



# Burning News from the Incinerator Theatre

January 2012

## Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Editor for this month:  
Ian Pullar

**NEXT ILT  
COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
7pm  
Tuesday  
14 February 2012**

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### REMINDER:

**Membership payments  
are now due.**



Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc presents...

# STEPPING OUT

7 - 24 MARCH  
2012

Tickets from [www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au](http://www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au) or the Visitors Information Centre

*The sign erected over Brisbane Street p/kf Robyn Harm*

Our first production of 2012 is the wonderful *Stepping Out*, a comedy written by Richard Harris, directed by Jan Paterson with Assistant Director Desley Cronon.

Season: 7<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2012

This heart-warming comedy chronicles several months in the life of a beginners dance class attended by a group of people from a variety of backgrounds. Each one has his or her own reason for joining and they make a point of coming each week to chat, relax and, if they can manage to, learn a couple of dance steps.

Led by Mavis [Ashleigh Lowe], their eternally patient instructor, and accompanied by the acerbic pianist Mrs Fraser [Chic Currie], the students strive to master the basics of dance.

But the steps and routines are just the background for the real focus of the play – *the relationships and interactions of these ten very different people.*

By their final performance, not only have the class members developed some degree of skill, but they have also overcome the inhibitions, awkwardness and personality conflicts that have kept them out of sync. *“Fred and Ginger, eat your heart out!”*

Rehearsals are going swimmingly and cast and crew are having a fun time. Some of us have even learned to dance.....sort of!

Jan Paterson



*The cast of “Stepping Out”*

*Rear: Chic Currie, Debbie Lowe, Brendan Dieckmann, Di Johnston, Sally Taylor, Rosemary Lyons*

*Front: Ashleigh Lowe, Stacey Muller, Lauren Roche, Laura Craig.*



## From the President

In my first President's message I would like to say how honoured I am to be President of this amazing theatre that I have loved since I joined in 1974.

I want to share a couple of definitions with you that I think are pertinent to what it means to be a member of Ipswich Little Theatre Society. “A society is made up of individuals who have agreed to work together for mutual benefit” and, on being a good team member: “Always, always listen. Be willing to hear a good idea, even if it's different from yours, and be willing to advance someone else's idea if it brings you closer to a good result. Remember that it's not about *you*; it's about the task given to the group.”

If we keep those definitions in mind not only will we achieve great outcomes for our theatre in 2012, but hopefully we will make good friends and few enemies.

I have set up an email address [president@ipswichlittletheatre.com.au](mailto:president@ipswichlittletheatre.com.au) which I encourage everyone to use if they need to contact me with good news about our theatre, or need some advice or if there is a problem. Let's keep the lines of communication open so that all our contributions to our wonderful ILT will be fully realised and appreciated.

Cheers,

Suzanne

# Another Opening, Another Show

(Plagiarised from *Kiss Me, Kate* with apologies.)

The New Year has opened, and so our sub-groups are about to leap into action—

## Junior Theatre

Junior Theatre is about to resume for 2012. Director Deirdre Lowe reports that sign-on date is 4 February. This year classes will be held on Saturday mornings from 9 to 11 am except during holidays and for three terms only. The numbers will be limited to only 16 students, but with those wishing to continue and those newcomers wishing to enrol, it will be over-subscribed.

Deirdre is already working on a new script with the working title *A Ghost of a Chance*. No doubt it will be as entertaining as her previous efforts.

## Young Theatricals

Young Theatricals will resume on 8 February from 6 to 7 pm. Classes will be held regularly on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 7:30 pm. Director Jan Paterson will again be assisted by Craig Taylor and Desley Cronon.

For the first six weeks, Craig Taylor, Les Chappell and Phil McCormack will conduct theatre workshops. Craig also intends to work up a production for entry in Festivals. The major production for the YTs will be a theatre supper presentation in the Incinerator on 31 August and 1 September.

## Daytime Theatre Troupe

DTT resumes on Wednesday 25 February with the ladies (and perhaps the odd gent) salivating at another year of wonderful theatre and succulent dishes. We understand Kay McAllan is cooking up a script. New members are of course welcome.

## S-Troupe

Melinda Park is again in charge. Sign on will be Sunday 19 February. Melinda is still recruiting helpers and the number of participants will be determined by the number of helpers and the acceptable ratio of helpers to students.

Performances are booked for 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29 July and November 9, 10, 11. It is also expected that the S-Troupers will entertain us all at the Festival in August.

