



The St. Luke's Theatre Society **"Spotlight" Newsletter**

The first newsletter appeared to be a success, if I don't say so myself. Thank-you to all who contributed. **Next publication is due out on October 6th, with submissions by 23rd of September.**

From the President

Our second major performance, 'Darling I'm Home', by Jack Popplewell and directed by Jerry Lowly, was enjoyed by our audiences. Even though we experienced some very cold weather during the running of the play, our average attendance was sixty-five compared to the first major production performance average of sixty. Rehearsals for the play began slowly as we endeavoured to find the right actors for the various roles. Eventually we succeeded and could not have asked for a better cast in terms of suitability for each character. I thank Jerry and the cast for their patience and perseverance.

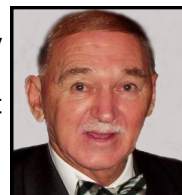
Rehearsals have commenced for our third major play, 'A Murder is Announced', by Agatha Christie and directed by Peter Parkinson. This play, a drama, will be a change from our run of comedies. Work on the construction of the set started on Monday 12 July. When construction finishes Jan and I will commence on the décor. If you are interested in helping out with any facet of stage construction or décor, please ring me on Ph **3398 9032**.

On Sunday, 11 July, David Cole and Peter Parkinson ran a workshop on stagecraft for newcomers to the theatre. This was of great benefit to those who attended in preparation for taking roles in future plays.

VALE WILLIAM GEORGE MOODY MBE

Twenty-three members of St Luke's Theatre Society attended the funeral service of Bill Moody on Monday, 5 July. Bill will long be remembered for his continued support of Jan during her presidency and her time consuming activities with theatre over many years. Throughout the years the theatre has functioned, Bill also made his own contribution in many other ways whether it be serving wine at Greenroom productions or helping improve the hall and surrounds as a member of Dad's Army. Bill was always in attendance – if not helping out- at theatre functions and was a great conversationalist at a table. Those of you who have been connected with theatre for many years will recall Bill at theatre productions calling out 'Bravo' at the end of performances.

Personally, I will always remember Bill for his gentlemanly ways, as a wonderful host, and for his wit and gift of repartee. Our sympathy and support is extended to Jan and her family at this time.



Barry Kratzke (President)

Notifications

If anyone has a pair of similar bedside-type lamps, would they please contact *Peter* on 3255 0221, as they are required for a forthcoming play. They will be looked after carefully and returned after the play. Ideally, lamps with figurines are preferred, but any two lamps that look similar would be ok.

The Stagecraft Workshop

The workshop was held at the theatre on July 11 at 1pm, with a good crowd attending. David Cole and Peter Parkinson addressed the many aspects of stage acting and demonstrated replies to various questions.

While this workshop was the first for many years, it is hoped that another structured event can be held each year.

Grooming newcomers is important for a bright future for the Society. Thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the event.

Peter Parkinson's musings!

The many chores of a director of a play are indeed varied. Designing the stage set, working with set decoration personnel, planning the design of music and sound effects, working with lighting personnel, and selecting the cast, even determining actor movement, gestures and expressions. In fact every little aspect to bring the entire project to life on our stage requires close attention.

Surprisingly, one of the most time-consuming and stressful tasks is obtaining the cast. Some people initially agree to be in a play only to later find illness or some personal or family dramas require them to drop out! Choices are sometimes fairly limited, as the actor's age and appearance has to suit the role, and they have to be available for all rehearsals and performances.

These issues and many others are not unique to any one theatre group, and it's a testament to the resilience of theatre folks who steadfastly cling to the adage "The show must go on"! See you at the theatre soon.



2010 PROGRAMME

(The 4 major plays perform on Fri, Sat, Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat at 8pm with a 2pm matinee on each Sat.)

August 27 to Sept 4

"A Murder Is Announced" (Drama)

A classic dark murder mystery by the inimitable Agatha Christie
Directed by Peter Parkinson who last year brought you "Lord Arthur Savile's
Crime"

A local advertisement announcing the date and location of a forthcoming murder has a small village buzzing with curiosity. Assuming it's a hoax, a crowd nonetheless is gathered at Letitia Blacklock's cottage at the appointed time, when the lights go out and a gunman fires into the room. When the lights come on, Letitia is wounded and the mysterious gunman lies dead. Miss Marple, visiting an old friend in the village, can't resist joining in the investigation.

September Fri 24. Sat 25 at 8pm and 2pm Sat 25.

Greenroom Production

(The play is yet to be chosen)

November 19 to 27

"And This Was Odd" by Kenneth Horne

Directed by Cameron Gaffney

The plot of this endearing comedy by the well-known English entertainer and author centres round a mother's astonishing discovery that her prescribed sleeping draught takes her off on an astral plane. This allows her some harmless fun controlling the family's personal problems. They are gathered in the family home for the Christmas Season and suffer the strict discipline of the mother's nurse, who is determined that they will enjoy all festivities with proper joviality whether they like it or not. A fun play to round off St Luke's 2010 programme.

History Corner - Why we do what we do.

William Shakespeare was an English poet and playwright widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English Language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon". His surviving works, including some collaborations, consist of about 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and several other poems. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright.

Between 1585 and 1592, he began a successful career in London as an actor, writer, and part owner of a playing company called the Lord Chamberlain's Men, later known as the King's Men. His works currently inform much of theatre and its production.

Alan's Joke Corner



A kind old gentleman was strolling down the street when he saw a small boy standing on the front steps of a house trying to reach the door bell. The lad stood on tip toe and even jumped up as high as he could, but was unable to reach the bell. The gentleman went up the steps, rang the bell and said:

"Well, my little man, now what?"

"I don't know what you're going to do," said the little man, "but I'm going to run like hell."

A doctor fell in to a well and broke his collarbone – the doctor should attend the sick and leave the well alone.

Office regulations:

Rule 1: The boss is always right.

Rule 2: When the boss makes a blue, refer to Rule 1.

Keep up to date with all **St Luke's** activities by being a regular visitor to our web-site at www.stluketheatre.asn.au there are also back copies of *Spotlight* on the website and phone *Peter* 3255 0221 if you would like something posted on the web-site's Member's Notice Board!

A WAY TO SAVE PAPER

If you have Internet access, choose to view the Newsletter in colour on the web-site, rather than having it posted. This will also save us in printing and postage.

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