

The Spotlight

2018
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Annual General Meeting – All welcome to attend!
February 6 – 7.30pm at the Parish Centre

NEW IN 2018

NEW EVENING PERFORMANCE TIME – 7.30PM!

The Sound of Murder – 2017 finished with this William Fairchild drama, directed by Sharon White. Touching on many contemporary domestic issues, this well-acted and directed play caused much discussion and praise amongst our audiences.



The Talented Cast

Nick Neild Farewell / Memorial – In conjunction with Queensland Musical Theatre, of which Nick was a member, St Luke's hosted a Farewell / Memorial for Nick. This was well-attended by his many friends in theatre in Brisbane, as well as his brother who travelled from Adelaide, with many tales of Nick's life being retold and a choir of QMT members singing some of his favourite songs.



Chris Sibley for St Luke's sharing her memories of Nick

Charity News – During the last play season, Front of House donations to *Fred Hollows Foundation* amounted to \$500. Thank you all who contributed.

What's in Store for 2018?

March 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24 – 7.30pm

March 17, 24 – 2.00pm

The Best Laid Plans

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



*A Comedy by Fred Carmichael –
Directed by Gordon Shaw*

Gordon and the talented cast are busy rehearsing this hilarious production in which an Ian Fleming style author pits her much vaunted talents for intrigue against spies trying to get hold of government plans.

June 22, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30 – 7.30pm

June 23, 30 – 2.00pm

The Kingfisher

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



*A Comedy by William Douglas Home
– Directed by Gary O'Neill*

In this delightful comedy, a confirmed bachelor in his later years contemplates marriage to a younger widow.



The Spotlight

August 24, 25, 27, 29, 31 & Sept 1 – 7.30pm
August 25 & September 1 – 2.00pm

Outside Edge

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



A Comedy by Richard Harris
– Directed by Trevor Bond

If you're a cricket fan, or even if you're not; there's something for everyone in this farce which lets us into the action of a village cricket match, both on and off the pitch.

Nov 23, 24, 26, 28, 30 & Dec 1 – 7.30pm
November 24 & December 1 – 2.00pm

Private Lives

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



A Comedy by Noël Coward –
Directed by Sharon White

Noël Coward is at his best when a divorced couple on honeymoon with their new spouses find themselves staying in adjoining hotel rooms.

From the President – Barry Kratzke

Welcome back to another year of entertainment at St Luke's Theatre. We look forward to seeing you at our first production, ***The Best Laid Plans***, by Fred Carmichael, a comedy in two acts. One reviewer, on seeing this play, said, "This is a play where you can let yourself go completely and laugh as much as you can stand." We welcome Gordon Shaw back to St Luke's as the director of the play. Gordon previously acted in our production of ***A Month of Sundays*** in 2016. All the plays for 2018 have been chosen carefully with you, our patrons, in mind and there is something for all. We have decided to commence our evening performances from now on at 7.30pm to come into line with most other

theatres. Please mention the new starting time to your friends.

At the end of the 2017 season, our booking officer, Ruth Paterson, suffered a stroke. Ruth remains as an in-patient in hospital in rehabilitation where she is progressing well and is in positive spirits. Meanwhile, Sylvia and Dale Absolon have come to our aid and will take over the bookings. We are most fortunate that they have volunteered for this role and thank them very much. We wish Ruth a speedy recovery and thank her profusely for her help over the years.

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

FRONT OF HOUSE



After the new porch was constructed in 1985, we realised a Manager was essential for the smooth running of our Front of House financial aspect; ie, admissions, programme takings, refreshment proceeds, etc. There have been just a few managers really as they each have taken on the job as an important ongoing office. Ian McLaren, pictured, (with wife Shirley working the Box Office most efficiently) was an early starter when we began to take ourselves seriously and our audience numbers increased dramatically. The Manager in early days also organised the ushers, set the seating according to the Box Plan for the performance, bought in whatever was on sale at intervals, handed the takings over to whoever was Treasurer at the time and considered himself responsible for the general condition of the area. He also saw to the wellbeing of whatever charity stall and raffle selling was in place. He made certain that the performance started ON TIME (not always an easy task). When Ian had to give up through a severe illness, Roy Dowling moved in and for many years enjoyed dealing with familiar faces as he was after all a Foundation & Life Member, as well as a Church Councillor. Roy worked almost to the end of his life as then did Derek Dickey, our last Front of House Manager. Since Derek's fairly recent retirement, the purpose and aspirations of Front



The Spotlight

of House at St Luke's has undergone many changes and certainly involved more recently interested members. This "new look" can be credited to the interest and driving force of Ros Dempsey. Ros and her team of volunteers have been determined to increase audience interest in our unique charity donating record.

St Luke's is the only Little Theatre who gives to and supports worthy charities from its proceeds. This was started many years ago by Alan Rogers who presented, along with the company as it was then, a pantomime each Christmas for the Christmas Bowl of Remembrance. Ruth Lane, our Rector's wife at that time also pushed for Save the Children Fund and then followed a great many needy charities, too numerous to attempt to list. Many Tributes of Appreciation are recorded in my Year 2000 publication of our history.

Front of House personnel are, after all, the first point of contact with the audience and hopefully present a welcome that encourages them to keep coming back.

Heartfelt thanks are due to the many, past and present, Front of House volunteers for their support and enthusiasm that has helped make St Luke's Theatre's special reputation.

Members / Subscribers

What Other Members are doing.....

Trevor Bond is currently in rehearsal for *True Minds* with Centenary Theatre Group (3-24 March).

Theatre Superstitions

Don't Say "Macbeth!"

This has long been part of the actor's folklore, and there are dozens of theories about when, where, and why performers started avoiding the play's title—instead referring to the drama as "The Scottish Play." The History Channel cites several instances of mysterious and sudden deaths during performances of *Macbeth*, suggesting a curse that dates back to the 17th century. Some believe that the play's fictional incantations - "Double, double toil and trouble..." etc.,

are authentic examples of witchcraft, and therein lies the danger of speaking the title out loud. If an actor slips up and says the deadly phrase, there is an antidote: Exit the theatre, spin three times, spit, and utter a Shakespearean insult (or an equally vulgar profanity).

Bad Dress, Good Opening

Wishful thinking or not, many stage actors swear that a bad dress rehearsal portends a great opening night. This superstition's origins are unclear, maybe a producer or director trying to boost a cast's morale, but it's a comforting concept when the final dress goes south.

Theatre Contact Details

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