

# NEWSLETTER MAY 2025

Mackay's Community Theatre since 1947



## VALE JAN SMITH



It is with great sadness that we share the news of Jan Smith's passing on 14 May.

Jan joined Mackay Community Theatre in 1960, playing two roles in a faux French farce titled *Madame Louise*, followed by *Johnny Belinda*, *The Desperate Hours* and *Pygmalion*. Other roles included Norman Thayer Jr in *On Golden Pond*, Krapp in *Krapp's Last Tape*, and the Brother in the one-man play *The Christian Brothers*. His directing skills were demonstrated in *Dear Delinquent*; *A Streetcar Named Desire*; *The Diary of Anne Frank*; *Chicago*; *Stop the World, I Want To Get Off*; *Charley's Aunt*, and *The Fantasticks*.

With his wife Lorraine, he directed *The Medium*, *The Happy Prince*, and *Amahl and the Night Visitors* at the Mackay Conservatorium.

As Director of Mackay Community Theatre he joined with Colin Paull to launch a fund-raising campaign culminating in the purchase of the Shakespeare Street premises, which was Kucom's home until December 2011.

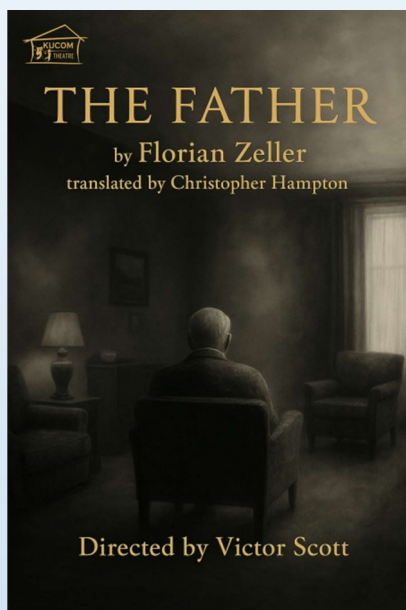
Having retired from journalism he continued to write, and at the age of 87 had three books published within twelve months: *The Glass Cricket Ball*, *Mackie and Jack*, and *Hitler's Tractor*.

Jan and his wife Lorraine were made Kucom Life Members in 2017.



## WHAT'S NEXT AT KUCOM?

**\*\* AUDITIONS \*\* AUDITIONS \*\* AUDITIONS \*\* AUDITIONS \*\***



Imagine living in a world where reality is constantly shifting – where the past and the present mix with the imagination, and paranoia creeps in. Based on a play by French writer Florian Zeller, *The Father* was released as a film in 2020, featuring Anthony Hopkins as an elderly father in the advanced stages of dementia. The film was nominated for six academy awards, as well as best actor (Hopkins) and best supporting actress (Olivia Colman).

The stage play is now coming to Kucom Theatre in Mackay for a two-week season in September, and director Victor Scott is looking for a cast that will do justice to this intriguing and challenging piece of theatre. Scott, whose directing credits for Kucom include *When the Rain Stops Falling* (2021) and *Things I Know To Be True* (2023), will be holding auditions for *The Father* in the Kucom Theatre foyer on Sunday 1 June, starting at 2pm.

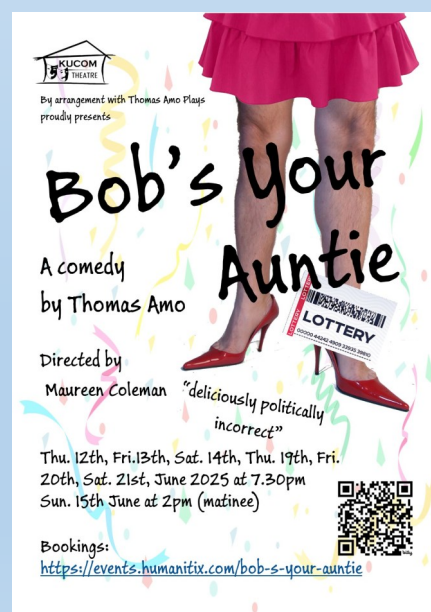
Audition packs are now available for download: <https://bit.ly/4mIXlz3>.

And in the meantime .....

### ***Bob's Your Auntie***

Don't forget to book your seats for *Bob's Your Auntie*, a deliciously politically incorrect farce directed by Maureen Coleman which opens on Thursday 12 June for a two-week season. Bookings for *Bob's Your Auntie* have been open for some time, but there are still some good seats available if you're quick. Just visit the Humanitix bookings website: <https://events.humanitix.com/bob-s-your-auntie>

For more information about these and other events coming to Kucom Theatre, visit the Kucom website [www.kucom.org.au](http://www.kucom.org.au) or the Kucom Facebook page.



## Season of One-Act Plays

Just to be different, we've turned the traditional Kucom season on its head and moved the one-act plays to the end of the year for a light-hearted leadup to the festive season. Three plays have been submitted:

- *Bloody Actors*, by Archie Wilson, directed by Amanda Lewis
- *Ashes to Dust*, a comedy by Yvette Wall, directed by Bronwyn Grannall
- *Last Tango in Little Grimley*, a comedy by David Tristram, directed by Carolyn Roche

Historical footnote: directed by Sue Stock at the old Kucom Theatre on Shakespeare Street in 1994 as part of a one-act play season titled *Sex, Love and Marriage*. Last year we revived it for a trip to the North Queensland Festival of One-Act Plays in Townsville, winning Best Play and Best Director (you can see the trophies in the display case in the Kucom foyer).

