector Calls*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Clue*, *Wolf Lullaby*, *Two Weeks with the Queen*, *Our Country's Good*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Metamorphosis*. This show will mark the 10th mainhouse production Aaron has acted in on the ILT stage, and he is guilty of loving this production. 'Lawyer screwed me'.

SEAN GIBSON - TOMMY WILLIAMS

Sean has been a part of the ILT since 2022, when he was a participant/student in our Young Theatricals program. One of his standout performances was as Mmmbeth in *Mmmbeth*, a role that helped him grow tremendously in confidence. Sean debuted earlier this year as Detective Constable Roy Grace in *The Perfect Murder*, and he is beyond thrilled to be taking on the role of Tommy in this production. His Young Theatrical leaders are incredibly proud of his journey, from his early days in class to earning a place on the main stage. When he's not performing, Sean is an avid reader with a keen interest in Stephen King novels. How perfect!



JAMES SHEEHAN - PAUL RODRIGUEZ (RICO)

The Shawshank Redemption marks James's second production with ILT, following the highly successful 2025 production of *Secret Bridesmaids' Business*. Before this, he was involved in numerous productions with the Centenary Theatre Group—most notably the 2024 production of *Noises Off*, which was awarded Stage Buzz's Comedy of the Year. James has long held a passion for the stage and theatre and was intrigued by the opportunity to bring *The Shawshank Redemption* to life, embracing a far more serious role than those he typically performs in comedy. This production has offered James a new and unique challenge within an already iconic story, and he hopes to deliver a memorable and engaging performance on the ILT stage. He has thoroughly enjoyed his time working with the cast and crew.

MARK SCOTT - CLAUDE PINKERTON (PINKY)

A drama graduate from the University of Queensland, Mark enjoys the team effort of theatre, and has performed in countless productions including the *Glass Menagerie*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Catch 22*, *Arsenic And Old Lace*, *A Few Good Men*, *Beyond Therapy*, *The Mousetrap*, *A Man For All Seasons*, *A Bedful Of Foreigners*, *Our Town*, *'Allo 'Allo*, *Towards Zero*, *No Sex Please We're British* and the Mad Hatter in *Alice In Wonderland*. He has twice played Mr Humphries in *Are You Being Served*. Mark toured Australia and NZ as the Verger in *Dad's Army*. Fresh out of 84 *Charing Cross Road* with Centenary Theatre, he is thrilled to debut with ILT in such an uplifting drama with such a stellar ensemble.





STAGE MANAGER - LEANNE BAMFORD

Leanne has performed with ILT over many years, including playing M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias* in 2004, the beleaguered wife in *Maintenance Man* in 2007, and Cookie in *Rumors* in 2009. After a hiatus, Leanne returned and played Olive in *Dirty Dusting* in 2018, Ida in *The Cemetery Club* in 2019 and most recently as Diana in *Waiting For God* with ILT. Leanne now lives in Brisbane and has her own practice as a Social Worker. Leanne reported that she often draws on her 30 years of social work and working with people in a variety of life circumstances, to help develop her characters. This is Leanne's first foray into stage management, and she is thoroughly enjoying the challenge of wrangling 12 men backstage, not to mention providing sage advice on human dynamics given her extensive social work experience!

ABOUT THE SHOW

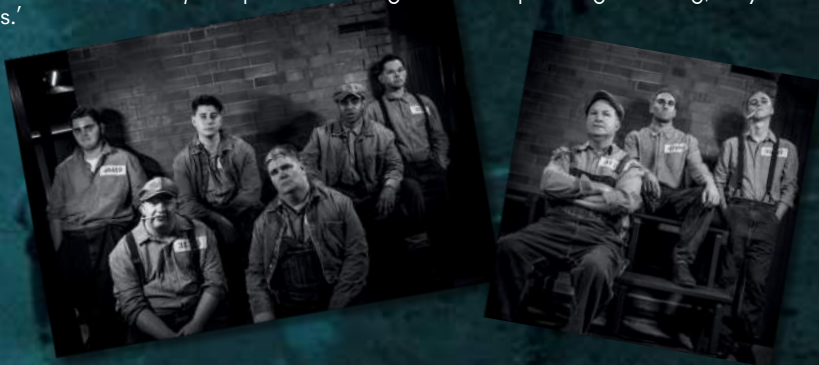
Content Advisory: This production contains strong language and simulated depictions of violence and sexual assault; it is strongly recommended for audiences aged 15 years and older.

