

February 2021

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

Editor:

Ian Pullar

07 3281 4437 or e-mail:
info@ilt.org.au

**NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE
MEETING
7pm
Tuesday
9 March 2021**

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Volunteers are urgently needed for Front of House duties. With 20 members 'on the boards' we need all the help we can get.

www.admin.ilt.org.au/foh-roster

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Presents

Back on the Boards

Producer: Helen Pullar

Directors: Jim Orr, Ian Pullar,
Helen Pullar, Relle Scott
and Jane Sheppard

A Season with a difference!

Rehearsals are in full swing for our first season of the year, which features seven short comedies about relationships: *Time Flies* by David Ives, *Post Its (Notes on a Marriage)* by Paul Dooley and Winnie Holzman, *The Holiday* and *Blind Date* by Paul Dooley, *How Could We Ever Forget?*, *An Indelicate Interruption* and *Grounds for Divorce* by Ian Pullar. .

There are FOUR performances for general patrons:

Saturdays 6 and 13 March at 6:30pm. and Sundays Matinees 7 and 14 March at 1:30

The plays will be staged in our two venues: the Incinerator Theatre and the Jean Pratt Auditorium. Whether you start in the Incinerator Theatre or the Jean Pratt Auditorium, you will swap venues after interval and so see all the plays, just in a different order. The evening performances are fully subscribed, but tickets are still available for the matinees.

What a wonderful contribution! Amanda Waschevski of Ipswich Photography Studio has very generously undertaken to photograph our rehearsals. She came on Thursday and took about 60 shots of the action of three plays, three of which are reprinted here to tantalise you (one on page 2). She will return to the other scenes of conflict. Many, many thanks, Amanda.



"See, isn't this great? An indoor picnic! No driving, no grass, no flies. Outdoor picnics are stupid. No ants here."
Tracey and Jamie Spence in **The Holiday**.



"The full English breakfast is eggs, sausages, bacon, hash browns, tomato, mushrooms and beans. Would you like that?" Robyn Harm, Tony Erhardt and Gillian Simpson in **An Indelicate Interruption**



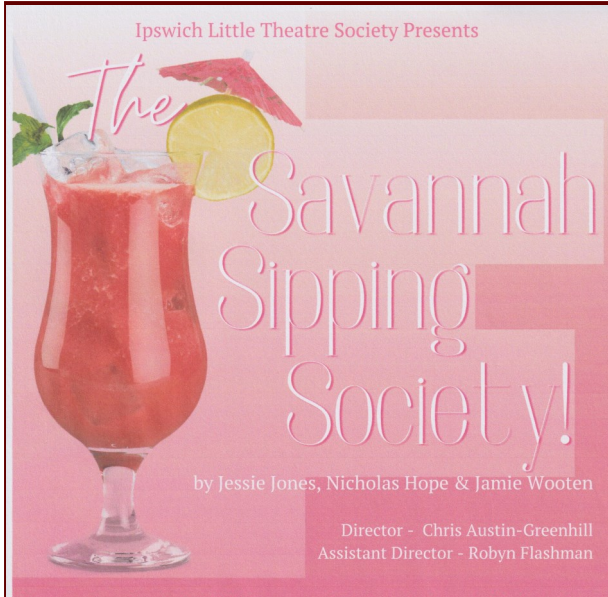
From the President

We are in the final stages of rehearsals for *Back on the Boards*. Lots of pre-planning and hard work from everyone. I look forward to seeing the whole production.

Remember if you can help either front of house or in the kitchen please put your name down.

Also please remember the Working Bee on Sunday 21 – lots of things to do to spruce up the theatre ready for performance. I look forward to seeing you there.

Jim



"*The Savannah Sipping Society* is a play full of relatable humor around the perks and perils of being an older single woman in Savannah, GA.. Written by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten, this play has many comical beats and heartstring tugs." So says one review.

Director Chris Austin-Greenhill, Assistant Director Robyn Flashman and the cast are thoroughly enjoying the experience of creating the characters and the situation for presentation in our second season of the year.

The performance season is from 29 April to 15 May with public performances on 1, 7, 8, 14, 15 May at 8 pm and matinees on Sundays 2 & 9 May at 2 pm.

Bookings open on 15 March at www.ilt.org.au or

VIC 3281 0555

Back on the Boards (continued)



"Autumn! Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness." Gillian Simpson and Ian Pullar in *How Could We Ever Forget?*

You still have the opportunity for a very enjoyable Sunday afternoon out. So do come along and support us as we get back on the boards and our feet. And bring your friends.

A Busy Time

We have certainly come out of lock-down with a bang. From no activity, we now find ourselves rehearsing at almost every available opportunity with (now) seven plays being prepared for *Back on the Boards*, one in rehearsal for Festival and filming and *The Savannah Sipping Society* cast knuckling down.

In addition, Young Theatricals have resumed, Juniors are about to take off again and the Daytime Theatre Troupe are engaged in serious planning over regular luncheon dates. We also have to fit in committee meetings, set building and our normal maintenance and management programmes (including pest control and compliance checks).

The Jean Pratt Building is still in constant use during the day time as a COVID testing centre, operated by 4Cyte Pathology. The duration of this use is yet another imponderable.

But it's certainly good to be back with our return obviously welcomed by our patrons.

We sincerely hope that Queensland remains a NON Hot Spot and we can move positively through our 2021 year.

