



Burning News from the Ipswich

The MAY 2006 newsletter of Ipswich Little Theatre

www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au



Shakespeare

Shakespeare Unleashed! is Ipswich Little Theatre's contribution to the **VIII World Shakespeare Congress** to be held from **16 –21 July 2006** at Brisbane City Hall,

INSIDE BURNING NEWS THIS MONTH:

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WANTED

Like to help out at the theatre?
Want to meet new friends?
Like to feel important?
We have the job for you!
ILT needs a **Business Manager** for the season of *Honour* to be performed in July this year. If you can't commit to a full season, please consider maybe doing one week only. Whatever you can offer will be much appreciated. Phone **Desley 3288 8754** to offer your services or to find out more details.

☞ At right is the 'motley crew' who make up the cast of *Lady Macbeth*. Such a truly noble band of ragamuffins has never before been seen in the grounds of our wonderful theatre. Make sure that you come along and support these worthy players.

Shakespeare Unleashed!

Our special 6 night season of Shakespeare Unleashed! is imminent. Be sure to secure your tickets soon, as there are only 3 public nights, Thursday 25, Friday 26 May and Thursday 1 June. (You might also ring the director, 'Relle Scott after 22 May on 38160969 to inquire if there are any tickets available on Saturday 27 May, which is currently a group booking. There may still be some available from that date.)

☞ Starting time is earlier than usual at **7.20 pm**, as the program consists of a number of parts. First, as you enter the gates you will be regaled by the performance of some of Shakespeare's finest soliloquies and sonnets. Next, you will be delighted by the unleashing of Shakespeare by our S-Troupe performers who will, in the pleasant gardens of the Incinerator Theatre, enact for you their version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* written and directed by Di Johnston. At 8pm, you will move into the theatre for the full length play, *Lady Macbeth* by David Calcutt.

This new play, published only last year, retells the well known story of "The Scottish Play" but from Lady Macbeth's point of view. The author returned to Scottish histories to research the background of Gruach, the Pictish princess who was to become the "fiendlike queen" of Shakespeare's tragedy. In doing so, Calcutt has unearthed some fascinating facts that breathe new life into the reasons for her actions. The language of the play is a judicious mix of modern and Shakespearean and many of the same characters from the original are included with some lively new comic characters which add a pleasing levity to the production. Brand new sound and lighting effects have been incorporated for this celebratory season, befitting the importance of Shakespeare Unleashed! as it marks the 60th Anniversary of the Ipswich Little Theatre.

Members from all of ILT's groups are involved in the production: SmartArts, Crossfyre YTs, S-Troupe, Daytimers and Main House players, making this a wonderful showcasing of what our Little Theatre has to offer! It will be a great night's entertainment, so arrange your tickets soon to avoid disappointment.



Theatre Activity Night News

Just a reminder for those of you who love to come along to our Theatre Activity Nights on the first Tuesday of each month in the Jean Pratt Building at 7.30pm. We have had a few changes lately so here is the correct program for the next 3 months.

Monday 5 June	<u>Play reading</u> – <i>Lipstick Dreams</i> NOTE: this is a Monday night not Tuesday as usual	Jan Paterson
Tuesday 4 July	<u>Audition</u> – <i>Lipstick Dreams</i>	Jan Paterson
Tuesday 1 August	<u>Play reading</u> – either another reading of <i>Deckchairs</i> so that Robyn can confirm which plays she will choose or a reading of a new play by ILT member David McCartney. Details in next newsletter.	Robyn Flashman or David McCartney

National Trust Heritage Week

On **Saturday 20 May** - our beautiful heritage listed Incinerator and grounds will be open to the public from 10.00 am - 4.00 pm as part of Queensland National Trust Heritage Week. There will be no charge for admission or for the small group tours which will be conducted as people arrive. The licenced bar will be open and tea & coffee and savoury & sweet slices will be for sale as will our new range of ILT memorabilia (thanks to Liz for this new initiative). *Our Story* brochures and 2006 program handouts will also be available.

