

The Spotlight

Newsletter of St Luke's Theatre Society

October 2011

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

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Christmas Break-up:
Sunday, 4 December at
5:30 pm in the Upper
Hall. Suggestions for
items to Marg Doumany.
Ph:38925576

Web Site:
www.stlukestheatre.asn.au

Raffle

The raffle run during 'The Hollow' will be in aid of the Motor Neurone Association.

Please give in your usual generous manner

Agatha Christie Returns

By popular demand the last play of the year is an Agatha Christie. Unavoidably, the previously advertised 'Murder at the Vicarage' has had to be replaced with 'The Hollow' because of royalty difficulties. Peter Parkinson is directing the play, managing a large cast of ten – a mixture of regulars and newcomers to St Luke's. The ever popular and adaptable Matthew Hobbs is in the cast, no doubt relieved that he has actually had rehearsal time. Matthew has expertly 'filled in' with no notice on two occasions when cast members have

been stricken with unexpected illnesses. St Luke's member Stephanie King joins her Uncle (Matthew) and grandmother, Lesley Hobbs, in the cast, along with St Luke's regulars, Jan Moody, Barry Kratzke and Ellen Abbott. The cast is rounded out with newcomers to St Luke's Sarah Reinking, Nigel Wallis, Lorne Jones and Gary Conwell. We trust that Sarah, Nigel, Lorne and Gary enjoy the St Luke's experience. 'The Hollow' promises the usual Christie intrigues and red herrings. Read the enclosed brochure for more details.

Right: The stage awaiting transformation into the set for 'The Hollows'

Nuts & Bolts

- ❖ We are always grateful to the 'Behind the Scenes' crews. ie
- The men who spend so much time on Monday mornings to construct the sets.
- The décor team which dresses the set. The Props handler.
- The Light and Sound crews. Primarily David Lang, John Fanning & Peter Parkinson.
- The stage manager responsible for the smooth running of the production -in this instance Donna Gomez.
- Those who give time to direct – in this case Peter Parkinson.
- Front of House manager, Derek Dickey who also stocks the shop.
- Front of House ushers & programme sellers& organizer Marg Doumany.
- Ruth Paterson who manages bookings and seating plans.
All this support is appreciated and so often goes unsung.



Bits & Pieces

- ❖ Chris Bradley (last seen in 'On Golden Pond' and who directed the Greenroom 'Where There's A Will') next year has a career move to the Toowoomba region. We wish Chris well and hope to see him from time to time.
- ❖ Don and Lesley Hobbs at long last have the use of the lower floor of their house which was inundated during the floods.
- ❖ By the time this newsletter reaches you a committee will have determined next year's programme

The History of St Luke's Theatre Society

By Jan Moody OAM

The Rev. Keith Slater who followed on from the Lanes proved to have an artistic 'bent', was young, vibrant and innovative in his approach to church worship. He enjoyed the plays and our parties and whatever else we were presenting in his time. He encouraged us to dramatise scripture readings and to use the church as our 'stage' whenever possible. We supported him in the first ever (at St Luke's) Passover Dinner, an extremely theatrical inspiration!

In his time the little 3feet x 4 feet porch with steps to the side was replaced by the porch as it now exists, with an office for his use which has become our Light and Sound Room. His five years with us ended in 1987 as he moved to a promotion to Gladstone with its

cathedral like church, and after a period there he was again promoted ... this time as Bishop of Grafton. We were delighted and having known him, not entirely surprised.

Summing up, perhaps it was true that no one will ever take the Lanes' places in Theatre Society life but ambitious Keith swept through in his relatively short term like a breath of new life, leaving pleasant memories behind him of how a Theatre Society really can be a Church Organisation, given encouragement.



Above: At a St Luke's Theatre Society party.



Above: The Bishop of Grafton

From the President

As this is the last newsletter for 2011, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all personnel who have been associated in any way in the successful running and organisation of St Luke's Theatre. In particular I thank all the office bearers who have been most helpful, as without their support and co-operation the society would not be able to function in the way that it does.

Our aim always has been to produce a diverse range of plays for our patrons, and in this I feel we have succeeded. We have been fortunate in having a high standard of actors and directors for this year's performances.

As Christmas is fast approaching I wish you all a holy and happy period with your loved ones.

Barry Kratzke.

ST LUKE'S YEAR IN RETROSPECT

March: A Breath of Scandal	August: On Golden Pond
April: Where There's A Will	Sept: Your Obedient Servant
June: Pardon Me Prime Minister	Nov: The Hollow



Whatever happened to

Michael Dowling?

It is always good to hear of those who have acted at St Luke's, particularly the younger fry. Michael (grandson of our patron, Roy) has relocated to Sydney where he has recently had a leading role in The Genesian Theatre's production of "The Mousetrap" by Agatha Christie. The play has been very well patronised with seats hard to come by and will soon tour western NSW. The Genesian, located in the heart of Sydney, is one of Sydney's most active theatre companies. Michael learnt his craft at St Luke's Theatre where he appeared in many plays. The above photograph shows Michael, a then University student, in the role of Mark Jenkins in the St Luke's 2003 production of "The Solid Gold Cadillac" by Howard Teichmann and George S Kaufman.

THANK YOU

As this is the last Spotlight of the year I would like to thank Desley Nichols and Peter Parkinson for their assistance during the year.
Pat Kratzke (Ed)