

Williamstown Little Theatre

Annual General Meeting 2023

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2022

It is with great pleasure I report that we have made it through 2022 having completed a customary year of five productions all on stage, without interruptions, COVID free (more or less).

The quality of the productions at Williamstown Little Theatre was acknowledged by audiences and reviewers alike, as being a range of artistically diverse and interesting productions.

Three of our productions finally made it to our stage: *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde directed by Ellis Ebell, *The River* by Jez Butterworth and directed by Therese Maurici, *Shirley Valentine* by Willy Russell and directed by Brett Turner Valenta. All three shows were remarkable not just for all aspects of their production but also for their patience and commitment. COVID put these productions to the test and they certainly passed above and beyond. Thank you to all involved in these shows in particular as they helped us get back up and running but also showed great loyalty and commitment to the company. The fourth production was one that had changes made and we thank Shirley Sydenham for stepping into the breach and directing the Craven Award winning production of *City Song* by Dylan Coburn Gray. *Around the World in Eighty Days* by Toby Hulse directed by Peter Newling gave us the perfect happy ending to our playbill leaving audiences ready to subscribe to 2023.

Thank you to all our directors and their casts and crews who ensured that WLT "came back" after COVID, with a vengeance.

Thank you again to our Play Selection committee who continue to ensure that the quality of our productions is high and we have a diverse selection of plays that entertain, challenge and delight our audiences and performers.

Our biggest performer for this year was our building - beautifully refurbished providing casts with appropriately fitted out dressing rooms, audiences with comfortable spaces and indoor facilities. Glitches have been fixed and the ongoing development of the building continues.

The Committee have worked hard this year - ensuring that all productions went ahead smoothly and efficiently. Thank you to Steve, Peter, Brian, Emma, Roger, Melanie, Alex and Tony. Your support and camaraderie is greatly appreciated, benefitting the membership and ensuring the smooth running of the company. Roles within the committee changed and with it processes, which enabled us to celebrate a complete year of great theatre.

We have a new Ticket Secretary, Andrew Wild, who has brought his vast experience into our ticketing process and has efficiently managed the coming years ticket sales. He also managed tickets for the latter part of the year. Our audiences are becoming more confident about gathering in our theatre and audience numbers have been rebuilding.

The company relies on volunteers in all aspects of our operations, getting their name in the program is one accolade but I believe we should also acknowledge their hard work and dedication to Williamstown Little Theatre. They have been active in set building, front of house, costuming, props, lighting, technical support, newsletter, as performers, directors, backstage crews, production coordinators, committee members, working bees ... when one starts to list the aspects of the theatre that is voluntary work and you see those who step up to help every time it is no wonder that Williamstown Little Theatre is held in such high regard by the local community and the theatrical community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank WLT for welcoming me back into the fold and wish you every success in the coming years, I know you are in good hands.

Celia Meehan

President WLT