ILT members who have volunteered to be helpers on the day are: Robyn, Alan Brown, Doug Moses, Dianne Adams, Liz Boekholt (pm), Desley Cronon, Jim Orr (am) and Patti Pratt - thanks to each of them for supporting our theatre in this way. If you would like to come along and assist, please feel free to do so. It will be an interesting day and you will get to meet a lot of enthusiastic lovers of Ipswich heritage. This event is also a good opportunity to publicize *Shakespeare Unleashed!* and future 2006 plays.

It is interesting to note that in the South East Queensland 'outer areas' there are 16 places of interest in the immediate Ipswich region that are listed in the National Trust calendar as offering some sort of event on that particular day. We are really living in a heritage area here in Ipswich.

As Robyn Flashman points out: 'It is of significance this year that the Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator, of which we have been custodians since 1969, will be 70 years old. It was officially opened on 6 November, 1936. Our commitment to the maintenance of this building has meant that the building remains in excellent condition and is now very much a part of the cultural history of Ipswich as it has been a theatre longer than it was an incinerator.'

Thanks for helping BUT.....!

We are all very grateful when members agree to come along and help work in the kitchen and front of house during our performance seasons. However, there have been a couple of instances lately when members have put their names on the roster and have either not turned up at all, or turned up and then left just after 8pm. If you are prepared to help, it does mean that you are required to be there from 7.30pm at the very latest and until the work is complete after the play is finished. Otherwise you are just leaving the work to the insufficient number of helpers who are left and that makes their contribution double what it should be. Come on, ILT members, you can do better than that!

Ipswich Little Theatre Polo Shirts

Most members are now aware of the good quality black polo shirts printed in white with a small logo above the left hand pocket and a large stylised image of the theatre on the back that other members have been wearing when on official ILT business such as working front of house. If you would like one for your very own, they are available from Suzanne 32814748 for only \$20. All sizes are available from small to XXXL but they must be ordered.

BOOKINGS - Jean Pratt Building- Desley Cronon

If you want to use the Jean Pratt Building at any time at all, for rehearsals or any other reason, you must contact Desley 3288 8754 to make a booking.

S-Troupe - director Di Johnston

Well, our Even Rockier shows have finished and Di was very happy with the result. Great acting by our S-Troupers, thanks to Kelly, a great set, thanks to Phil for great lighting, and many thanks to assistant Directors Sue, Sharyn, Jim, Marie, Elizabeth, Deidre, Bryan, Margaret and Nic, for all their hard work this term to get this together.

Many thanks to Sue for procuring the services of Darryl Noble to assist with make-up.

Di attended a dinner recently to receive a donation from the Quota Club, which we will put to good use later in the year, a special treat for us.

Speaking of dinner, don't forget to RSVP to the 15th reunion dinner or if you know of any students/helpers that may have moved or changed circumstances, please let me know.

Rehearsals have started for our Shakespearian piece to be done in conjunction with the 60th celebrations.

Crossfyre Young Theatricals - director Suzanne Matulich

A small group of Crossfyre students took part in the group Kaleidoscope Festival float for the Ipswich Festival along with some Smart Arts students. They enjoyed it so much we are thinking of having our own ILT float next year.

Congratulations to Josh Nicholls who took part in the street theatre component of the Ipswich Festival - a very professional and focused performance! Josh and Matt Shield were also starring in *Advance Screening* performances at the Ipswich Civic Hall recently - well done. And there's more - some Crossfyre students are happily taking part in *Shakespeare Unleashed!* and others will be helping as wait staff at the 3 June function. All these activities offer the young people excellent diverse theatrical training especially for those who have such a love of theatre that they wish to make a career in that area.

Smart Arts - Junior Theatre - co-ordinator Liz Boekholt

Term 2 has started well. Scripting for end of year is underway with a fractured fairytale theme. Kids brainstormed and we will be using Cinderella, 3 Billy Goats Gruff, Peter Pan and Puss in Boots as our base. It will be interesting to see where the children take these stories.

The Ipswich Festival Parade went extremely well and next year's will be bigger and better. The kids certainly enjoyed the crowds. We will be looking at increasing our identity as SmartArts and ILT for next year with banners etc.

