

The Spotlight

Newsletter of St Luke's Theatre Society

July 2015

August: 'The Murder Room' by Jack Sharkey.

August: 21, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29

September: Second Greenroom: 'The White Sheep of the Family' Sept 25, 26

November: 'Cat's Cradle' by Leslie Sands.

Nov: 20, 21, 23, 25, 27, 28

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First Up ~ **The Murder Room** ~ by Jack Sharkey. This play has been described as 'a minor gem', and as 'delightful ...with constant humour' in newspaper reviews. It is a fast moving spoof on British Crime Thrillers. Sharon White is the director [remember the fun from the last play Sharon directed at St Luke's – the hilarious 'Relatively Speaking']. This coming contemporary play is set on a small estate in West Riding and is a case of marry for money and then get rid of the husband. A body disappears, all is not what it seems, and a new claimant to the estate appears..... but all is resolved after many twists and turns. The cast consists of St Luke's players, Helen Barrett and Sandra Harman and newcomers to St Luke's, Brenda Keith-Walker, Troy Granzien and Brendan James. If you are looking for a good laugh integrated with mystery do come along.

Then The Greenroom Production **The White Sheep of the Family** by Ian Hay and L du Garde Peach. This is a delightful farce about a

seemingly respected family steeped in tradition – thievery. The boat is rocked when the son of the family – an expert forger- decides (brought on by matters of the heart) to go straight. The family is horrified! However, all ends well with a surprising twist. Therein lies the fun. Our longtime theatre goers will recognise some of the cast as Jan Moody, Barry Kratzke and Jerry Lowley take to the boards. Remember the price for the Greenroom is only \$10 and covers a preshow drink and coffee with the cast post show.



The Cast of 'Murder on the Nile': L/R Darren Campbell, Concinnity Angel, Desley Nichols, Cecile Campbell, Crystal Gilbert, Jason Hayden, Dee Heath, Nathan Schultz, Crystal Gilbert, David Fraser, Trevor Bond

Murder On The Nile:

The Agatha Christie play once again seemingly appealed. The passengers of the goodship "Lotus," put plenty of vim into the performance. The audience averaged 81 per performance with one night completely booked out. Co-directors Peter Parkinson and Cecile Campbell worked hard with the cast members who spent a lot of time in rehearsal which evidently paid off.

Opportunity knocks for Actors!

Young or mature: experienced or a newby!

St Luke's is hosting a workshop on **Sunday 26 July from 12 noon to 4 pm.** **Deborah Bishop** will run the workshop which will encompass useful tips and hints as well as fun exercises to highlight necessary skills focusing on voice and movement for drama and comedy across the genres. Debra has had a long connection with theatre in Brisbane, having performed in more than 60 productions. Debra is a Theatre (Acting) graduate from the University of Southern Queensland and has been a teacher of acting in Toowoomba with Emu Parade for five years. She has studied a range of genres as well as voice, singing, dance, movement and film and television. **Afternoon Tea** will be provided. Please bring a towel or yoga mat and a water bottle. **Cost is a gold coin.** Please contact Jan on 38484107 or Barry on 33989032 by Friday 25 July if you wish to attend.

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

By Jan Moody (OAM)

Our 100th major production needed to be something really special of course and that inevitably would require a "really special" director and choice of play. We were just so fortunate to have exactly the right person in Anne Gaffney's introducing MEL BELL to St. Luke's. He took on Jean Anhouilh's "Carnival of Thieves" with wonderful Carnival costumes, many scene changes, and needless to say with such a writer, a fascinating script. Mel stayed with us, filling in Bill Dunbar's role as Resident Director, though we never expected it could happen. Mel being of English stock and well-versed in vaudeville took on Melodramas and Music Hall as a fantastic Comper. He transported a difficult Melodrama to a city hotel which truly had no facilities for such a venture, this being a special request as a Camera Club convention entertainment. It was a remarkable achievement and lots of fun, but very draining for Mel who was going into retirement about then. He went to Esperance in W.A. and actually rounded up that small population to create their first Little Theatre.....and very successfully of course. How we missed him, and what we owed him.



The cast from "The Carnival of Thieves"

A highly successful Fundraiser. We have had some feedback from one of the groups taking advantage of our fundraising offer. Nakuru Hope organisers pulled out all the stops in transforming the supper room into an oasis and supplying their sixty guests with pre performance drinks and a light supper, sweets and coffee at interval and various fund raising activities. The group raised over \$4000 from their endeavours. This was supplemented by a further \$1125 which our charity stall and raffle raised, thanks to the generosity of our patrons. Nakuru Hope donations go directly to the charity via Rotary Australia Worldwide Services. There are no administration costs and all funds are used directly by the not for profit charity. There has been a disturbing rise in abandoned children in the area and in seven years the charity has built a school for over 200 students and an orphanage for 24.



Admission Price Rise in 2016

St Luke's has long sustained its role in endeavouring to bring community theatre to as many as possible by maintaining a very generous admission price. With updating equipment, royalty payments, hire or purchase of scripts and the general costs of set, props etc we now need to review our admission charges. We are still endeavouring to keep these as low as possible. A regular adult ticket will rise to \$20, a pension ticket will rise to \$15 and subscribers' prices will rise but still receive a favourable discount. These new prices will be advertised fully with the next newsletter.

Upgrade

Earlier this year we had to upgrade our sound system to the tune of \$2368 to come into line with digital technology. We now also need to further upgrade our speakers, amplifiers and mixing console. This will all take place within the next few weeks at a cost of \$6046.

Workshop: 26 July in St Luke's Hall
Actors do take this opportunity to meet with others and hone your skills