When banker Andy Dufresne is sentenced to life imprisonment for a double murder he insists he didn't commit, he finds himself in the grim confines of Shawshank Prison. There, he forges an unlikely friendship with Red, the prison's "fixer," and begins to find a fragile kind of hope amid the despair. As Andy uses his intelligence and quiet determination to navigate life behind bars, the story unfolds as a powerful meditation on resilience, friendship and the search for redemption.

It's not often that a story holds such an enduring place in popular culture as *The Shawshank Redemption*. First penned by Stephen King in his 1982 novella *Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption*, the tale later became one of the most beloved films of all time. In fact, it tops the list of all-time most popular films on IMDB (Internet Movie Database). Adapted for the stage by Owen O'Neill and Dave Johns, this production by ILT brings a fresh intensity to the story of hope, friendship and survival behind bars.

Even for those who know the film, the stage version offers a more intimate experience. Through Red's narration and the clever use of time and space, we witness the slow burn of Andy's endurance from hopeless newcomer to quiet revolutionary and the impact he has on those around him.

The Shawshank Redemption is an emotionally charged piece of theatre that captures both the brutality and beauty of the human spirit. This isn't just a prison drama, it's a story of hope against all odds. It reminds us that even in the darkest of places, hope can still shine through. *The Shawshank Redemption* proves once again that 'hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things.'



PRODUCTION NOTES

The Shawshank Redemption has been a truly collaborative effort. From the very beginning, the production team of Shane Mallory, Amanda Harrison, Phil Holmes, Leanne Bamford, Dior Austin-Greenhill and Martie Blanchett have worked together like a well-oiled machine. From regular production meetings to maintaining a collaborative online taskings list to keeping track of the jobs needed to be done for this tour de force, the team has let their imagination run wild while still keeping the bottom line in mind. With Phil's ingenious sound and lighting designs, Amanda's skill in seeing the light and shade in performance as well as prop creation and acquisition, Dior's incredible knowledge of costuming, Leanne's advice and knowledge of the human dynamics at play in this piece of theatre, Martie's amazing dialect coaching, to Shane's constant - ...I've got this idea... do you think we can... we've managed to squeeze in a few rehearsals!

In addition to our production, we have had endless support from members of our theatre community, both here at home and overseas. Friends, family and supporters have pitched in with incredible efforts along the way to bring this show to life.

The cast and crew are incredibly excited to bring this amazing production to the Incinerator Theatre. It was epic on film, and this production will be epic on stage! Enjoy!

What's next at ILT?



Tickets to our shows!

Our thanks to:



THE CREW

Stage Manager - Leanne Bamford

Sound & Lighting Design - Phil Holmes

Sound & Lighting Operation - Phil Holmes
& Jo Robbins

Photography - Amanda Harrison

Costume Design - Dior Austin-Greenhill

Dialect Coach - Martie Blanchett

Marketing - Kate Hoepner, Shane Mallory,
Robyn Flashman

Set Design - Shane Mallory

Set Construction - Dale and Tasha Harrison, Amanda Harrison, Shane Mallory, Leanne Bamford, Cast & Crew

International Prop & Costume Acquisition - Erin Miller

Program Design - Shane Mallory & Amanda Harrison

Box Office - Shane Mallory

Many thanks to our **Front-of-House volunteers**

ILT'S 2026 PROGRAM!