Daytime Theatre Troupe - convenor Kay McAllan

No report this month

Librarians - Patti Pratt

Patti 32812427 is looking after the library for 2006. If you want to borrow a script or have any questions, please contact her.

Other News of Interest to All**Ipswich Little Theatre
60th Birthday celebrations**

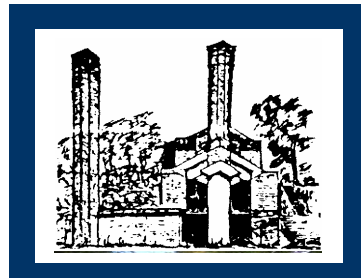
Shakespeare

Okay, we've told you about the fact that 2006 is our 60th year of operations as a community theatre and you know that we have chosen *Shakespeare Unleashed!* as the play to build our celebrations around.

What some people do not realise is that it was very difficult for the organising committee to work out how to invite people to the event and not exceed the number of seats available. So, an invitation list was drawn up after much deliberation and, unfortunately, only those who have received the splendid invitations are able to attend on the night of Saturday 3 June. Our apologies to you if you were not on that list but we all know that our theatre only seats 80 people, don't we?

Jacob and his Dad at the Smart Arts parents' workshop in April





Ipswich Little Theatre
 PO Box 154
 IPSWICH Q 4305
 Editor

Suzanne Matulich
 suzanne@matulich.org
 www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 25 May – 3 June – Shakespeare Unleashed**
- 3 June – 60th Birthday Celebrations at ILT – invitation only – sorry!**
- 5 June (new date) – Playreading**
Lipstick Dreams
- 20 June – Crossfyre performance *Geometry* 7.30 pm, Jean Pratt Building**
- 7 July – AUDITION**
Lipstick Dreams
- 12 – 29 July – Honour**
- 1 August – Playreading tbc**

Theatrical Definitions
 – a random series

Green Room—Room shared by nervous actors waiting to go on stage and the precocious children whose actor parents couldn't get a baby-sitter that night, a situation which can result in justifiable homicide.

Next ILT meeting
 2006
 Tuesday 13 June
 7.30 pm

Ipswich Little Theatre Executive Committee 2006

Name	Position	Phone number
President	Judith Grant	3288 0717
Vice president	Pam Floris	3288 6159
Secretary	Helen Pullar	New number 3201 4068 Note: new address: 7 Rosehill Court Brassall 4305
Treasurer	Pauline Brayford	3294 6730

Groups within ILT - directors 2006

Group	Director	Phone number
<i>Smart Arts Junior Theatre</i>	Liz Boekholt	3282 3407
<i>Crossfyre Young Theatricals</i>	Suzanne Matulich	3281 4748
<i>S-Troupe</i>	Di Johnston	3812 9141
<i>Daytime Theatre Troupe</i>	Kay McAllan	54643965

Where has the 'Artlines' Column in the Advertiser Gone?

.....and the answer from Wayne McDonnell

ILT members may be wondering what has happened to the "Arts Column" in the Ipswich Advertiser. Well a couple of weeks ago they contacted me to advise that they had decided to change their format and run an "Arts" section in the paper once a month and that I could provide my column for that. No more column each week and no thank for writing one each week for the past 10 years.

I can supply updates on the arts each week which may or may not get a run as a small item through the paper but no column.

The column I will now write has a deadline of the third Thursday of the month for events that will take place during the coming month. In other words write about arts related events a month in advance of them happening. A tall order! One that I am not happy about either.

So I am telling you this for two reasons – 1. so you know why the arts column is not appearing each week and 2. so that if you think it should continue as it was you might like to contact/ write/ phone the Editor of the Ipswich Advertiser, Peta Johansen and complain.

Wayne McDonnell

Editor's note: please do not hesitate to contact The Advertiser if you agree that this is a backward step for arts reporting in our region. Can you imagine having a 'sports' section in the paper only once a month!!



Above – the good ladies of *Lady Macbeth*

Cr Charlie Pisasale proudly supports Ipswich Little Theatre by printing the Burning News for ILT. Thanks Charlie!