

The Spotlight

Newsletter of St Luke's Theatre Society

April 2013

May: 17, 18, 20, 22, 24, 25
Second Major Production
'Present Laughter' by Noel Coward.

June: Greenroom
'Late Flowering' by John Chapman & Ian Davidson

August: 23, 24, 26, 28, 30, 31
Third Major Production
'Spider's Web' by Agatha Christie

November:
22, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30
Fourth Major Production
'Holiday for Lovers' by Ronald Alexander & Ian Davidson.

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Theatre Web Site:
www.stlukes theatre.asn.au

Charity Stall & Raffle

Leslie will once again be raising funds during "Present Laughter". Takings will be donated to the Fred Hollows Foundation

Where did the money go? Thanks to audience patronage, Rosie's Youth Mission received a cheque for \$600 from the March stall.

Noel Coward's, 'Present Laughter', is the coming production. Said to be something of a self caricature, this comedy centres around a successful, self obsessed actor, playwright and composer, Gary Essendine, who is on the verge of a midlife crisis. Preparing for a tour of Africa he is beset by farcical situations in handling romantic complications. The play is typical of the Coward wit and repartee. Cameron Castles directs the play with assistant producer and stage manager Helene Holland. Cameron directed last year's successful production of 'The Heiress'. Trevor Bond leads a cast of Sharon White, Matthew Nesbit, Calvin Smith (all recently played in 'Wanted One Body'), Sarah Reinking, Desley Nichols, Carri-Anne Smith, Lorne Jones and Robyn Jennings (all of whom have appeared on our stage before) and Helen Barrett who is appearing at St Luke's after an absence of many years.



Wanted - One Body

Top left: Donna Gordon (Mabel) and Matthew Nisbet (Mr Mickleby)



Left: Sharyn White (Faith/Hope Barraclough) Darren Campbell (Ted), Janet Sims (Agnes) and Donna Gordon.

Centre: Nick Neild & Matthew Nisbett (Solicitors)

Below: Darren Campbell & Daya Kern (Anne Beale)



Those who attended the last production were treated to intrigue with vanishing bodies, secret passages and a doctor who wasn't what he seemed. The fast moving farce gave pause for thought and amusement with many a chuckle over the bumbling young solicitor and his long suffering uncle. The play was directed by Cecile Campbell. The cast consisted of those pictured above and Calvin Smith as Dr Brown and Michael Matthias the doleful undertaker.



Free Stagecraft Workshop

This friendly workshop covering all aspects of stagecraft and stage voice production will be held on Sunday May 19 at 1pm (sharp) for about 2 hours.

Whether you are new to the stage or a seasoned performer, here is a chance to learn or brush up on the basic skills. The workshop will be conducted by Peter Parkinson.

All directors have their own unique style and this is an opportunity to perhaps see things from a different perspective.

Please RSVP to Peter on 32550221 or email Peter at peter@stlukes theatre.asn.au

The History of St Luke's by Jan Moody AOM

Capital projects became an issue right from the start as anyone who actually reads the 'History' section that appears in Spotlight would realise, when I describe the very basic Church hall that faced us as a venue for our Little Theatre activities in mid-1950s. The picture in my mind shows no driveway, two outdoor toilets, an uninviting area underneath with a small sink tucked away in a corner, two small storage rooms, one for the much-valued Gestetner photocopier (very inky job this but all we had) the other for church personnel office use, exposed over head beams. Around the other 'underside' general open storage on a dirt floor of unwanted items such as only a church would accumulate (no throw-away society in those days). Whenever we had to push in some flats etc we faced the fury of the local cat population. Moving to the upper level we faced a set of stairs that led to the 3'x4' porch with its boarded seat where our wonderful Treasurer was provided with a small (essentially small) desk. The picture always comes to mind of patrons lined up in the rain on the steps! I may have already mentioned the hall itself was painted a rather unfortunate combination of pink and green. There was a very practical reason for this...the church warden at the time worked for a paint firm and these were the only colours of which they had an excess. So many more pressing needs took precedence over this that pink and green had to be accepted and critical remarks ignored. All in 'good time' as they say and the day did come years later when what you see now was a choice to blend better with the stage curtain and the chairs. Since this job was completed in 1985 perhaps it can be excused for needing a repaint.



From the President

Our first major play, 'Wanted One Body', was a great success and was well received by audiences. The average

audience number was 70.5 which is quite good for the first play of the year. It was pleasing to see new and returning actors on the stage.

The 2013 Annual Awards Dinner will be held on May 4 at Nash Theatre in the Merthyr Road Uniting Church Hall, Merthyr Road, New Farm at 7pm – cost \$40.

For the last two years St Luke's Theatre Society has won first prize for the best stage design for a play, and last year received another first prize for the technical design in sound and lighting.

If you are interested in attending the dinner please ring me on 33989032 and I can fill you in on further details.

About Eamon!

Eamon (not his real name) is sponsored through The Smith Family.

In a recent letter Eamon writes that he lives with Mum and Dad and two brothers and two sisters. He likes to play with his brother because 'we have things in common'. He is in Year 4 at school and his favourite book is 'The Diary of a Wimpy Kid'. His favourite subject is maths – particularly 'equations'.

He wants to be a video designer when he grows up and would like to see world peace. He thanks us for our sponsorship as does his mother.

MATINEES: It has become noticeable that the second matinee of the play season is far more heavily booked than the first – indeed the second matinee is sometimes booked out. Whilst this trend might or might not continue, if theatre goers do not have a particular preference, it might be worthwhile to have a chat to Ruth before booking. This might also give a better chance of a park in the parking lot behind the theatre.

Auditions for *Spider's Web* by Agatha Christie

Directed by Peter Parkinson.

Performance dates: August 23 to August 31

Auditions Date: 16 June 1pm sharp at St Luke's Church Hall

Rehearsals commence: June 24: 1pm – 5pm Sunday and 7pm-10pm Wednesday (finish times might be earlier depending on progress). Extra rehearsals may be scheduled on a Monday or Friday.

Synopsis: When a murder occurs in Clarissa's drawing room she suspects young step-daughter, Pippa. Things are not helped by the imminent arrival of husband Henry with a VIP in tow who might take a dim view of bodies in the drawing room. However by the time Henry gets home, the murderer has been unmasked and all is normal, perhaps TOO normal!

Cast: Female Roles:

Clarissa Hailsham Brown (30) attractive

Mildred Peake – Gardener (40) hearty, large

Male Roles:

Sir Rowland Delahay – Distinguished, charming (50)

Hugo Birch- Irascible, irritable (60)

Jeremy Warrender (30) Elegant, suave

Oliver Costello (40) Flashy, unpleasant

Henry Hailsham- Brown (40) Good looking, impressive

Inspector Lord(50) Shrewd

Constable Jones Stolid, unresponsive

Rigin Butler

Interested all enquiries to Peter Parkinson. Ph 3255 0221

between 9am & 6pm or email: peter@stluketheatre.asn.au