

# The Spotlight

Newsletter of St Luke's Theatre Society

## July 2016

August/Sept: "Look Who's Talking" by Derek Benfield  
August 26,27,29,31  
Sept 2,3

November: "Stepping Out"  
by Richard Harris  
Nov 18,19,21,23,25,26

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[www.stluketheatre.asn.au](http://www.stluketheatre.asn.au)

*A laugh is on the way!* The next production, Derek Benfield's play, "Look Who's Talking," replaces the previously advertised play, "First Things First," also by Derek Benfield. Unfortunately, circumstances beyond our control have led to the change. Well known director, Sharon White, directs the play with Sandra Harman, Paul Careless, Philippa Dwyer and Ros Dempsey again treading the boards at St Luke's and Robert Gettons making a welcome return after many years. Sharon's last directed play for St Luke's was the very well received comedy, "The Murder Room" by Jack Sharkey. "Look Who's Talking" should also bring some light hearted enjoyment. In the coming play confusion reigns supreme for the protagonists. Unexpected visitors calling during a quiet Sunday lunch cause much conscience searching, exacerbated by a hazy recall of recent events, for the quiet, devoted, married couple, Sheila and Andrew. Just what *might* have occurred to cause such consternation? Why the flowers for Sheila? Why does Andrew's secretary arrive with her suitcase? Hilarious misunderstandings abound.

The playwright, Derek Benfield is well known for his plays which are mostly comedy or farce. He is known, too, for his acting ability in British TV shows. Probably his most well-known role was that of Patricia Routledge's husband in 'Hetty Wainthropp Investigates'. Derek Benfield died in 2009.



Above: Brian Cannon (The judge), Lynne Schofield (Miss Madrigal), Selina Kadell (Olivia), Maria Plumb (Mrs St Maugham), Leah Fitzgerald-Quinn (Laurel).

Left: Cameron Gaffney (Maitland) and Maria Plumb. Jan Moody (A little lady) and Ros Dempsey (Nurse and an applicant) completed the cast.

## *The Chalk Garden* by Enid

Bagnold. This recent play is very different from the first production of the year and from the coming production. The dialogue was so essential to the story and the underlying juxtaposition of the barren garden and life as it was in the household. Congratulations to the actors on the learning and delivering of the lines and superb performances. Director Gary O'Neil steered the direction of play with his usual finesse.



Visit the theatre website for information about the society, future and past events, notices, photos and more.

[www.stluketheatre.asn.au](http://www.stluketheatre.asn.au)

*Front of House:* With Front of House manager, Ros Dempsey, treading the boards, Jenny Lukowski took over the Front of House management. Thanks go to Jenny and all those supporters who come to our aid to usher and help with the smooth running of Front of House. Many help out multiple times during the run of the play. They are essential and the Theatre Society appreciates the effort and time given.

*Charity Stall:* Thanks to the usual generosity of our patrons, we have been able to donate \$1000 to Nakuru Hope to help support the orphanage and school nurtured by Australian volunteers who freely give of their time. This is a 100% not for profit charity and the organisers do not passively solicit funds. In the past the Brisbane based volunteers have taken advantage of our Fund raising opportunities through a group booking.

## The History of St Luke's

by Jan Moody OAM

### Guest Directors (Cont'd)

BRIAN EDMOND was a practising solicitor but with aspirations to making Theatre his living instead of law. He was very talented particularly in directing and established an impressive record in Brisbane Little Theatre to present to NIDA's Producer's Course. Towards this end he created his own company called "On Giant's Shoulders", presenting some very challenging works. He was disappointed in not being accepted for NIDA, no doubt because he was of small stature and quietly spoken, not exactly archetypal. But we were fortunate to be part of his early Brisbane Theatre life and have two wonderful plays to remind us of Brian before he eventually left to take up law again in Townsville.

In 1993 he was interested to direct "My Giddy Aunt" which had been especially written for a leading English actress Irene Handl who played a double role....i.e. of an English aristocrat living in high style in India as well as a visiting English Cockney charlady, both at the same time often! I took it on and it was one of the highlights of my career, requiring a dresser standing by to achieve the slick changes in clothing and accents. Brian created an outstanding Indian set, using the one time sanctuary for an adjunct setting. Also he brought in a sitar player who took up cross-legged residence on the L front stage ahead of the curtain. Altogether an exciting event in our year's programme which Barry and I refer to often. *I have to say now in reference to BRIAN EDMOND "to be continued"*.



Sitar player John Fisher

*Vale.* Margaret Doumany: Popular St Luke's member, Margi, passed away

at home on the sixth of June shortly after being diagnosed with a terminal illness. She was well on the way to learning her lines for her intended role as the grandmother in the recent play, "The Chalk Garden," when her illness became apparent. Margaret had long wanted to play in that role and her efforts at learning the part, considering her sight loss, were herculean. The play was dedicated to Margaret in recognition of that fact and the contribution she made to our theatre society. Margaret last played at St Luke's in 'Travelling North' in 2014 and over the years played in many genres from pantomime in "Jack and the Beanstalk" her first play with us in 1964, through musicals such as "White Horse Inn", in dramas –one of which was "The Orphans", melodrama - "The Furtive Fortunes of Fickle Fate" and so the list goes on. All in all over thirty performances and still counting. Margaret had also spent considerable years with The Brisbane Arts Theatre. Margaret also played a role in the smooth running of the St Luke's Theatre Society through

the organisation of Front of House rosters and sage advice at meetings. She will be sorely missed. Condolences are extended to Margaret's family.



### *We need your help!*

Peter Parkinson has informed me that after the final play for 2016 he will no longer be available as our sound technician. Peter will continue with the Theatre Society in a reduced but still time consuming role in being responsible for graphics and all that covers. (eg: flyers, program covers, posters)

Peter has given us over twelve years of continuous service in the sound room, taking up much of his time and for this we are truly thankful. If you know of anyone who might be interested in our sound department would you please let me know or ask them to contact me. This is a serious situation.

Barry Kratzke

### *Calling all actors!*

#### *Auditions! Auditions!*

The last play for 2016 is planned to be "Stepping Out" by Richard Harris. Please watch the web site for details of auditions. If you wish to be kept in the loop please contact Jan Moody Ph 38484107 or Barry Kratzke 33989032 or email at [ekratzke@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ekratzke@bigpond.net.au).

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*St Luke's Theatre Society Presents  
A comedy by Derek Benfield.*

# LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

*By arrangement with Origins Theatrical on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.*

When two unexpected guests, Jane and Brian, drop in on Sheila and Andrew, a devoted middle-age couple, what ensues is a complicated and hilarious series of misunderstandings and mistaken identities as Sheila and Andrew begin to weave an elaborate web.

**Aug/Sept 8pm - 26, 27, 29, 31, 2, 3. 2pm - 27, 3.**

**Bookings: 3255 6675  
or email [bookings@stluketheatre.asn.au](mailto:bookings@stluketheatre.asn.au)**

Adults \$20, Pensioners/Students \$15,  
Children under 12 years \$5  
Discounted block bookings for 20 or more: \$15 per person.



**St. Luke's Church Hall  
193 Ekibin Rd East  
Tarragindi**

*Air-conditioned*  
Check our web-site [www.stluketheatre.asn.au](http://www.stluketheatre.asn.au)

*Directed by Sharon White*