

# The Spotlight

Newsletter of St Luke's Theatre Society

## July 2013

**August:** 23,24,26,28,30,31  
Third Major Production  
'Spider's Web' by Agatha Christie  
**Bookings:** from July 12

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

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*It's Christie Time Again!* Director Peter Parkinson has chosen 'Spider's Web' as this year's offering. The play takes place in the dining room of an English country house, and is a typical Christie, involving hidden messages, strange happenings, a mishmash of personalities and, of course, a murder. **"Who dunnit?"** Come along and see. The cast is a large one, consisting of well known St Luke's actors, visiting actors also well known to our audiences, returning actors and some newcomers whom we welcome to our stage. **The Agatha Christie plays have been very popular over the last three years. If you are contemplating attending a matinee do book early. Over past years these have been heavily booked.**



Trevor Bond (Garry Essendine) & Sarah Reinking as his long suffering secretary in 'Present Laughter'

## Present Laughter

Our last production of this Noel Coward play afforded many laughs to those who attended. Trevor Bond's performance of the often histrionic Garry Essendine had many asking 'How did he remember all those lines?' Directed by Cameron Castles, this most enjoyable play featured a supporting cast of Sharon White, Matthew Nisbet, Desley Nichols, Calvin Smith, Sarah Reinking, Carrie-Anne Smith, Lorne Jones, Helen Barrett, Robin Jennings and Michael Matthias.



Photo: Peter Parkinson, Pat Kratzke, Barry Kratzke & Desley Nichols at the Awards Dinner.

## Winners are grinners!

Do you remember the set for last year's Christie? It was quite intricate, changing from an up market hotel in Jerusalem to a desert camp at Petra. The technical side with sound and lighting also called for expertise. At this year's Act Queensland Awards St Luke's Theatre took out prizes as follows. *Best Set Design* (Una Hollingworth and Barry Kratzke); *Runner Up Best Technical Sound* (Peter Parkinson), *Runner-up Best Lighting* (David Lang); *Highly Commended Printed Program* (Peter Parkinson).

## Where did the money go?

After "Present Laughter", Lesley Hobbs was able to donate \$500 to the Fred Hollows Foundation and \$150 to The Mission Aviation Fellowship. Thank you for your usual generous support. The main beneficiary after the Agatha Christie play 'Spider's Web' will be The Muscular Dystrophy Association of Queensland.

## Whatever happened to .....

Lesley Hobbs? The question was posed many times during the last production and the recent Green Room. (What! No \$2 Stall!). Unfortunately, Lesley slipped at home and fractured her ankle. She has been immobilised for some time, restricted to upstairs at home, but is on the way to mending. Best wishes are extended to Lesley by many.

## *The History of St Luke's* (Con't) by Jan Moody OAM

The Choosing of Scripts for a year's programme is a major concern. First of all there's no way everyone can be kept happy whatever the choice..... comedy, drama, musical, a variety show or even a melodrama. Time was when any one of these categories was received with good grace, but with limited rehearsal time available in the hall now we are reduced to four plays and two readings as you already know! And this really only leaves comedy or drama for choice. Many of our audience reeling from the horrors of the daily news beg for 'a good laugh' but there are others who appreciate a thought provoking dramatic play. Consequently we try to present a variety of one and the other, bearing in mind that many plays are not suitable material for a Church organisation.

The syllabus editions of the various Agents handling available plays can be very misleading in the few lines of synopsis of a play and that's all we have to guide us. This rather 'hit & miss' situation leads us into mostly choosing 'known' plays for presentation. In our library at the hall are a great number of 'misses' which will never be presented on our stage and are available for sale.

I have found an interesting fact evolving through the past 30 or 40 years....i.e. that casts have got shorter and shorter (cheaper for professionals). So while it is a well - proven fact that Little Theatres must provide roles for a reasonable number if we are not to have our actors lose interest we can also find ourselves 'running short' for a large cast. It's a somewhat no-win situation and certainly not easy! It explains to a degree why we repeat past successes, in case you were wondering!



The cast of 'Late Flowering': from L to R Deborah Bishop, Donna Gordon, Barbara Burns, Jerry Lowley & Leonie O'Carroll

The Greenroom production, 'Late Flowering' was much fun. The action took place in a marriage bureau managed by two mature single women (Deborah Bishop & Donna Gordon). Enter Martin (Jerry Lowley) who runs a persistent and unappreciated campaign to win the affections of Constance (Deborah). Comedy is heightened by the antics of clients Elizabeth (Leonie) and Caroline (Barbara). Greenrooms have a blend of seasoned actors and newcomers – in this case Leonie and Barbara. This one was enjoyable and moved at a good pace

### *From the President*

Welcome to what has become an annual Christie season, with this year's chosen play, 'Spider's Web', directed by Peter Parkinson. The Christie plays have proved popular, with many who once only attended these, now regulars at most of the major productions. We welcome Jack Taylor, Bob Mussett and Stephen Chappell, actors new to St Luke's, to the stage for this production together with other actors well known to St Luke's patrons. As usual you are in for a good night's sleuthing to find the villain of the piece. As you leave the theatre let me know how successful you were at detection.

Our audiences really enjoyed the Noel Coward play, 'Present Laughter,' which rolled along at a pace. I was told by many of those attending that they really enjoyed all the characters and were impressed that the actors, particularly Trevor Bond, could remember and deliver so much dialogue.

The greenroom production, 'Late Flowering', directed by June Balfour, was enjoyed by those who attended. The attendance was disappointing as I thought many more would take advantage of the Sunday matinee. This is a well written play and was well directed and acted. If you have never been to a greenroom please try one. I am sure you will enjoy it.

Our thanks to Peter Parkinson for conducting a Theatre Workshop for actors and aspiring actors. Peter gives his time each year to conduct this event.

We wish our patron, Roy Dowling, well and hope that he will soon be out of rehabilitation where he is working at exercises in readiness for going home following the amputation of one of his big toes.

I hope you enjoy 'Spider's Web' and I thank Peter and his cast for their undertaking its presentation.

Barry Kratzke