



Burning News

from the Ipswich Incinerator Theatre

www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au

The MAY 2007 Ipswich Little Theatre newsletter

DID YOU KNOW

While 2.5 million went to see an AFL game in 2005-06, 2.7 million went to the theatre, 3.6 million went to an art gallery, 3.6 million went to a museum, 4 million went to a popular music concert and a whopping 10.4 million went to the cinema.

The next time somebody tells you Australians are a sports-mad lot, be sure to correct them and say: "Actually, we like our cultural pursuits more."

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DOUBT – A PARABLE

2005 Pulitzer Prize-winning *Doubt* (it also won the Tony Award as Best Play in the same year) is a riveting exploration of paranoia and suspicion in the Catholic Church.

"What do you do when you're not sure?" Father Flynn asks the audience in the opening line of this play, setting the stage for a story of suspicion and moral certainty.

Set in a Bronx parochial school in 1964 – just as the Vatican II reforms begin to transfigure the Church – evidence of a priest's wrongdoing comes to light. Sister Aloysius, a strict school Principal

and traditionalist nun, faces the decision of a lifetime: Does she openly accuse a priest and give voice to her fear of his sinful actions or does she bury her suspicions and leave room for *doubt*?

This intense and personal power struggle between Sister Aloysius and Father Flynn ultimately calls into question both faith and

justice in the shadows of this cloistered institution.

Doubt is directed by Jan Paterson and stars David Nicholl, Catherine Taylor, Rebecca Noble and Sharyn Twigg.

Public nights are 20, 21, 27 and 28 July 2007. Bookings at the Ipswich Visitor Info Centre 3281 0555



Sharyn Twigg and Rebecca Noble in *Doubt*

A PROPERTY OF THE CLAN

Crossfyre Young Theatricals, as a change, are not performing a mid year play this year with all the students involved. Instead they have been through an audition process to take up the challenge of working with adult members of ILT to perform Nick Enright's challenging play *A Property of the Clan*.

Suzanne Matulich is the Director and working with CYTI students Kyle Breese, Lisa Moore, Mardi Phillip and

Chase Shield will be ILT members Linda Shapcott, Jim Orr, Sharyn Twigg and Ryan Tucker.

A Property of the Clan is a powerful work examining the aftermath of a tragic event which occurs at an unsupervised party. This landmark Australian text is based upon a real incident.

The play was later developed into the successful Australian play and film *Black Rock*. Some of the important dra-

matic themes addressed in the play include mateship, trust, family, rituals, and peer pressure to conform to social rules. The text is a suggested work for study under Australian Drama for the Senior Syllabus.

Make sure you don't miss it - only two performances — **8.00 pm Friday 1 and Saturday 2 June** in the Incinerator Theatre. Unreserved tickets will be sold at the door. \$12 adults and \$10 conc. & ILT members.

TRIVIA
NIGHT!**Friday 25 May
7.30 pm**

ILT is hosting a Trivia night as a social get together for all our theatre members, so often we get caught up in our busy busy lives and don't get a chance just to get together and socialize with our fellow thespian friends.

Please find the flyer either with this newsletter or on the website for the trivia night.

We would love you to come and test your ILT knowledge.

You can either come as a team or we will place you in a group on the night, either way you can be sure there will be a lot of laughs.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Contact either
Rebecca 3201 5675
or **Relle 3816 0969**

TRIVIA
NIGHT!

News from the groups within Ipswich Little Theatre

S-Troupe News

from Di Johnston

Don't forget tickets are available to our show from Monday 16th May at the Visitors Centre. (32810555)

What holds America, France, Australia and England together? Come along to our show "The Red, White and Blue" and find out.

Also keep in mind our Theatre Restaurant later in the year - Okla-homer (no it's not a spelling mistake).

Smart Arts

proudly showing off their new banner, 2007 Ipswich Festival Parade.



