

The Spotlight

Newsletter of St Luke's Theatre Society

April 2011

Date Claimers:

June: 17,18,20,22,24,25
Second Major Production.

August: 19,20,22,24,26,27
Third Major Production

September: 23, 24
Greenroom Production

Nov: 18, 19, 21,23,25,26
Fourth Major Production.

Remember:

All Bookings through **Ruth Paterson:** Ph 32556675 or via the Web site www.stlukestheatre.asn.au

Greenroom Bookings:

Please note that bookings are not taken for Greenroom Productions, there is no seating plan.

A Lucky Winner:

Congratulations to -

Mrs Christie of Sherwood who won the raffle drawn on the final night with ticket number 57B. This raffle ran over all performances with the prize of the large fluffy bear and Easter Eggs.

Thank You:

A big thank you from Front of House personnel to all our patrons, but in particular to the Matinee patrons on March 19 who braved the rain in attending and also the cramped conditions in the foyer during intervals. Your attendance and forbearance is appreciated.

Keep up to date:

Via the Theatre website www.stlukestheatre.asn.au

Don't Miss The Boat!!

Come with us to Downing Street to witness the antics of the nation's leaders. 'Pardon Me Prime Minister' written by Edward Taylor and John Graham was first performed at St Luke's in 1980. The director of the present production, Tim Gaffney, played the part of the Scottish MP in 1980. In this production, Tim's son, Cameron, plays a major role. Lesley Hobbs also featured in the high jinks of the 1980 show along with Barry Kratzke who played the PM's secretary. In the forthcoming production Lesley's son, Matthew, who is no stranger to St Luke's audiences, plays a major role.

The cast also features known St Luke's actors Chris Sibley, last seen as Bunny in last year's, 'A Murder is Announced', Alexandra Pinwill whose last major play role was Joy in 'A Breath of Scandal', Joanne Smith, the wife in 'Darling I'm Home', and Donna Gomez who featured in the greenroom productions, 'A Small Hotel' and 'Where There's A Will'. We welcome three newcomers to St Luke's: Matthew Gaffney, Bob Sibley and Kellie Eatock. Tim Gaffney is an experienced actor and director and we hope the cast and our audiences enjoy this production as much as was the case in 1980.



A Breath Of Scandal The first major production for 2011

Kimberley Donaldson, Chris Bradley, Dennis Teefy, Robyn Jennings, Desley Nichols (all pictured) together with Alexandra Pinwill, Michael Byrnes and Anthony Bradley made up the cast of our first major production which was directed by Trevor Bond.

The cast of, 'A Breath of Scandal' enjoyed bringing the play to audiences. The antics of the brothers, especially Henry, played by Michael Byrne, must have been exhausting physically - as must the leading role played by Desley Nichols. Players were supportive of each character. The season ran for the usual eight performances with an average audience of fifty-eight which is fairly on track for the first major production. However, the first matinee was surprisingly disappointing with an attendance of 56, the lowest for years. Perhaps the clash with St Patrick's Day had an influence.

Where did the money go?

Lesley Hobbs' raffle and stall raised \$600 which has been donated to Ronald McDonald House. Thank you to all those who helped. Two Ronald McDonald Houses have been established in Brisbane, one at Herston close to the Royal Brisbane Children's Hospital and another at South Brisbane close to the Mater Hospital. The scheme provides affordable accommodation for families living outside a 50 km radius of the RBCH or the Mater Children's Hospital and who have a child being treated in either hospital. Lesser

known is the Ronald McDonald Learning Program which provides assessments (psychometric, speech, academic) and determines and implements individual Learning Programs for children recovering from a serious illness. A range of professionals may be involved in forming the program (speech therapists, teachers, occupational therapists, psychologists.....) Home, school and other professionals continue to be consulted. The charity relies on donations and volunteers. Your support of our fund raising is appreciated.

The History of St Luke's

By Jan Moody OAM

The Bell: our first contribution

In the opening years of struggling against almost insurmountable odds morale began to need a boost and Rector Ralph de Voile suggested we aim to supply the newly built Memorial Church with a

suitable bell. This proved costly and difficult as a bell with certain pitch (requested by the organist, Mrs Cue) not actually needed to fit in with a carillon, had to be ordered from Holland! After lengthy negotiations it actually was cast in England. But of course while we struggled to collect the necessary finance quoted the cost kept rising and we began to think the project to be unattainable. Duty Fees were added when at last the bell arrived in

Brisbane and that meant a quick 'whip around' from members for loans. Hanging the bell was an event long remembered.....and its first peal greeted with hearty cheers. Objections to Sunday service ringing brought in protests from neighbours not prepared to be roused at 7am and consequently it is not often heard these days but it actually was our first supportive achievement for St Luke's church and certainly not the last.

