

The Spotlight

Newsletter of St Luke's Theatre Society

October 2013

November:

22, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30
Fourth Major Production
'Holiday for Lovers' by
Ronald Alexander. *Bookings
from Oct 11*

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Bits & Pieces

Lesley Hobbs has returned to run the Front of House stall, much recovered from injury.

Barry Kratzke is recovering rapidly from a recent knee replacement.

Derek Dickey returned from a trip to family in England just in time for Front of House for 'Spider's Web'.

Come with us to Paris, to Spain and to Italy!

Join the Dean family on a first time European holiday – Dad, Mum and their younger daughter set off to Paris to meet up with an elder daughter who is studying in Paris. The trials and tribulations of first time travellers to foreign lands coupled with the romantic antics of the daughters prove a hassle for Dad but alls well that ends well. This light hearted comedy is an enjoyable finale to the theatre year. The play is directed by well known St Luke's actor and director Cameron Gaffney. The cast consists of Chris Sibley, Robin Jennings, Matthew Hobbs, Olivia Pinwill, Lyn Schofield (all of whom appear regularly on our stage), Chris Lynagh (whom we welcome back after quite a few years), and newcomers to St Luke's Moira Kennedy and Anthony Stevens.



Spider's Web This Agatha Christie mystery drew audiences

on an average of 97 per performance, a number not seen for many a year – if ever. Congratulations to director Peter Parkinson for the success of the play and thanks for the time and effort put in to directing such a large cast. Thanks, too, to the actors for their time and dedication. This play, called for a set of multiple rooms and the inevitable secret passage. David Lang once again rose to the occasion managing set construction and lighting. Three organisations took advantage of our group booking offers to raise funds. All in all a successful production.



Back: Paul Careless, Nick Neild, Matthew Nisbet, Steven Chappell, Michael Lawrence, David Moore, Bob Mussett, Jack Taylor
Front: Desley Nicholls, Peter Parkinson (Director), Cecile Campbell, Helen Barrett.

Where did the Money go? Thanks to the usual generosity of those attending the last production, Lesley Hobbs' stall and raffle raised \$800 which has been donated to The Muscular Dystrophy Association of Queensland. During the season of "Holiday for Lovers" proceeds from the stall and raffle will go to The Abused Child Trust Inc. Thank you for your continued support.

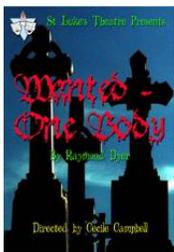
The History of St Luke's cont'd

By Jan Moody OAM

Having dealt with the choice of a year's programme of plays the next top priority is of course the choice of directors. There was a time when we had sufficient funds to offer an enumeration to Guest Directors so that we could learn from them and keep up our standards. The first professional director who worked with us (with the financial assistance of a Govt. grant) was GILBERT SPOTTISWOOD. I had rung the Elizabethan Arts Council in Canberra because I was keen to present "Alice in Wonderland" and "Alice Through the Looking Glass". This ambition required us to hire Yeronga High School hall as St. Luke's stage couldn't accommodate the huge cast and we didn't have the funds for such. Gilbert was in the Canberra office at the time, having recently returned from Paris where he had completed a 10 year Scholarship at the Sorbonne studying Drama. He was sent to us to his delight as it seemed that his life had come full circle landing at St. Luke's, Ekibin. He had originally come from Nth Qld where he won a scholarship to the Church of England Grammar School to study piano. With no piano available for his practice as a boarder he was allowed to use St. Luke's Rectory piano by Rev. Ralph de Voil. His natural artistic bent however had led him to the Drama Scholarship. He came to meet us as we presented "The Bride and the Bachelor" and decided on what has been remembered always as the most "polished" farce ever seen on our stage...Ray Cooney's "Chase Me, Comrade" in 1976. He was employed in Brisbane by the State Govt. Dept. of Cultural Activities, travelling all over the State presenting remarkable pageants such as he had learnt in France and came back just once more to us on a Govt. Grant to direct Noel Coward's "Present Laughter" in 1979, a top quality production. He died a few years later.

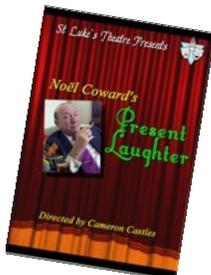
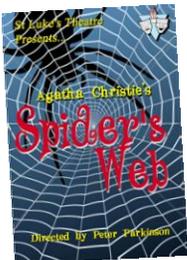


2013 ~ in retrospect



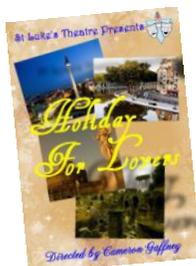
March

May



August

November



Thanks for
your
patronage

From the President Barry Kratzke

There were many plusses for our last successful production, Agatha Christie's 'Spider's Web'- a popular play, top attendance numbers, a well known director, a rise in group bookings and a large cast of some actors well known at St Luke's and some new comers. Thanks to Director Peter Parkinson, who worked tirelessly through the many rehearsals and to his cast. Another first was the shape of the set – semi-circular. This was the first time St Luke's has used that shape. Thanks to David Lang for his tireless work on the demanding set construction. The requirements of the set necessitated the use of all the doors in props and some ingenuity with the secret passage. David also used his experience as an electrician to make the decorative wall brackets from an old chandelier.

Dates for the 2014 season have been set subject to approval from the Parish Council. The choice of plays is well underway as is the selection of Directors. Thanks go to this year's Directors, Cecile Campbell, Cameron Castles, Peter Parkinson and Cameron Gaffney. A Director's job is not an easy one.

As this is the last Spotlight for 2013 I would like to thank you all for your support and hope to have your continued patronage in 2014.

The Smith Family: Update: We have received two letters from those we help. Carla is now at university doing a Bachelor of Education Degree. She is away from home and thanks us for our support.

Eamon, in Year Five appears to be going well and in answer to a question on how he would like to change the world answers 'more money for public schooling'. (Quite thoughtful for one so young – Ed)