## Tourific Troupers

Tours will recommence in April, once the weather is more conducive to outdoor dining. Despite the continuing demand (just how many Probus Clubs are there in the world?) it has been decided to reduce the number of tours to be hosted and thus the work load for the dedicated workers. Helen Pullar is the convener again, but Jane Sheppard has taken on the role of assisting which, in addition to other tasks, means being in charge while Helen is away.

### An interesting choice of words

Minutes Secretary Jane Sheppard was amused when, in his report on his Theatre Restaurant season *The Force and I*, David Austin regretted the fact that Ann Collyer, who had stoically undertaken the catering, had had to cope with extra tasks because she had "a lot on her plate"!

## Theatre Activities

Rebecca Noble has undertaken to organise Theatre Activities this year. She is currently formulating plans for events that could include a Trivia Night, participation in the Ipswich Festival Parade, a Mad Hatters Tea Party and Theatre Games. Watch out for advice and be prepared!

## Can You Help?

As most of you probably know, Craig Taylor has put in a monumental effort trying to record every performance by ILT for its entire life. But he is lacking some information and is appealing to members to see if they can provide him with details of casts, crews and performance dates for the plays listed.

He would also appreciate records of the award winners for our Festivals of 1970, 1972, 1986, 1989, 1999, 2002, 2005 and 2006.

Quite frequently we are asked by visiting groups about the decoration over the Incinerator's proscenium. Does anyone know when it was installed, by whom and where it originally came from?

## Craig's List

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 1946 | Fresh Fields                            |
| 1951 | Two One Act Plays with Musical Items    |
| 1956 | A Night of One Act Plays                |
| 1960 | Only an Orphan Girl                     |
| 1968 | Junior Theatre (Town Hall)              |
| 1968 | Junior Theatre (Central Mission)        |
| 1969 | Junior Theatre (Town Hall)              |
| 1971 | Sleeping Beauty (JT)                    |
|      | Cloud over the Morning (JT)             |
|      | Sunday Costs Five Pesos (JT)            |
| 1972 | The Sleeping Fires (JT)                 |
|      | All the World's A Stage (JT)            |
| 1973 | Little Women Act 1 (YTs)                |
| 1973 | Lawson (JT)                             |
|      | The Stranger (JT)                       |
|      | The Cat Princess (JT)                   |
| 1976 | This Week Has Eight Days (JT)           |
| 1979 | Shades of Ransom (JT)                   |
|      | Boy Without a Head (JT)                 |
|      | Trouble in Outer Space (JT)             |
|      | Princess with a load on her Mind (JT)   |
| 1983 | Turandot (YT)                           |
| 1984 | Paddington Bear (JT)                    |
|      | The Lorax (JT)                          |
| 1985 | The Scatterbrained Scarecrow of Oz (JT) |
| 1987 | Fun & Fantasy (JT)                      |

## Discovering the Past

(by accident)

When Alan Brown came to paint the set for *Stepping Out*, he had to erase enough of the spectacular backdrop from *The Force and I* to apply a smooth new coat. As he started to strip it, the paint started to come away—layer upon layer. It only stopped at the backdrop for *Deckchairs* which was presented in 2006.

Alan finished up with two dozen layers of paint—enough to fill nearly two wheelie bins! Goodness knows how many layers still remain.

## Break a Leg

Commonly, immediately before a theatrical performance, well-wishers exhort the actors to “break a leg.” While this is intended as a wish for good luck, it sounds quite the reverse. So what is the origin of this extraordinary phrase? It appears that no one really knows and a number of explanations have been put forward.

Some claim that the expression originates from the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln in Ford's Theatre on 14 April 1865. His murderer, John Wilkes Booth, a renowned Shakespearean actor, broke his leg when jumping onto the stage to make his escape.

In fact the phrase was known centuries before that event. Perhaps the expression arose because the measure of success of a performance was the number of times the actors had to take a bow in response to the applause, greatly increasing the chance of breaking a leg.

Others would have it that it was a back-handed wish (like many Australian sayings) as an example of black humour.

Apparently Germans enlarge on the malediction, wishing the actors to break their necks as well! The reasoning appears to be aimed at deflecting the jealous forces that are always present and only too anxious to spoil any venture. A good luck wish would alert them and provoke them to do their nefarious work, while a curse would encourage them to turn their attention elsewhere. The underlying principle is that if you wish evil, then good will come.

Yet another explanation (and one told by Lance Stewart) is that if the actors please the audience, they will rock with laughter and break the legs of their chairs!