The History (Cont'd)

The Stage: Permanent at last

Back in the hall David Cole drew up plans for a permanent stage which once built was to provide a very successful and solid working area for all future events. Lack of height meant that we could not hope to 'fly' much scenery easily and there was little room available for 'wings' but these limitations have been challenged with a good will and indeed some very effective use of this very small space. Certain innovative directors encouraged our erstwhile Dad's Army (led by Richard Hodgson) to build out and around the actual stage.....in the Good Old Days! And the original Sanctuary in the back section of the hall has many times been cleared of accumulated junk to provide an effective outer patio or even an Aladdin's

Cave! To close this item of essential interest for us we recall that the flats comprising our first 'box set' replacing curtains for the first ever 3-act play "Happy Days" in 1960 were purchased at a very small cost from Yeronga's Mrs. Wragge who was closing down her Thespians at that time. They were wooden frames with canvas covers much painted over with layers of calomine. They served us well til we could afford better. And indeed a very few partial frames are still in use on occasion. The first main curtain on the new stage was blue crushed velvet, replaced later by red corduroy velvet and decorated with our Logo by the skilled hands of Maxine McElnea. The curtain is now electrically operated and a secondary supporting curtain proved to be a necessary extra addition. That closes the subject of our revered and hard-won stage



Looking towards the site of the stage



1975: Alan Rogers, Ken Austin & David Cole discuss the first set on the new stage.

Vale: Ailsa Haseman: Ailsa lost her battle with a brain tumour in early March. The Haseman family has been active in St Luke's for four decades. Daughter, Lori, won a best junior actor festival award as a St Luke's member and sons Arthur and Brad and grandsons Ryan and Will have taken part in St Luke's productions. Before joining St Luke's Ailsa was active in theatre in Maryborough and with API Theatre in Brisbane. Ailsa directed her first play for St Luke's in 1970 and made a first appearance on stage in 1971 in 'The Wind of Heaven.' Her last directing role was the greenroom production, 'Don't Utter a Note' in 2010. An accomplished Speech and Drama Teacher, Ailsa was of great value in helping actors with voice projection, intonation and the interpretation of roles, often tutoring actors in her home. A kind and friendly lady who gave freely of her time and knowledge Ailsa will be sadly missed by friends and the many aspiring actors she has helped over the years.



Expressions of Interest

are sought from theatre performers for a role in an upcoming (dramatic) play in the second half of 2011. The play is Agatha Christie's 'Murder at the Vicarage', directed by Peter Parkinson. Intended performance dates: November 18,19,21,23,25,26. If interested phone Peter on 32550221.

Attention All!

Have you changed your address or phone number?
Do you wish to receive communications by email rather than post?

If yes to either of the above, contact Peter on 32550221 to update your details or
Email: peter@stlukestheatre.asn.au



Needed:

* Anyone with HTML coding Knowledge. We need someone who knows how to PROCESS a form. If you know anyone or can help please phone 32550221.

* People to assist with Lighting and audio control, stage managing, set construction, graphic art, Front of House and ushering. Please contact us if you can help. Ph 32550221 or Ph 33989032.



Donna Gomez, Zac Boulton, Roz Dempsey, Barry Kratzke, Alex Pinwill, Kerry Bradley, Tom Corliss, David Moore, Olivia Pinwill, Rosie Collis

Did you see the greenroom production?

Chris Bradley made his debut as a St Luke's director with, 'Where There's A Will', written by Norman Robbins. Chris is no stranger to St Luke's audiences having acted in 'Lend Me A Tenor' and more recently as Edward in 'A Breath of Scandal' by Aimee Stuart. The greenroom ran over three performances and was well attended which is encouraging for those associated with the production. The play was a somewhat irreverent comedy thriller with the protagonists disappearing at a rapid rate and with a surprise ending. As is usual the greenroom cast consisted of experienced actors and newcomers to the stage. We welcome Zac Boulton to St Luke's (he of the convoluted death throes) and newcomers Olivia Pinwill and Rosie Collis who played their first roles.

Cast pictured opposite

A Face Behind the Scenes:

All too often we unwittingly fail to acknowledge the work of members behind the scenes. Darryl Soden has given hours of his time to the theatre as Vice President, Props Manager, Stage Manager and general roustabout. He is totally reliable and was always on hand to open the hall for rehearsals and productions, manage the downstairs function room and was the last to leave after securing the premises. Darryl has resigned from the position of Vice President and is taking time away from the theatre. His contribution to the society will be missed and we thank Darryl profusely for his contribution over the years.

