

The Spotlight

Newsletter of St Luke's Theatre Society

March 2012

April: 13,14
First Greenroom:
'The Thirty Nine Steps'
No bookings required

June: 8,9,11,13,15,16
Second Major Production

July: 13,14
Second Greenroom

September: 7,8,10,12,14,15
Third Major Production

November:
9,10,12,14,16,17 Fourth
Major Production.

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What's next!

Something new for St Luke's. A Lux Radio Play based on John Buchan's book, 'The Thirty Nine Steps' – a tale set in Scotland with the protagonist, Richard Hannay, hot on the trail of espionage and in and out of calamitous situations. In the way of Radio Plays this version has been adapted from the original serious spy story and is full of laughs. Barbara Thomas (last seen as Gerda in "The Hollow") directs the play ably assisted by the sound engineer, June Balfour. The cast consists of Jerry Lowley (usually seen..and heard?..at front of house), St Luke's Lorne Jones, and actors appearing for the first, and we hope not the last, time at St Luke's – Donna Gordon, Dao Kern, Lucy, John Arnold and Nathan Schultz. Actors in Radio Plays have multiple tasks, sometimes taking the part of more than one character and adding to the varied sound effects. This should be an enjoyable audience experience.



So what are Lux Radio Plays?

Those old enough to remember the days when radio ruled supreme will recall how avidly people looked forward to radio drama. The Lux Radio Theatre was launched in New York in 1934 later moving to Hollywood. The one hour weekly productions were enormously successful both with those listening via the radio and those jostling to be in the live audience. Many of the well known movie stars of the day vied for a role in productions which also needed musicians and technicians – sound effects were vital. Actors often played more than one role. The Lux Radio Theatre took its name from its sponsors (Lever Brothers) manufacturers of Lux soap and washing powder. Broadcasting from the Lux Radio Theatre ceased in 1955 but the radio plays are still popular.



My Friend Miss Flint

The first production of 2012 drew an average attendance of sixty-five over the eight performances. The moral of the story – dupe the tax man at your peril – or was it? All the characters had lucky escapes. The scheming accountant, sign anything ex-husband, con merchants, tax collectors and loquacious cleaner escaped fines after a harrowing time.

The Cast: Back: Donna Gomez, Cameron Gaffney (director) Matthew Hobbs, David Moore: Front: Ellen Abbott, Alexandra Pinwill, and Gary Conwell.

Charity Stall

Lesley Hobbs stall and raffle raised \$600 for the Epilepsy Foundation. Thank you to all who helped.



Air conditioning is almost here!

The Theatre Society, in conjunction with the Parish Council, has undertaken air conditioning the hall. The Theatre Society will fund two and a half air conditioners and the Parish Council one and a half. The cost is quite significant for us because, as you know, admission fees have been kept as low as possible over the years and we still have to honour our commitments to the children we support through The Smith Family and World Vision. Funds raised by Lesley Hobbs continue to go to charities. Thank you to those of our patrons who have given donations. Thank you also for your support over the years. Hopefully, matinees, especially, will be now much more comfortable.

The History of St Luke's

cont'd by Jan Moody OAM

In 1995 after a wait of two years from Rev Alan Sandaver's retirement as our Rector, Rev Ian Mundy and his truly motivated wife, Jan, came to us from Childers. No doubt Ekibin proved a challenge in several areas that were suffering from neglect. Fr Ian immediately took on and inspired many helpers to paint the church interior. This was a major undertaking of course and gave the Parish a great new look. As well we had Jan's and Ian's interest at long last in accepting that plans awaiting support for an expensive and exciting renovation to the 'verandah' side of the hall were worthy of the expense. The old verandah had been roofed some many years before and the Theatre Society dressing room, kitchen facilities, library, curtain cupboard, wardrobes and props room were somehow all accommodated there as well as a servery for interval catering. Other church organisations of course had to make the best of things along with our increasing demands through these earlier years. There are some of us who remember the uncomfortable but strangely comradely atmosphere that the crowded space engendered! The men's and ladies' dressing rooms were divided (most times!) by a flimsy curtain. And there were complaints which necessarily fell on deaf ears about having to go downstairs in between acts to the toilets. So the big renovation that the Mundy's took charge of (and most of which the Theatre Society

Photo top right: Father Ian Mundy in 'Everyman'



paid for) came to welcome and successful fruition. The Mundy's time with us achieved a record of financial success but along with that, as the hall became a Community Centre out for hire, we found that our own hall time curtailed so that our year's programme was by necessity only four major plays and two Workshop weekends. Our popular musicals and variety shows which required extra rehearsal time and the use of the piano became just too difficult to contend with. Rev Ian Mundy's term as Rector was the longest serving by one year more than the Lane's. Many changes were introduced in that long term, among them my resignation as President after 38 years and the introduction into that role of Barry Kratzke with whom Rev Ian Mundy worked amicably. We note that Ian and Jan now worship at New Farm St Michael and All Angels and Ian is a Chaplain at Churchie. No doubt Jan misses her big circle of friends at St Luke's and they in turn miss her, along with her enthusiastic fundraising achievements. This is actually the final news copy on Rectors we have Known as a warm welcome is extended to Fr George Markotsis and his clever wife, Jane. They bring with them some fresh ideas and remarkable pastoral care and love which is much appreciated as it extends as well to the Theatre Society.



From the President

Thanks: On behalf of the Theatre Society members, I wish to thank all our patrons who contributed to the air conditioning project. The

money donated by you will help us realise our aim and the air conditioning will be installed by the end of next month. At long last, we will be able to enjoy the plays in comfort.

Radio Play: The rehearsals for the radio play are progressing well with all the actors enjoying the experience as it is a completely different genre from our usual productions. I recommend the radio play to you, as I feel I know what you like in theatre, and judging from what I've seen so far, we will all have an enjoyable time when the play commences.

Barry Kratzke

So what exactly is a Greenroom Production?

Some of our patrons asked this question. St Luke's uses the term to differentiate between a major production with a long rehearsal period and an event with a much shorter rehearsal time. The greenroom is still acted on an appropriate set with the actors in costume but actors are able to read their lines. *Sometimes* the greenroom is used to introduce actors into the Theatre Society. Attendance is open to all comers, the price kept low, a complimentary drink offered preplay and coffee with the cast post play.



TAKE ACTION NOW!

Actors interested in being cast in the Agatha Christie play, 'Appointment with Death'. The play will be staged on September 7,8,10,12,14,15. Rehearsals begin approximately on July 16. This play requires a large cast. If you are interested please contact Peter Ph 32550221 or email peter@stluketheatre.asn.au

St Luke's Theatre Society

Presents

The Thirty-nine Steps

A Lux Radio Play adapted from the novel
by John Buchan

8pm: April 13 & 14 and 2pm April 14

Complimentary drink from 30 minutes before play
Complimentary Light Refreshments after play

Admission \$8

Bookings not necessary

All welcome