

The Spotlight

Newsletter of St Luke's Theatre Society

JUNE:

June: 'Murder on the Nile' by Agatha Christie
June: 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20
August: 'The Murder Room' by Jack Sharkey.
August: 21, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29
September: Second Greenroom: Sept 25, 26
November: 'Cat's Cradle' by Leslie Sands.
Nov: 20, 21, 23, 25, 27, 28

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It's Christie time!

Peter Parkinson has returned to the directors fold after a year's absence to co-direct, with Cecile Campbell, the Agatha Christie play, "Murder on the Nile". Based on the well-known book, 'Death on the Nile', by Agatha Christie, the play follows the intrigues played out on a pleasure cruiser as it sails down the Nile. Put a honeymooning couple together with a jilted lover and a bevy of other characters, all with potential motives for murder, and you have a drama filled with leads and misleads set against the Egyptian setting. Here is a chance to test your sleuthing skills. The cast is a large one consisting of four regular St Luke's actors, and introduces a further seven actors to St Luke's stage. Una Hollingworth returns to help design the involved set. All in all this should be an enjoyable production.



The cast of 'Late Flowering': Left to Right: Robin Jennings, Cecile Campbell, Trevor Bond, Chris Sibley, Alexandra Bishop.

Late Flowering: A total of 437 attended the first production for 2015. The play rolled along well even though it got off to a late start because of the unavoidable change from the intended play 'Big Bad Mouse'. Thanks go to Debra Bishop for taking the director's role, especially with the demands of her job. Thanks, too, to Debra's daughter, Alexandra Bishop for filling the role of Caroline Pinder and to our regular troupers for discarding one lot of lines to learn another.

Our Tribute to Anzac:

Some 126 people took time out to attend our variety show which was a low key tribute to ANZAC. The show rolled along with skits, song, dance, recitations and community singing. The first half of the show was based on WW1 and the second on WW2 and other conflicts. Thanks to all who took part particularly our compere Clive Render, pianist Ann Gaffney, Jacqui Meaney's dance students, and visiting artists. Jan Moody convened the show.

Here's something you don't see every day. David Lang forsakes the Light and Sound box to give a hearty rendition of 'The Company Sergeant Major'.



Jacqui Meaney dancers

Charity News:

Thanks to those of our patrons who support our stall and raffle we have so far been able to donate \$500 to The Miriam Raju Foundation (a local charity supporting families with disabled children) and \$500 to QIMR Berghofer specified for research into melanoma. Thanks to Ros Dempsey and her helpers for their time and efforts.

Door & Sound: Thanks mainly to the efforts of our Workplace Health and Safety Officer, John Fanning, a new door has been fitted in the entrance between the foyer and the theatre proper. Anyone who has struggled with the previous concertina door will welcome this improvement.

Further Funds Further funds have been spent on a partial upgrade to our sound system with more to come. Unfortunately, although equipment has served us adequately for decades, it is getting worn. Couple this with technology advancements and significant upgrades will be needed.



This trio was reminiscent of the Andrews sisters with spirited renditions of oldies like 'Don't sit under the apple tree..'

Visit our website for information and news; stlukestheatre.asn.au

The History of St Luke's

By Jan Moody AOM

Guest Directors (contd.)

In 1990 after Bill Dunbar's death we once again needed to seek support from guest directors hopefully to bring new ideas to our stage. A "musical extravaganza" had been on my mind for some time i.e. "The Truth About Cinderella" which needed some inspired directing as this was not exactly a pantomime and certainly not a melodrama but perhaps a send-up of an old time fairy-tale. The Arts Theatre retired Stage Manager seemed a likely choice, namely LEN CROOK. Fortunately we had Lynne Scofield's beautiful and talented daughter Helen for the lead and a strong cast of experienced actors because this was an innovative script. Len showed up as a very good Stage Manager and we learnt a few stage management tricks from him. Lovely sets were expertly changed. Initially we had problems with an inexperienced choreographer who had to be replaced but we pulled the production off against the odds. It was an unusual and entertaining theatre piece. 1990 was the year of our 100th major play so we needed to celebrate that wonderful achievement. More about that later.



Helen Scofield as Cinderella

From the President

Barry Kratzke

Our Agatha Christie lovers are looking forward to the forth-coming production of 'Murder on the Nile' but I'm sure all theatre goers will find this play, which commences on 12 June, quite enjoyable. The co-directors of the play, Peter Parkinson and Cecile Campbell, have a very able cast to bring the play to life. Please mention the play to your friends and you, yourself, might like to bring a small group of six or more people.

The St Luke's set builders are making good progress on the set for 'Murder on the Nile'. The action takes place in the forward observation saloon of the steamer, 'Lotus'. Unlike some theatres that use curtains and basic furnishings, St Luke's set builders construct a full box set for the actors and the décor personnel spend much time sourcing furnishings and the like. We are very fortunate in having Una Hollingworth to advise and help us in all the detail for this play.

At the recent **Association of Community Theatre Dinner and Awards Night** the results were as follows:

Best Poster: New Farm Nash Theatre, 'A Midsummer's Night Dream.'

Best Publicity: Brisbane Arts Theatre, 'The Addams Family'.

Best Programme: St Luke's Theatre, 'Trap For A Lonely Man'.

Best Set Design: Brisbane Arts Theatre, 'The Addams Family'.

Best Costumes: Sunnybank Theatre Group, 'Allo Allo'.

The people who attended the ACT dinner at the Nash Theatre had a most enjoyable night commencing with drinks and finger food in the Nash Theatre covered courtyard, followed by dinner and the Awards Presentation.



ACT Awards: Left to Right: Pat Kratzke, Chris Sibley, Barry Kratzke and Desley Nichols with the Best Program Award. Congratulations to Peter Parkinson who compiles the St Luke's programme and unfortunately was unable to attend.

Date Claimers:

June 12-20 "Murder on the Nile" by Agatha Christie.

August 21-29 "The Murder Room" by Jack Sharkey.

November 20-28 "Cat's Cradle" by Leslie Sands.

KNOW SOMEONE OR A GROUP LOOKING TO RAISE MONEY?

Alert them to our generous fund raising offers of just \$11 per person for groups over 20. Participants can then fix a fund raising price suitable for the group enterprise. The supper room below the hall is available at a cost of \$30 if desired for pre or post play groups. *Alternatively* many of our regulars make a performance a social outing either in small or large groups.