

The Spotlight

Newsletter of St Luke's Theatre Society

October 2012

November:
'Season's Greetings'
by Alan Ayckbourn

Bookings from Sept 29
Performances:
Nov: 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17

Theatre contact details :

President: Barry Kratzke
Ph 33989032

Vice President: Jan
Moody Ph 38484107

Secretary: Ros Dempsey
Ph 33434255

Bookings: Ruth Paterson
Ph 32556675 or
Email: bookings@
stlukestheatre.asn.au

Web site & Mail Lists:
Peter Parkinson
Ph 32550221 or email
peter@stlukestheatre.asn

Spotlight: Pat Kratzke
Ph 33989032

Publicity: Jan Moody
Ph 38484107

Membership: David &
Shirley Lang
Ph 38447257

Theatre Web Site:
www.stlukestheatre.asn.au

Right: Darren Campbell
(Lennox Boynton) & Margaret
Doumany (Mrs Boynton) at
the camp at Petra.

Charity Stall and Raffle

Thanks to all who contributed to Lesley Hobbs' Charity Fund Raiser during the last play. Lesley has been able to donate \$650 to the Leukaemia Foundation and \$250 to the Christian Blind Mission on behalf of the Theatre Society.

Ring out the Christmas Bells! Yes, it's almost that time of year again! The

November production of 'Season's Greetings' by Alan Ayckbourn is a farcical forerunner to our approaching Yuletide. The comedy is set against the background of an extended family gathering (owners and guests in the same house) over a few days at Christmas with all the tribulations that might bring. The play is directed by Matthew Hobbs who brings his years of acting experience to the role of director. Matthew has more or less grown up with St Luke's Theatre Society having appeared as a young boy in 'The Wind of Heaven' in 1984. He now follows in the footsteps of his father, Don, who produced many plays for the theatre society before retiring a few years ago. The cast consists of regular St Luke's players and newcomers to our stage.



'Appointment with Death' Set 1: The foyer of the King Solomon Hotel, Jerusalem.



Centre & Right: The lounge of the King Solomon Hotel in Jerusalem. Above: Cecile Campbell (Lady Westholme) & Nick Neild (Dragoman) Right: Margaret Doumany, (Mrs Boynton), Matthew Nisbet (Raymond) & Lucy Posner (Sarah King)

Admission Prices: Patrons know that over the years St Luke's Theatre Society has aimed to benefit all by keeping prices as low as possible and offering generous concessions to pensioners, students, children and organisations trying to raise money through our group booking offer. Unfortunately, all costs associated with a production have increased significantly and we need to increase prices to make ends meet. The new prices will take effect in 2013 and are as follows: **Adult:** \$15: **Pensioner/Student** \$12 (No Seniors cards): **Children** twelve years and under \$5: **Ordinary Adult Single Subscription** (4 tickets) \$48: **Pensioner/Student Single Subscription** (4 tickets) \$40: **Ordinary Adult Double Subscription** (8 tickets) \$95: **Pensioner/Student Double Subscription** (8 tickets) \$80: **Group Bookings** 20 & over \$11 a ticket. Subscription forms will be available at Front of House during "Season's Greetings" for those wishing to either pay or to just take the form. Forms may also be downloaded from the Theatre website or requested from David or Shirley Lang. Subscriptions mailed to the Langs should be by cheque or postal order. Tickets cover 2013 major productions only.

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

Bearing in mind the unsuccessful applications by the Church itself as well as the Theatre Society for air conditioning in the upper hall (now installed after concerted appeals for donations), it occurs to me to make known our grants received from the Director of Cultural Activities (State Premier's Dept.) from 1971 to 1981.

These grants, as you might imagine, required considerable paperwork by Treasurer Elsie Clark and myself as President, not exactly given out lightly, but were most acceptable in our time of need. There were many conditions attached to their expenditure of course particularly as we were in residence in a Church hall rather than being an autonomous organisation. No capital expenditure was acceptable but rather production expenses such as royalties, lighting, scripts, directors' fees, junior Group training etc... these always drew instant response. Those many years ago the grants amounted to \$3425 which proved beneficial for us and we made good use of them.

This happy situation was forced to be abandoned when we were required to add a clause to our Constitution donating all our assets should we go into recess to 'a similar amateur theatre or a similarly aimed cultural group'. There being no other Anglican theatre group with charitable outgoings in the Qld Diocese so far as we know we could not comply with this. All our assets, should we disband, must be considered the property of St Luke's Church. We are, as you might say, unique! And there is no way we could remove the capital items that we spend on the hall and surrounds.

From the President

Our third major play, Agatha Christie's, "Appointment with Death", directed by Peter Parkinson, was a great success with an average of 80.5 patrons each performance and matinees booked out in advance.

Of course, like baking, we had the right ingredients, a Christie play, a very capable director who could skilfully manage a large cast, and a well designed set by Una Hollingworth.

The patrons, leaving the hall after each performance, were quite vocal about the play. Comments focused on the choice of play which was very much to their liking, the set design and décor, and the recognition of Peter Parkinson as director. Peter has directed many plays for St Luke's over the years, particularly dramas, and of late, some of Agatha Christie's plays.

We must also not forget the actors. The cast consisted of regular St Luke's members, some 'new' actors to our theatre and the stage and some experienced actors from other companies appearing for the first time at St Luke's.

Cecile Campbell, an experienced Gold Coast actor and director, who played the part of Lady Westholme in the recent production, will direct our first play for 2013. We look forward to Cecile's involvement with our theatre group.

As you have read elsewhere in this newsletter we have regretfully needed to review admission prices for 2013, but have endeavoured to keep them at a very reasonable rate in keeping with our aim to bring affordable entertainment to our community.

Barry Kratzke



Who's missing! Noticed anyone missing from Front of House lately? Erstwhile Theatre Society Life Member, Alan Rogers, has found it necessary to move to Wellington Point. For many years theatre goers bought programs from Alan, resplendent in his flashing bow tie and bowler hat – always cheerful and ready with a quip. He has a

clever capacity for capitalising on situations to devise a humorous repartee or a joke. However, Alan's contribution to our theatre society goes much deeper than this. Alan produced the first Theatre Society pantomime in 1962 and made St Luke's Theatre Society's first ever charity donation with the proceeds. A born entertainer, Alan, who has a fondness for entertaining children agitated for the establishment of a Junior Theatre which came about in 1965. Alan did 'tread the boards' for St Luke's early on and is also appreciated as Mr. Fix It, and a stage builder. Another important innovative role was that of Theatre Society historian which has been carried on by Jan Moody and sees a collection of photos and prose dating to the present day. Alan, for many years, also filled the onerous role of catering manager, which often meant staying back for patrons having an after show function. A generous man, Alan often made donations to the Theatre Society, one example being the seat once on the front verandah giving theatre goers a place to sit. He was forever supplying articles for which he perceived a need. A larger and most valuable project was his funding of the building of the verandah at the rear of the hall in 1998 giving cast members a place to converse when off stage as noise back stage is most distracting. The thanks of the theatre society go to Alan and we most certainly hope to keep in touch.



Thanks to Una Hollingworth for the set design, work and advice on the sets for "Appointment with Death". Thanks also to the set construction workers for the time spent on the complicated set, to David Lang for overseeing set construction & lighting and Director Peter Parkinson for his extra role as sound technician aided by Keiran Cerato & John Fanning.

Communications for subscribing members: The Spotlight' and its enclosures are posted on the Theatre Web Site. Subscribing members may choose to either receive an email advising that the information is ready to read on the web site or opt to receive the information by post. Please indicate on your subscriber application form which you prefer.