



Speech by

Ronan Lee

MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY

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IGNATIANS MUSICAL SOCIETY

Mr LEE (Indooroopilly—ALP) (6.26 pm): The Ignatians Musical Society was formed in 1973 in Toowong and since then has produced no fewer than 65 shows throughout Brisbane and south-east Queensland. The Ignatians' motto is 'For the sheer fun of it' and it takes its motto very seriously.

Recently, it was an absolute pleasure to attend the opening night of the Ignatians' performance of *Cats* at the University of Queensland's Schonell Theatre. I must say that it was a stellar performance by the Ignatians. *Cats* is not a particularly easy musical to perform. I understand that the Ignatians is the third theatre group in Australia to stage *Cats*. I think the Ignatians did exceptionally well. From the moment the lights dimmed, with the audience purring with anticipation, it was a wonderful show.

I would like to mention Simone de Haas, the director of the Ignatians. She does a truly wonderful job. Harmony Lentz is the musical director and should also be congratulated. Cathy Gunton is the choreographer. Scott Bagnell is the set designer. David Law is the conductor. The music was wonderful. Aerlyn James was the director in development and also the stage manager, Natasha Hendrick was the production manager, and Derek Griffin was the sound designer. I think Ingrid Cameron did an exceptional job as dance captain and Matt Jess should be particularly congratulated on his work in lighting design. I want to also mention some of the performers. At the outset, as a TS Eliot fan, I was very pleased with Brad Ashwood's portrayal of Bustopher Jones. I thought he played that role absolutely wonderfully.

The set was stunning. Dean Prangle is a very tall man, but in playing Old Deuteronomy he was dwarfed by the large chair that the Ignatians had produced as part of the set. Alice Barbery's performance was wonderful in the role of Grizabella. I think Robert Butterworth deserves some mention, too, as Rum Tum Tugger and Craig Anderson as Skimbleshanks. Stacey Muller was Demeter. Also performing on the night, I thought particularly well, was Janet Devlin.

I could go on and on, but instead I want to say that the Ignatians are performing *Cats* until St Patrick's Day, 17 March. I would like to invite any member in the chamber to the performance. In light of some of the events today, I would like to extend a special invitation to Mike Horan to attend the St Patrick's Day performance of *Cats* with me at the Schonell Theatre.