

The Spotlight

Newsletter of St Luke's Theatre Society

October 2014

November:

21,22,24,26,28,29

Fourth Major

Production:

'Travelling North' by
David Williamson

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The final play for 2014, 'Travelling North', by David Williamson needs no introduction to Australian audiences. Though it was first performed in 1979, this play has been performed many times over the intervening years. Although some social mores have changed over time, family interactions and the foibles of human nature remain much the same. The changing settings from city to country will provide a challenge to our set builders but no doubt they will be up to it. Gary O'Neill directs the play, making a welcome comeback to St Luke's after many years. The irascible Frank will be played by Brian Cannon, last seen at St Luke's in 'Golden Pond'. Margaret Doumany plays opposite as Frances, trying to reconcile life with Frank and her family. The cast is rounded out with actors known to our regular attendees, Debra Bishop last performed in 'Late Flowering', Trevor Bond played in Noel Coward's 'Present Laughter', Allison Bennett has just completed a role in 'Trap for a Lonely Man', and Ian Beilenberg returns after a long absence as does Stephanie King.

The play committee has endeavoured to provide a variety of plays during this year and hopefully this Australian favourite will round the year off well.

Trap for a Lonely Man

The last major play averaged audiences of 64. The plot had many unexpected twists and turns which kept the audience guessing. No doubt the ending came as a surprise to some. Congratulations to the cast, director Cecile Campbell and all those behind the scenes.



Above: Cast of 'Trap For a Lonely Man'
From left: Peter Parkinson, Matthew Nesbit, Viviane Gian,
Darren Campbell, Nick Neild and Allison Bennett

Your Donations

Thanks to the generosity of our audiences we were able to donate \$600 to the Motor Neurone Disease Queensland and \$500 to Awaken Mozambique Inc. While the populace is familiar with Motor Neurone Disease and the urgent need for funding, especially research funding, not so much is known about Awaken Mozambique. Established in 2008 the aim is to macrofinance and train people in this very poor country to 'help people help themselves to improve their lives'. A significant percentage of recipients are women with on - flowing benefits to family and community. To find out more visit www.mozambique.org.au to read the stories and view photos of some of the recipients.



We Need You!

Or Someone You Know

To help with set construction and dismantling on Monday mornings before and after a play. If you can paint, hammer, wall paper or help in any other way – even just now and then, please contact Barry
Phone 33989032 or email
ekratzke@bigpond.net.au

The History of St Luke's (cont'd.)

By Jan Moody OAM

Guest Directors (cont'd)

In 1983 I longed to have us present the wonderfully comic "Don't Drink the Water" by Woody Allen. An experienced director was found in DOUG ANDERSON, who had a somewhat eccentric approach in that lines had to be 'down' before he would consent to spend any time with us. This created much havoc among the exceedingly large cast and especially the leads. Brian McCreesh was one, but he nevertheless stole the show, just presenting with his naturally comic self. Doug had a small farming property outside Brisbane and usually arrived for rehearsal in his working gear. We're not sure if he appreciated our gift of some colour-coordinated clothing as we waved goodbye to this undoubtedly talented but perhaps overdemanding director [i.e. for a cast of amateurs who were all daytime workers]. He gave us a shakeup and a really great show which is listed among our Special Plays.

"There Goes the Bride's" Guest Director was professional LEO WOCKNER, still a well-known actor in many areas of theatre work. Somehow the only impression he leaves with us of this lovely play was that of a good standard production, well worth his small fee. He also took some time to write out a message of constructive criticism of the players' efforts and the general running of the theatre. I'm not sure that we ever took all this in 20 years ago as those were the days when we felt we were doing 'very well thank you'. Very shortsighted no doubt!



Vale: Shirley Lang: Many St Luke's audiences and members will be saddened to hear of the recent passing of long time life member, Shirley Lang. For years Shirley was at the helm in dealing with bookings for performances and membership processing. She was a good listener for those who wished to chat and interested in what people had to say. In that capacity she had a friendly acquaintance with many people. Shirley also recognised David's role in St Luke's and the amount of time it took him from home. Until very recently Shirley attended each St Luke's performance but ill health began to take its toll. Shirley collapsed at home and passed away after a short time in hospital. Our sympathy is extended to David and the family.



'Golden Rain' Cast Members
Back L to R: Margot Andersen, Stephen Chappell,
Steve Pearton [Director], Daniel Fredericks,
Lynne Schofield.
Front L to R: Jerry Lowley, Courtney Dore, Gwen
Spence

Golden Rain

Those who attended the recent Greenroom enjoyed the play and the social aspect with the cast and crew after the performance. Written by R F Denderfield the action centred around the attempts of the Vicar's young wife's attempts to bolster their finances by entering the pools no less. Still all's well that ends well

From the President

The theatre year is fast drawing to a close and I hope our patrons have enjoyed our performances to date and will enjoy 'Travelling North' by David Williamson yet to come. The first play this year, the hilarious 'Relatively Speaking' set a high standard. This was followed by the comedy 'A Tomb With A View' with its murderous family. How many were actually buried in the garden??? 'Trap For A Lonely Man' then followed venturing into the genre of psychological thriller. I hope this diversity was appealing to all. Thanks to the directors and the actors who give so much time to rehearsal, and all the other personnel necessary for each performance. Next year's program is under way and I hope it will appeal to all. I hope to see you at 'Travelling North.'

Barry Kratzke

Keep up to date through the web site www.stlukestheatre.asn.au