

The Spotlight

Newsletter of St Luke's Theatre Society

July 2011

Date Claimers:

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.

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A Change of Pace!

Our Next production ~

On Golden Pond by Ernest

Thompson: This production features some new faces at St Luke's. Well known, veteran Brisbane actor, Brian Cannon, plays the role of the morose Norman Thayer to St Luke's Marg Doumany's Ethel Thayer. Both actors are well known to Brisbane audiences, particularly to patrons of The Arts Theatre. Others making a first appearance at St Luke's are Selina Kadell

and son Lachlan Kadell. The cast is rounded out by St Luke's Cameron Gaffney and Chris Bradley. Well known Brisbane director Graham Mc Kenzie has agreed to direct the production. The ingredients are in place for top entertainment. Hopefully, all will go well and these plans will come to fruition. This presentation is a break from the popular comedies enjoyed by our audiences. Read the synopsis of the story content on the enclosed flyer. It is a touching story told with humour and empathy. Don't miss it!

A Successful Season

The smiles say it all! The cast of "Pardon Me Prime Minister" by Edward Taylor and John Graham, has enjoyed a most successful season. Along with our regulars and other patrons, out for some light hearted enjoyment, several organisations made use of our fund raising opportunities and enjoyed this fast moving farce. Despite the cold weather, colds and flu audience numbers averaged out at a healthy 90. Bob Sibley and Kellie Eatock appeared on St Luke's stage for the first time and we hope we see more of them. Director, Tim Gaffney made a welcome return to St Luke's. Congratulations to all.



Pictured from L to R:-Donna Gomez,Bob Sibley,Cameron Gaffney, Matthew Hobbs,Joanne Smith,Kellie Eatock, Chris Sibley and Alexandra Pinwill. The play was directed by Tim Gaffney.

Keep Them Flying

Immediately after acting in 'A Breath of Scandal', Chris Bradley gathered some St Luke's players and friends and organized an event to help out in the flood repair efforts. Roping in Trevor Bond as Director, Chris, Michael Byrne, Michael McNish and Michael Lawrence staged and took part in the David Williamson play, 'The Club'. An apt choice as the proceeds went to the Kenmore Australian Rules Football Club to help repair the flood damaged fields.

Where did the money go? Lesley Hobbs' raffle raised \$ 600 for a charity which probably needs no introduction. A long time recipient of St Luke's largess, Doctors Without Borders is an independent aid organisation. Volunteer medical and support staff work with local people in trouble spots around the globe fighting disease and endeavouring to prevent it through vaccination and awareness. The organisation also inaugurates health education projects and trains local people in health care.

Help Needed:

A few of our members are called upon, consistently, to multitask, not once, but entirely throughout a production. While not complaining (well maybe just a little!) it is a nuisance trying to balance two jobs before the play starts and some last minute details are rushed. *Therefore* if anyone is able to sell programs before the performance for one or more nights, please register with Barry on 33989032 or Peter on 32550221 or email peter@stluke'stheatre.asn.au

Don't Forget the Greenroom!

Many of our patrons enjoyed the last greenroom production. Those attending for the first time regretted that they had not taken advantage of this outing before. The next offering will be, 'And This Was Odd' by Kenneth Horne. Dates are as follows: - **Performances:** 8pm: Sept 23,24 Matinee: 2pm: Sat 24. Pre-play drinks 30 minutes before the performance. Afternoon tea or supper with the cast after each performance – all for an entry fee of \$8. Remember there is no booking plan for the greenroom – just come.

St Luke's Theatre wins Awards

Congratulations go to the stage construction crew, Jan Moody, Barry Kratzke and Peter Parkinson on their wins in the recent Association of Community Theatres (Qld) Inc Sixth Annual Awards Night. St Luke's took out first prize in the Best Set Design Category for the stage design and decor used for last year's drama 'A Murder is Announced'. The theatre also received a Highly Commended in the Programme Design Category for the Peter Parkinson designed program for 'A Murder is Announced'. Well done all concerned.

What is A.C.T.(Qld) Inc.?