.... four groups all based in the Jean Pratt Building

Daytime Theatre Troupe

from Jan Paterson

Our first production for 2007 **Jack and the Beanstalk** directed by Alan Brown has begun.

A reminder that there will be two Saturday matinees on the 19 May, 1pm and 3pm.

Bookings are to be made through Chic Currie on 3288-9783 [h] or 0409725315 [m]

Don't forget to book early to avoid disappointment.

Crossfyre Young Theatricals

from Suzanne Matulich

The Property of the Clan has undergone a couple of changes since last month—firstly there are now only two performances Friday and Saturday 1,2 June. Secondly we have been lucky that Ryan Tucker was able to step in at the last minute when one of the Crossfyre students was not able to commit to the play. See page 1 for more details.

Selection Committee Report

CHANGE OF DATE!

Monday Night, **21 May**, 7.30 pm, is the new date set for Selection Committee to discuss the program for 2008. As indicated in the March newsletter, this has to be earlier in the year than usual because of the increasing difficulty in obtaining performance rights for some plays.

Any prospective directors can still obtain suitable

plays from Patti Pratt.

Jane Sheppard, Lee Gerchow and Suzanne Matulich have, so far, expressed an interest in directing a play for 2008.

UPCOMING AUDITION

The following audition has been scheduled: **The Maintenance Man** Monday 9 July at the Jean Pratt Building at 7.30 pm.

AUDITION RESULTS ...

One Day After Another, held on Tuesday 1 May

Anzac Day

Marianne tbc

Vera Shirlee Burns

Frank Geoff Burns

Dorothy Jean Yates

D Day

Hugh Alan Brown

Airman Josh Darragh

Simone Michelle Williams

Cybele Erin Pearl

Laura Patti Pratt

Diana tbc

Discover Your Library—a new segment

On a random basis, Burning News will give you an overview of some of the books/scripts etc in the ILT library which our Librarian Patti Pratt has selected as being interesting and worthwhile.

The comments for each play are there to guide your selection but are not definitive.

If you read about one that you would like to know more about, give Patti a call 3281 2427

1.

Waking Eve by Robert Hewitt is an Australian comedy for 3 males and 3 females. It is a very different, bright and witty modern comedy, with coarse language. Evelyn, main character, is a gem of a role, with some great monologues. All roles are well defined characters. Our audiences would love it.

2.

Why Me? by Stanley Price is from the UK and is a comedy for 3 males and 2 females. It is intellectual, witty, very clever with interest-

ing characters. Negatives are that it has a tame ending and some coarse language.

3.

Woman in Mind is a black comedy from English playwright Alan Ayckbourn. It has a cast of 5 males and 3 females. The plot is as follows: Black comedy dealing with the gradual mental collapse of Susan, which appears to be precipitated by being knocked unconscious by a garden rake. Weary of her boring husband, a priggish, absent son who's ashamed of her, Susan conjures up an ideal family who come to her in her idyllic (imagined) garden as seen through her eyes. Gradually Susan loses control over her idealized people and their visitations, until finally she breaks down completely in a nightmarish and climactic fantasy involving her real and imaginary families. A fascinating insight into a woman's

'crumbling' mind. Lots of challenges for a Director with an imaginative flair for staging. Should be done by ILT.

4.

Sex, Drugs and Rick and Noel by English playwright David Tristram for 2 males and 3 females. It can be performed as a comedy, or as a full-blown musical. It is the story of Richard Branson (not Sir Richard) redundant factory worker, whose wife has just left him for another woman. In a desperate attempt to regain his self esteem, Richard applies to a history course at Birmingham University. There he meets Noel, another forty-something, with a whole different outlook on life. Together, they learn more than either could have imagined possible – about life, about women, about themselves! Moves between monologues and the story being played out. Fast paced, funny and enjoyable. Needs competent, strong actors to hold audience as it is very wordy.