Daytime Theatre Troupe

There is still considerable uncertainty about the restrictions that will apply to groups of young children from kindergartens and schools attending our normal style performances. So it is difficult for the Daytime Theatre Troupe members to plan ahead. Nevertheless, the ladies are contemplating undertaking a production later in the year. Possible time slots are Book Week in late August or a Christmas show in November.

Readers will obviously be advised of relevant dates as they become available.

Young Theatricals

YT's have commenced for 2021 and we have started this year's cohort on the Elements of Drama as we do every year. Students are trickling in this year as families slowly gear up for the school year and coming to terms with the new norm. A large number of last year's student body has 'aged' out and so our base enrolment took a hit for a current total of 14 students. Surprisingly there is a gender imbalance with more males than females! Enrolment remains open until 27 February.

One of our previous students has credited YTs as a major part of her graduating drama with honours and receiving an early offer to her dream creative course. We offer many congratulations to Kelly.

Kyle, Sam and Aaron

Junior Theatre

Good news for the youngsters! Classes for Junior Theatre recommence on Saturday 20 February at 8:30 am. Deirdre and her team are raring to get back into live contact with an exciting year ahead.

The Passengers

Rehearsals for this creation of Tony Erhardt are going well. Courtney Murrin has joined the team as Assistant Director and a performer so there is a full cast for *Passenger Xero*, the segment which will compete on the Festival circuit. Tony is still looking for another two actors to appear in the segments to be filmed. Anyone interested can contact Tony on 0408 058 706

Working Bee We Need Your Help

all the help we can get
at the annual start-of-the year Working Bee.

Because of the stringent COVID-safe requirements, there will even more tasks than usual. And remember, as we have been in lock-down, we have a lot of catching up to do.

So PLEASE make some time available to come and help on

Sunday 21 February from 8 am.

You don't need particular skills – just a willingness to muck in.

Help us to get our theatre sparkling for opening night!

Group Nights

There are very limited opportunities for group bookings for *The 39 Steps*. Any interested groups should contact Robyn Flashman on 3812 3450 or 0447 771 016. It is certainly hoped that by the November season very few, if any, restriction will still be in place.

DIARY DATES

2021 Season in Brief A Year of Comedy

Season 1: 4 March — 14 March

Back on the Boards

A miscellany of short comedies by a miscellany of Playwrights and Directors.

[Rated PG Mild Adult Themes.]

Season 2: 29 April — 15 May

The Savannah Sipping Society

by Jamie Wooten, Jessie Jones, and Nicholas Hope

Director: Chris Greenhill, Assistant Director Robyn Flashman

[Rated M: Sexual references and Adult Themes]

Annual Drama Festival 13, 14, 15 August

Season 3: 23 September — 9 October

Ladies' Day

by Amanda Whittington

Directors: Jane Sheppard and Di Johnston

[Rated PG: Mild Adult Themes.]

Season 4: 18 November — 4 December

The 39 Steps

by Patrick Barlow

Director: Shane Mallory. Assistant Director: Jo Robins

[Rated M: Mild Adult Themes]

20 February at 8:30 am	Resumption of Junior Theatre
21 February from 8 am	Working Bee
4 March	Opening Night for <i>Back on the Boards</i>
15 March	Bookings open for <i>The Savannah Sipping Society</i>
29 April	Opening Night for <i>The Savannah Sipping Society</i>
21 June 7:30	Auditions for <i>Ladies' Day</i>
9 August 7:30 pm	Auditions for <i>The 39 Steps</i>
13, 14, 15, August	Festival 2021

The Show Nearly Didn't Go On

Late last year we received the word that Rosa Barker had died. Rosa was a member back in the Town Hall days and never trod the boards in the Incinerator. Some of our older readers will remember her.

Back in 1967, Rosa and I performed in a melodrama directed by Billie Bailey at a theatre restaurant in St Mary's Hall. Rosa was the innocent heroine, I was the "hero" and Walter Ryan was the villain. To encourage the audience's interest, Billie supplied them with half loaves of stale bread and suggested that they might like to throw pieces at the villain. One audience member – perhaps slightly lubricated – enthusiastically stood on his table and hurled the entire half loaf at Wally. He missed, but hit Rosa (who would have weighed 6 stone wringing wet) and laid her out. She recovered, but Billie went out and told the audience that if they didn't behave themselves, the show wouldn't go on! We did finish.

Ian Pullar

Dates for sub-groups will be advised as they are decided.

2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

President	Jim Orr	0402 377 258
Vice President	Ann Collyer	3288 7053/ 0400 997 365
Past President	David Austin	3812 9431 / 0413 636 249
Secretary	Helen Pullar	3281 4437/0400 801 443
Treasurer	Chris Greenhill	0427 977 007

CONTACT DETAILS FOR OTHER IMPORTANT POSITIONS

Front of House Management Coordinator	Courtney Murrin	0457 734 433
Subscription Secretary	Di Johnston	0447 191 954
Group Liaison/ Publicity Co-Coordination	Robyn Flashman/ Robyn Harm	3812 3450/ 0413 742 116
Building Bookings	Desley Cronon	3288 8754 / 0435 309 352
Junior Theatre/Little Players	Deirdre Lowe	0409 202 380
Young Theatricals	Kyle Breese Samantha Johnson Aaron Evans	0423 278 833 0415 453 952 0431 041 068
Daytime Theatre Troupe	Kay McAllan	5464 3965/0439 305 658
Tourific Troupers	Helen Pullar or Jane Sheppard	H 3281 4437 .J 5464 5363
Theatre number	NB: Only during rehearsals or meetings	3812 2389

For more details about Ipswich Little Theatre: www.ilt.org.au