A.C.T began life in Brisbane in 1972 as The Association of Little Theatre Groups. It became the central resource centre for little theatre groups throughout the state. In 1999 it became incorporated under the present name. Membership is open to approved Community Theatre Groups. Members are able to interact through bi-monthly meetings, newsletters, and informal networking. Each year the 'Act Up' Awards are held covering several categories. Awards are presented at an annual dinner open to all members.



Peter Parkinson, Pat Kratzke & Barry Kratzke attended the 2011 ACT Awards Dinner hosted at Nash Theatre Awards were presented by the ACT patron, Dean Wells.

The History of the Theatre Society (con't)

by Jan Moody OAM

Many a church-based Theatre Society such as ours has come to grief being acceptable in its activity by the relevant Church Council, not to mention the residing Rector! We have weathered this particular storm and it makes an interesting background in our history. To begin at the beginning ('and a very good place to start, says Alice') we have fond memories of Rev.(later Canon) Ralph de Voil. Of English heritage and strongly traditional motivation, scripturally and pastorally, he offered strong support and a receptive ear to the needs and ambitions of the Society. He believed that Theatre should be used to compliment Church worship where possible, and our first presentation was 'From Tragedy to Triumph' at his instigation. This led to the famous Morality Play, 'Everyman' (he taking the role of Confession) and after the premiere at St Luke's, this was toured around many Anglican suburban churches, finally performing at St John's Cathedral. After his retirement he lived for some time at Tambourine, his last years at St John's Anglican Home at Toowong. We kept in touch and he invited us to the home for a reading of Emlyn Williams' 'The Wind of Heaven' (which later was included in our 1971 year as a major play). Also he was able to attend his favourite Noel Coward 'Hay Fever' in 1973.

During that first Rector's time Alan Rogers had been presenting Pantomimes each year in support of the Christmas Bowl of Remembrance but Rev de Voil asked us to further our charity work. This opened a completely new era of activity so that now we have become a truly motivated Charity Fund Raiser as you will know whenever you attend a play. So Canon Ralph de Voil left us with a wonderful legacy in his memory.

*You don't have
to be an actor!*

*Help is needed urgently from
an interested person.*

As a result of Darryl Soden's retirement from the theatre, we are now in need of someone to take control of the props department. This does not require finding props as we have a comprehensive props storeroom upon which to draw. You would be required to oversee the use of props during a play season. This is an important position and those expressing interest may phone Jan on 38484107.

From the President: Barry Kratzke

What a wonderful average for 'Pardon Me Prime Minister' – 90 per performance. We haven't had that result for quite a long time, but we had many group bookings with large numbers. The numbers are comparable with what we used to have some years ago. Happily, one group that attended is interested in coming to the plays twice a year. Let's hope this eventuates. The play was thoroughly enjoyed by those attending.

Many patrons have expressed interest in the next play, 'On Golden Pond' so we are hoping for more good attendance figures. Rehearsals have begun with guest director, Graham Mc Kenzie. Graham is also very good with set design and décor so I am looking forward to working with him. With the final play of the year being an Agatha Christie we should be able to maintain good attendances. We are always looking for helpers. At the moment we need a stage manager, a props person and programme sellers. Are you able to help? Please contact Peter if you are interested.



Every second year for the last 10 years, St. Luke's Theatre Society has invited the underprivileged children of Brisbane to a special charity performance of one of their productions. This year the society is presenting two of Lewis Carroll's best loved stories, Alice in Wonderland and Alice Through the Looking Glass.

St Luke's Theatre Society has a long history of support for charities. The above photo and extract are from a 1963 local paper. Pictured are then St Luke's juniors, Helen Driml and Kerry-Ann Pratt.

Easy Fundraising:

If you are a member of, or know of an organisation looking to fundraise, please alert the social convenor to our fundraising offers. Groups of twenty or more pay St Luke's \$9 a seat. Organisations then fix their own prices. Many take the opportunity to hire out the downstairs room to meet for drinks and/or refreshments either before or after the play. Phone Jan for details: Ph 3848107.