From the President

When Ailsa Hoffman passed away early this year St Luke's lost another of its most valued directors. Ailsa was able not only to interpret a play, but could add another dimension – the ability to guide and coach actors in all facets of voice production.

With the loss of David Cole just before Christmas the Theatre Society has lost three directors within a very short time as Don Hobbs has informed us he no longer wishes to direct plays. Don has given vast amounts of time to directing over the many years he has been associated with St Luke's. I thank Don for his work on behalf of the Theatre Society members, particularly those he has helped in their acting careers. It was pleasing that Chris Bradley accepted the director role for the first greenroom production, 'Where There's A Will'. I was happy to be in the cast and enjoyed the part of the vicar.

I thank David Lang, Jerry Lowly and Derek Dickey for their invaluable help in carrying out my directions for the sets to date this year. If you have seen this years plays I think you will agree with me that the sets were of a good standard. Jan Moody and I enjoy working on the set décor and I thank Jan as each time we work together I learn something new. I also wish to acknowledge the work of Darryl Soden and thank him for his contribution over the years. The cast has been chosen for 'Pardon Me Prime Minister', and the director, Tim Gaffney, will commence rehearsals on 27 April. We look forward to seeing you at the next play.

Barry Kratzke

Free Workshop

Sunday, July 3 in St Luke's Hall

TIME: 1pm.

Duration approx 2hrs

St Luke's performers and potential performers are invited to attend.

Conducted by Peter Parkinson and Lyn Schofield, the workshop will cover aspects of stage craft. All directors have their own unique styles, and this is an opportunity to see things from a different perspective. If you are interested in this friendly workshop. Contact Peter

*Ph 3255 0221 or email:
peter@stluketheatre.asn.au*

2011 Theatre Positions

The following members undertook the following positions at the AGM

Patron: Roy Dowling

President: Barry Kratzke

Ph 33989032

Vice President: Darryl Soden

Secretary: Ros Dempsey

Treasurer: Pat Kratzke

Publicity: Jan Moody Ph 38484107

Bookings: Ruth Paterson

Ph 32556675

Membership: David & Shirley

Lang Ph: 38447257

Front of House: Derek Dickey

Newsletter Editor: Pat Kratzke

Ph 33989032

Web Site & Mail Lists: Peter

Parkinson Ph 32550221

Light & Sound: Peter Parkinson,

David Lang & John Fanning

Thank You: To Desley Nichols for her forbearance and efficiency over the many years as secretary.

Front of House:

Thank you to all who have answered Marg Doumany's call and helped out with the theatre shop and with ushering. Your help is greatly appreciated. Remember all helpers have free entry to view the production. We are constantly seeking helpers. Please ring Marg on Ph 38925576 if you would like to help.

Coming Productions

The following productions are offered for your entertainment.

Please note that all casting may be subject to change.

Pardon Me, Prime Minister

June

A hilarious farce by Edward Taylor and John Graham. Directed by Tim Gaffney. Follow the dilemmas of the British Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Bookings open on May 13.

Performances: 8pm: June 17, 18, 20, 22, 24, 25.
Matinees: 2pm: June 18, 25.

The Director: Tim Gaffney is an experienced Director and actor.

The Cast: Alexandra Pinwill, Bob Sibley, Cameron Gaffney, Chris Sibley, Donna Gomez, Joanne Smith, Kellie Eatock, Matthew Gaffney, Matthew Hobbs.

On Golden Pond

August

A compelling study of human relationships.

Bookings open on July 15.

Performances:

8pm: August: 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27.

Matinees: 2pm: August 20, 27.

The Director: Well known Brisbane Director, Graham McKenzie.

The Cast: Not yet completed. At the time of this Newsletter – Well respected actor, Brian Canon and St Luke's Margaret Doumany have agreed to the major roles at this stage.

Second Greenroom

September

Greenroom Presentation: To be finalized.

Performances: 8pm: Sept 23, 24

Matinee: 2pm: Sat 24.

Pre-play drinks 30 minutes before the performance.

After play supper with the cast.

Murder at the Vicarage

November

A classic dark murder mystery by Agatha Christie. Miss Marple navigates through the red herrings to unravel the mystery.

Bookings open on October 14

Performances:

8pm. November 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26.

Matinees: 2pm: November 19, 26.

The Director: Peter Parkinson. Needs no introduction to St Luke's audiences. Recently directed, 'A Murder is Announced', and 'Lord Arthur Saville's Crime'.

The Cast: Being determined. Expressions of interest welcome. Ph 32550221