You can take your pick of these explanations. Just remember that to wish actors “good luck” prior to a performance will bring them grief just like mentioning the name of “the Scottish Play”.



**Ipswich Little Theatre**

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**Newsletter editors**

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

To phone the theatre when there is a class or rehearsal

Phone 3812 2389.

NOTE: this phone is not staffed at other times.

## Calling Aspiring Actors

There are many parts available for aspiring actors in 2012. In order to assist potential players in planning their year, the available parts are listed below. More detail is available on our website or by contacting the directors.

**Duet for Two Hands** 23rd May - 9th June (Director Les Chappell 32024632)

1 female 20 - 30 free spirited, boyish qualities; 1 female 35 - 45 mature, warm, caring; 1 female 60 - 70 fault-finding, grouchy, but nevertheless endearing; 1 male 30 - 40 sensitive, often lyrical in speech, a poet; 1 male 50 - 60 forceful, dominant, egotistical

**All for the Nation** (Festival Entry) (Director Jan Paterson 38105884)

**Cheryl** - Londoner 40+; **Tom**- Londoner - unemployed lout 18+; **Blake** - Londoner - tall, reasonably bluff - 30+

**Touched** (Festival Entry) (Director Suzanne Matulich 32814748)

Det Sgt Murray, Dr Johnson and Dr De Ferranti are all middle-aged. Emma is an alcoholic vegan in her early 20s Troy is a punch-drunk savant in his 30s Chris is an out-of-work youth who is hearing voices.

**The Importance of Being Earnest** 11th - 28th July (Director David Austin 38129431)

**John** - stiff, stodgy, upperclass 25 - 35; **Algernon** - self indulgent, easygoing, upperclass 25 - 35; **Gwendolen** - sensible, romantic 20 - 25; **Cecily** - sweet, romantic 18 - 25; **Lady Bracknell** - "Gorgon type" 50+; **Miss Prism** - prim and very proper 40+; **Dr Chasuble** - 40+ ; **Lane** - Manservant, very dry 40+ ; **Merriman** - "Jeeves" like manservant 40+

**After Dinner** 3rd - 20th October (Director Doug Moses 32812846)

All Australian: Two males 20 - 50 and three females mid-20s+

**Searching for Doctor Branovic** 21st November - 8th December (Director Jan Paterson)

**Joe** - 25 - 45, bright and likeable - English accent; **Emma** - similar age and characteristics to Joe - English accent; **Monroe** - 30 - 55, cynical, dishevelled, bad-tempered Detective Inspector - English accent; **Mr Banister** - This character could, with obvious minor script changes, be played as Mrs Banister. An elderly undertaker, likeable, gentle and endearing - English accent; **Branovic** - 30 - 55, dry, sardonic, Polish accent.

## Auditions

Auditions for our second major production of 2012, *Duet for Two Hands* (director Les Chappell) will be held on 13 February at 7:30 pm in the Jean Pratt Building.

Auditions will be held for our two Festival entries, *Touched* and *All for the Nation* on 12 March.

### 2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

|                |                  |                              |
|----------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| President      | Suzanne Matulich | 3281 4748 (ah) 0412 79 22 64 |
| Vice President | Majella Gee      | 3812 7821 0415 258 162       |
| Past President | Jim Orr          | 0447 20 00 06                |
| Secretary      | Helen Pullar     | 3281 4437                    |
| Treasurer      | Jan Paterson     | 3810 5884 0417 787 130       |

### CONTACT DETAILS FOR OTHER IMPORTANT POSITIONS

|                                       |  |                        |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Front of House Management Coordinator | Chris Austin-Greenhill                 | 3812 9531              |
| Group Liaison Secretary               | Robyn Flashman                         | 3812 3450              |
| Jean Pratt Building Bookings          | Desley Cronon                          | 3288 8754              |
| Junior Theatre                        | Deirdre Lowe                           | 0409 202 380           |
| Young Theatricals                     | Jan Paterson                           | 3810 5884 0417 787 130 |
| STroupe                               | Melinda Park                           | 3201 8861 0419 650 441 |
| Daytime Theatre Troupe                | Anne England                           | 3281 7654 0413 676 049 |
| Tourific Troupers                     | Helen Pullar or Jane Sheppard          | H 3281 4437 J 54645363 |
| Theatre number                        | NB: only during rehearsals or meetings | 3812 2389              |

Sincere thanks to Cr Charlie Pisasale for the monthly printing of *Burning News*,

For more details about Ipswich Little Theatre [www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au](http://www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au)