

The Spotlight

The Sunshine Boys – This Neil Simon comedy, directed by Gary O’Neill, enjoyed a successful season with good audience numbers and favourable comments from those who attended.



Brian Cannon, Trevor Bond & Trevor Sammon

Green Room Production [The White Sheep of the Family] – Directed by Madelyn Bickerdike and featuring well-known and newcomers to St Luke’s, this play was well received by our audiences.



Charity News – During the last play season, Front of House donations to *Angel Flight* amounted to \$1,000. Thank you all who contributed.

Letters from Ei Yom Sa (World Vision) and Eamon (The Smith Family) expressing their thanks for our sponsorship and bringing us up to date with their educational progress, were recently received. We’re happy to be helping these youngsters reach their potential.

Still to Come in 2017

November 24, 25, 27, 29, Dec 1, 2 – 8.00pm

November 25, December 2 – 2.00pm

The Sound of Murder

[by arrangement with OriginTm Theatrical, on behalf of Samul French Ltd]



A Drama by William Fairchild – Directed by Sharon White

Sharon and the talented cast (Philippa Dwyer, Ian Bielenberg, David Richardson, Anna Ibbotson, Steve Tonks and Perry Ranclaud) are busy rehearsing this not to be missed production.

December 17 – 5.00pm for 5.30 Start



Christmas Party

From the President – Barry Kratzke

The theatre was most fortunate with the group bookings for the last major play, *The Sunshine Boys*, with the booking officer having to cease taking bookings for the last matinee a couple of weeks before the production, due to the hall being completely booked. Once again, we were pleased to see new community members in the audiences. Most people enjoyed the production. Fortunately, with four major plays of varying genre, there is something for everybody. If you enjoy a good murder mystery/thriller, you’re in luck with the last play of the year, *The*



The Spotlight

Sound of Murder, by William Fairchild. The play will hold you in suspense until the end. This play is being directed by Sharon White who has directed for us for the last four years. Last year she directed *Look Who's Talking* by Derek Benfield which was thoroughly enjoyed by all the audiences

We look forward to seeing you at *The Sound of Murder*.

The History of St Luke's – by Jan Moody OAM



Essential to the presentation of our plays etc., of course, is the activity generated from our Light and Sound

Room. Apart from its personnel it has, like the rest of the Theatre Society Building, quite a chequered history. Originally tucked into a corner behind the stage curtains were the Sound and Light Operators, the stage lit by footlights, with the general hall lighting switched on and off at the main door. David Cole built our first lighting box, as shown in the accompanying picture, and a play's sound effects, (its sound track in other words) was recorded on a reel-to-reel machine which at least had the advantage of displaying numbers to keep track of proceedings. This, along with David's trusty lighting box, was in use for many years, operated by Hugh Polson.

With the extension of the hall at long last a special Light & Sound room was built into the new porch. A great deal of money (at the time) was paid to set up the lighting bar to accommodate a new stage lighting system with much complimentary wiring by our new lighting man, Brian McCreech. This new setup has stayed in place, inspected by various paid electricians from time to time and is nowadays the responsibility of our valuable David Lang. Between Peter Parkinson and David the Light & Sound room (which includes our built-in Library (by courtesy of Keith Miles incidentally) operates successfully, even though sometimes under considerable difficulty. The old reel-to-reel sound machine has long gone and up-to-date technology is in place.

We gratefully acknowledge the invaluable expertise of our Light and Sound volunteers over the years.

Members / Subscribers

New Member



St Luke's Theatre has been very fortunate in acquiring a new member, Sam Turner, who is very accomplished in many facets of the theatre. He has been with us for most of this year and is the grandson

of Beris Turner who was a drama teacher in the Tarragindi area for many years.

Sam is an affable young man, with a bright personality and attends Holland Park High School where he is very involved in the school theatre productions. He is 'head' of the lighting and sound crew and 'head' of the full production team. He is also involved with the Arts Theatre where he helps with the lighting and sound, plus being the spotlighting operator. Sam also helps there with set construction and with the props.

We thank Sam's mother for allowing him to help us. How fortunate for us that he found St Luke's.

What Other Members are doing.....

Matthew Hobbs, Desley Nichols and Declan Quinn are currently in rehearsal for *Much Ado About Nothing* with Villanova Players (3 to 19 November at Yeronga State High School Auditorium).

Vale – Nick Neild



We were all very saddened to hear of Nick's sudden, untimely death. Nick was a well-thought of, respected member of St Luke's Theatre for over twenty years. He was highly dedicated to all facets of theatre, the music and movie

industry and involved with many theatre companies and organizations. His wealth of knowledge on all matters theatrical was vast.

His first performance with St Luke's Theatre was in 1997 in *A Barrell Full of Pennies*, where his physique suited the role admirably, as he was in and out of the barrel many times. Since then, he has made himself available to us whenever he was needed.

Over the twenty odd years he was always a willing worker, generous with his time and ready to



The Spotlight

perform roles allotted to him. He was a popular performer at Christmas parties, willing to perform at short notice, selecting items from his repertoire of party pieces.

Being a very affable, agreeable person with a bright disposition and fine voice, and willing to perform in plays, musicals and movies he was in demand and sought out.

Nick's last performance with the theatre was very recent, playing a role in the Greenroom production of *The White Sheep of the Family* on 29, 30 September.

Nick will be sorely missed, and remembered often.

Theatre Superstitions

NEVER SAY "Good Luck"

"Break a Leg"

Thought to be a sign of bad luck, most performers freak out when they are told "good luck". The results, while maybe only psychological, breed fear in actors.

"Break a leg" has been attributed to several origins. Some stories say that you are supposed to perform so hard, or sing a note so high in opera, that you break the legs of the stage. The legs being the side curtains on stage today. Other stories say that evil sprites would try to do everything in their power to do the opposite of whatever wish was spoken; so if you wished for good luck, they would make everything go wrong. In Shakespearian days, to "break" meant to "bend", meaning, taking lots of bows.

The stories are numerous and range from warding off evil, to wishing positivity, to actually physically hurting yourself from the power of your performance. Whatever you believe, it's usually "bad luck" to say "good luck."

"Chookas"

In Australia, "chookas" is the term often used instead of "good luck". This seems to have come into use during the early days of JC Williamson's dominance of the theatre scene. In the early 1900s chicken was regarded as a treat. As most shows paid fees depending on the box-office take, a full house meant that the performers would be able to afford a chicken meal. The cry, "chook it is" was shortened to

"chookas", and eventually used by performers to wish each other a successful show regardless of audience numbers.

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