## HAPPY HOURS AND CLUB NIGHTS

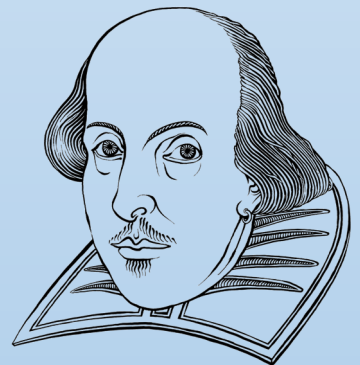
The next Happy Hour will be held on Friday 30 May.

The bar will be open from 6 to 7.30pm, and you're welcome to bring along some nibbles to share.

This will also be a great opportunity for you to meet cast members from our next production, *Bob's Your Auntie*.

### ***Anyone for Shakespeare?***

Does anyone remember *A Taste of Tudor*, staged by Kucom Theatre back in 1981? Our research suggests that was the last time we did anything remotely Shakespearean, and we've decided it's time for a revival, so on **Friday 25 July** we have a special treat in store—a Shakespeare-themed Club Night, complete with fun readings of some of the juicier scenes (of which, believe it or not, there are many in Shakespeare—have you ever watched *Upstart Crow*?).



Planning is ongoing for this, so if you have a favourite scene you'd like to try out, here's the perfect opportunity to tell us about it. You know how to get in touch with us—why not give it a go?

We'd like to set the scene for this, so forget the chips and dips, whip up some of the ancestral syllabub, and prepare for an evening of jest and jollity.



## HOUSEKEEPING



We want the theatre to be spick and span for opening night of *Bob's Your Auntie*, so there's going to be a Cleaning Bee at 10am on Sunday 8 June.

Yes, we're looking at YOU, our devoted members! The more people we have, the less time it should take—no power tools or ladders necessary, just bring your basic cleaning materials and some good old-fashioned elbow grease. Please wear closed-in footwear for safety.

## INVITATION FROM FILM & ARTS MACKAY

Film & Arts Mackay would like to invite all KUCOM members and friends to their next film night on June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Cook Theatre at the CQU Ooralea campus. Starting 7.30pm (doors close 7.25).

*Ghostlight* is about a construction worker who unexpectedly joins a local theater's production of *Romeo and Juliet*—and the drama onstage starts to mirror his own life.



Billed as Mackay's alternative cinema, Film & Arts Mackay screens great foreign and independent films at the CQ Conservatorium of Music and other locations around the Mackay region, with an annual film festival held every August.

Want more info?

<https://filmartsmackay.weebly.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/filmartsmackay>

## FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 1 June

12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21 June

Monday 23 June

Friday 25 July

Monday 25 August

Sunday 31 August

4 - 13 September

6—15 November

AUDITIONS: *The Father*

*Bob's Your Auntie*

Early Bird bookings open for *The Father*

Shakespeare Club Night

Early Bird bookings open for the one-act plays

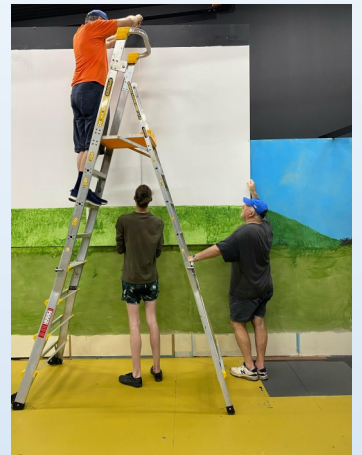
AUDITIONS: One-act plays

*The Father*

Season of One-Act Plays (details TBA)

## GALLERY

### Working bee



A huge thank-you to Dennis Rozekrans, Michael Brennan, Paul Vander Loos, Carolyn Roche, Hayley Long, Kath and Paul Evans, Carolan Hill, Maureen and Trevor Coleman for all their efforts at the Working Bee on Sunday 27 April.

### In rehearsal



**STOP RIGHT NOW!**  
**YOU'RE ALL HAVING WAY TOO MUCH FUN ....**

## **HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025?**

All Kucom memberships expired at midnight on 31 December (unless you are a Life or Honorary Member) so don't forget to renew.

Not a member yet? Here's your opportunity to become a member of Mackay's longest-running community theatre. Just click on this [link](#) to apply online, or you can download a hard copy of the membership application form [here](#).

## **CONTACT US**

### **Committee**

President: Kathryn Evans

Vice President: Hayley Long

Secretary: Bronwyn Grannall

Treasurer: Maureen Coleman

Committee Members: Michael Brennan, Amanda Lewis, Carolyn Roche

Phone 0439 684 548

Email [admin@kucom.org.au](mailto:admin@kucom.org.au)

Street address 1 Snow Wright Court, Andergrove Qld 4740

Postal address PO Box 1130, Mackay Qld 4740

Website [www.kucom.org.au](http://www.kucom.org.au)

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/kucomtheatre/>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/kucom.theatre/?hl=en>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/kucomtheatre>

ABN 27 691 742 387