NEWS from the ILT President—Judy Grant

TIME TO CULL

Our theatre and properties manager, Alan Brown, is most concerned about items of furniture and props, stored in our Jean Pratt building and our shed, that are in such poor condition that they could pose a danger to users. Storage space is at a premium in these areas, and he feels that it is time for a fairly major cull. This will be followed by photographing and cataloguing of our most valuable items so that directors are able to locate and access items more freely. Melinda Park has offered her services for this task.

Alan has enlisted the help of Colin and Jan Paterson to assist with the initial culling. If you have a vested interest in items which are currently stored, and which you think are particularly valuable, you should contact Alan and ask him to inform you of the date and time of the "working bee", so that you

can make your contribution and safeguard those items which may only be precious to you.

Currently Alan is proposing to set aside items which he feels are unsafe and have limited value and members will be invited to inspect these items before they are removed from the premises, so I strongly urge you to contact him to indicate your interest.

OUR FESTIVAL CONTRIBUTION

Ipswich Little Theatre Society made a valuable contribution to the success of the Ipswich Festival through: its involvement in the festival parade, the setting of a season for our current production **Paranthood** within the festival week and our very bold move into the Ipswich Art Gallery perform-

ance space to present **Art** directed by Suzanne Matulich.

Thank you to our SmartArts members and Liz and Lana who held our new banner high as they walked down the street in the festival parade.

The opening night of our play at the Art Gallery was a gala night, which we donated to the Ipswich Foundation as a fundraising activity. Congratulations to our cast and crew for delivering such an innovative and polished performance. Feedback from audiences has been most positive. It was great to see so many of our members in the audience during the three night season.

If you didn't manage to see **Paranthood** during the festival week, remember that our season continues till Saturday, 17 May.



CONTACT DETAILS

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The Ipswich Little Theatre complex including the historic Incinerator Theatre designed by Walter Burley Griffin is in Burley Griffin Drive, off Griffiths Road, Ipswich.

To ring the theatre when there is a class or rehearsal **PHONE 3812 2389.**

NOTE: this phone is not staffed all the time.



DATES TO PUT IN YOUR DIARY

18, 19 May	Public nights for <i>Parenthood</i>
Monday 9 July 7.30 pm	AUDITION <i>The Maintenance Man</i> to be directed by Doug Moses
10-12 August	Ipswich One Act Play Festival

ILT Members' Night at *DOUBT*

Just a quick note to let you all know that I am organising an ILT members' theatre night for the production of *DOUBT* on Saturday 14 July, 2007 and that it would be great to see you there.....

so pencil in the date and give me a ring to book some tickets (3201-7974 – if I am not home, please leave a message and I will get back to you). Bring some friends.

Cost is \$20.00 which includes supper and yes, the bar will be open!

Great night to catch up with old theatre friends and a chance to make new ones.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Love Jan (director)

Contact details that you might need to know

President	Judy Grant	3288 0717
Vice President	Desley Cronon	3288 8754
Immediate Past President	Pam Floris	3288 6159
Treasurer	Patti Pratt	3281 2427
Secretary	Helen Pullar	32814437
Smart Arts	Liz Boekholt	0413 235 028
S-Troupe	Di Johnston	3812 9141
Crossfyre	Suzanne Matulich	3281 4748
Daytime Theatre Troupe	Kay McAllan	5464 3965
ILT One Act Play Festival	Suzanne Matulich	3281 4748

NEXT ILT COMMITTEE-MEETING:
Tuesday 12 June
7.30 pm

HAVE YOU VOLUNTEERED TO WORK FRONT OF HOUSE?

Don't forget the date that you are working — if you have forgotten call Desley on 3288 8754 to confirm. You won't get a reminder call— you need to write the date in your diary.

If you haven't volunteered, please don't wait to be phoned—take the initiative and give Desley a call. Don't forget that there are still opportunities for new Business Managers too. If you would like to assist Front of House on 1, 2 June let Suzanne know 3281 4748