

The Spotlight

Newsletter of St Luke's Theatre Society

February 2011

What's on in 2011

Subscribers

Please note our prices remain as for 2010. Please use the enclosed form to subscribe. Additional forms are also available at the door during the first production, or from Shirley Lang, phone (07)38447257 Mon to Sat 9am to 8pm or email subscriptions@stlukestheatre.asn.au or download a form from the theatre web site.

Bookings : Important Change

Please note that all bookings should now be made through: -

Ruth Paterson:

Ph: (07) 32556675. Either leave a message, clearly giving the date and performance you wish to attend, the number of seats and any special needs. or -

If you wish to speak with Ruth the best time is any week day or night after 4pm. or -

Alternatively visit our web site and click on the email booking link.

www.stlukestheatre.asn.au

Date Claimer:

The Theatre Society AGM in the Parish Centre 24 February at 7.30 pm

All Members:

Please check the *Notice Board* on the web site for updates.

www.stlukestheatre.asn.au

The committee responsible for the selection of plays has once again tried to select from a variety of genres. This year's offerings cover comedy, farce and drama. As some of our supporters have been with us for many, many years it is somewhat difficult to find suitable new plays. Consequently, this year an old favourite makes a return.

Major Production 1:

A Breath of Scandal

A comedy by Aimee Stuart.

The slightly impoverished Beauverie family inherits a pile of debts along with a rambling house. The situation is somewhat alleviated when a likeable pair of young spivs bribes the family to rent their cottage as a gambling den.

A refreshing breath of scandal blows as all concerned manage to avoid police detection while remaining respectable. Directed by Trevor Bond. Performances: 8pm: March: 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 19
2pm: March 12, 19.

Bookings open Feb 4



What's to follow? Visit our web site www.stlukestheatre.asn.au for more information.

APRIL: Greenroom Presentation: *Where There's a Will* – A comedy thriller by Norman Robins. Directed by Christopher Bradley. Performances: 8pm: April 15, 16 Matinee: 2pm Sat. 16 April. Pre-play drinks 30 minutes before the performance.

JUNE: Second Major Production: *Pardon Me Prime Minister* – 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.

AUGUST: Third Major Production: *On Golden Pond* – a compelling study of human relationships. Directed by Graham McKenzie. **Bookings open on July 15.**
Performances: 8pm: August: 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27. Matinees: 2pm: August 20, 27.

SEPTEMBER: Greenroom Presentation: To be finalized. **Performances:** 8pm: Sept 23, 24
Matinee: 2pm: Sat 24. Pre-play drinks 30 minutes before the performance.

NOVEMBER: Fourth Major Production: *Murder at the Vicarage* - a classic dark murder mystery by Agatha Christie. Directed by Peter Parkinson. 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.

Thank You

David and Shirley Lang are familiar names to our patrons making bookings. Taking bookings is very time consuming and at times intensive. After many years 'the Langs' have decided to take a rest from phone calls. Ruth Paterson now takes over.

However, David continues to be indispensable in the lighting room whilst Shirley continues with subscribing members. The Theatre Society appreciates their efforts.



Sympathy:

The Theatre Society extends sympathy to Don Gaffney and Margaret Doumany and their families following the death of Don's wife and Margaret's sister, Joy Gaffney. Over the years Don has acted at St Luke's and Joy has run theatre society fund raisers for the Little Kings Movement

Where did the 2010 donations go?

Thank you to all who patronized the charity stall and raffles organized by Lesley Hobbs. The proceeds were distributed as follows: \$550 to The Mission Aviation Fellowship, \$700 to The Eradication of Polio in India. \$650 to the Khayelihle

Children's Village in Zimbabwe, \$400 to The Christian Blind Mission, \$400 to The Leprosy Mission and \$150 to Hear and Say. A total of \$2850. It is wonderful that audience support allows the theatre society to offer this help to others.

Additionally donations were made from the Theatre Society funds to: Action Aid \$500, Doctors Without Borders \$300, Oxfam \$300, IFAW \$300 and Craig Murray Assistance Dogs Program through Variety Queensland \$300.

Donations from the first charity stall this year will go to Ronald McDonald House. The Theatre Society also continues to support a child through World Vision. Please continue to help us give aid to others. Your support is appreciated.

Vale: - David Cole 1927 – 2010

David joined St Luke's some fifty-seven years ago just after its foundation. For many years a life member, his contribution to the theatre is honoured and his loss immeasurable. He had a vast knowledge of theatre, common sense and logic in solving problems. He was

thus a great support in many ways. It is thanks to David that the theatre had a lighting and sound set-up which endured for decades. A man of many talents, David was as at home in the capacity of actor or director as he was with lighting and sound. He has guided many actors in the basics of stage craft. In the last few years David also took

on the role of treasurer. In his earlier days he really enjoyed taking part in musicals. David also had particular likings for farce and comedy. He will be sadly missed as a theatre member and as a friend. Our sympathy goes to David's

sons, Richard, Steve, Jeff, Adam and their families. The Cole family has had a long and happy relationship with The Theatre Society.



Members will be saddened, also, to hear of the illness of another of our long time members, Ailsa Haseman, who is currently in care at Carina Nursing Home.

From the President

A Happy New Year to all, although to some it hasn't been a good start to 2011. If you were affected by the flood I hope the recovery to your home is speedy and without stress. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. The construction of the set for the first major play is under construction but we could do with some extra help as our ranks are somewhat depleted due to the flood. Don and Lesley Hobbs' home did not fare well and it will be many weeks before they can return. Tony Warren's family also had severe damage, so he is kept busy.

If you know of anyone able to help us please ask them to ring me on Ph33989032. Trevor Bond, director of the first play, has started rehearsals three nights a week, with each cast member suited to the character to be portrayed. Jan Moody, Lynne Schofield and Darryl Soden have spent three days cleaning and culling the props room. This is onerous work and thanks are richly deserved. Father George Markotsis was commissioned as the new rector of the Ekibin Parish in December and will chair the theatre's AGM at 7.30 pm on 24 February.

The History of St Luke's Theatre Society (cont'd) by Jan Moody OAM

Continuing the Society's history from the last Newsletter..... it wasn't long before 'St Luke's Church of England Dramatic Society' needed a change of name to 'St Luke's Theatre Society' as our entertainment became diversified, with Pantomimes, Musicals, Melodramas, Theatre Dinners, Variety Nights and other special occasion Celebrations. Slowly but surely the society became wonderfully successful, adventurous and indeed financial.

Funds were raised by the efforts of the Foundation Team, with cake stalls, jumble sales, novelty raffles and fun sports nights. So many were involved either on the stage, behind stage, or on committee, that audiences had to be put on waiting lists, with a hall that only held 120.

A Junior Group was formed, led by Elaine Polson, Alan Rogers and myself. It was a major enterprise and won many prizes at Brisbane Festivals, once again attracting audiences such as we don't have today. The Theatre Society was an entertainment drawcard before everyone had private transport and was looking for low price family entertainment.

The Society had the main use of the hall but putting the makeshift stage up and taking it down so that the Church Badminton Society could play weekly was a problem. In time that group disbanded through lack of membership leaving the ambitious aim of an expensive permanent stage a possibility at last!