

Leeds Arts Centre

presents

J.B. Priestley's
Famous drama mystery



An Inspector Calls

directed by Joyce M. King

at

Leeds Civic Theatre

Millennium Square/Cookridge Street

Wednesday 17th to Saturday 20th April 2002

at 7.30 pm



An Inspector Calls

JOHN BOYNTON PRIESTLEY was born in Bradford on 13th September 1894. At the age of sixteen he decided to leave school rather than work towards a University scholarship believing the world outside the classroom would help him become a writer. With the outbreak of war in 1914, Priestley joined the infantry at the age of twenty, seeing active frontline service in France. On leaving the army he finally took a place at Cambridge University to read Modern History and Political Science. Despite successfully taking his degree, he found that academic life did not suit him and in 1921 he left for London to work as a freelance writer.

His first novel "The Good Companions" (1929) became a best seller followed by "Angel Pavement" (1930). It was in 1932 at the age of thirty-eight that he wrote his first play "Dangerous Corner". Despite poor reviews in the press it had a successful run which set Priestley on to a new stage of his career.

One particular theme which recurred in such plays as "Dangerous Corner" , "I Have been here before" (1937) and "Time and the Conways" (1937) features in "An Inspector Calls" - the effect of an individual's actions over a passage of time. The audience and to a certain extent the characters are shown possible projections of their actions which contrast poignantly with their present conditions.

Priestley continued a prodigious career in writing and broadcasting during the Second World War. His later works for the stage included "An Inspector Calls" (1945) and "The Linden Tree" (1945), and a joint adaptation with the writer Iris Murdoch of her novel "A Severed Head" (1963).

He received many honours in later life including the Order of Merit conferred on him by the Queen, an honour he enjoyed until his death in 1984 at the age of 89.

Cast

Arthur Birling	Tony Nelson
Sybil Birling	Mary Nelson
Sheila Birling	Katy Cockroft
Eric Birling	Sean Murrricane
Gerald Croft	Laurie Tozcek
Inspector Goole	David Mallinson
Edna, the Maid	Christine Wilson

Directed by Joyce M King

Production Coordinator	Denise Davies
Set Design	Joyce M King
Set Construction	Martyn Drake and LAC team
Stage Manager	Martyn Drake
Lighting	Peter Waddicor
Sound	Jim Marshall
Prompt	Shirley Broadbent
Wardrobe	Jo Carr
Properties and Set Dressing	George Judd and LAC team
Box Office	Doreen Parker
Front of	Denise Davies
House Managers	LAC team
	Malcolm and Monica Brown

Civic Theatre

Theatre Manager	Steven Cartwright
Assistant Manager	Vivien Simpson
Chief Technician & Lighting	Peter Waddicor
Technicians	Sandy Clark & David Simpson
Catering (Crown Point Foods)	Shirley Tarran
Box Office	Helen Richmond, Shirley Shortall, Sylvia Gooding

In accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Sub-Committee of Leeds City Council:

- (a) The public may leave at the end of the performance by all exits and entrance doors and such doors must at all times be open
- (b) All gangways passages and staircases must be kept entirely free from chairs or any other obstruction.
- (c) Persons shall not be permitted to stand in any of the intersecting gangways, or stand in any other unseated space in the auditorium, unless standing in such space has been specially allowed by the Licensing Sub-Committee. A notice is exhibited in that part of the auditorium in which standing has been sanctioned.
- (d) The safety curtain must be lowered and raised once immediately before the commencement of each performance to show that it is in proper working order.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS was written in 1945 and first produced in Moscow where it was produced in two theatres simultaneously. The first production in this country was by the Old Vic Company in October 1946 with Ralph Richardson as the Inspector.

The play is a prime example of Priestley's social conscience at work with the added element of his earlier interest in "time". It is set in the spring of 1912. In the April of that year the "unsinkable" Titanic set out on its maiden voyage which ended disastrously on April 14th almost 90 years to the day of the opening of this production.

All three Acts, which are continuous in time are set in the dining room of the Birlings' home in Brumley, an industrial city in the North Midlands. It is an evening in Spring 1912

There will be TWO intervals of fifteen minutes during which the theatre bar will be open.

The fire surround used in this production
was kindly loaned to us by
Mark Liddle of
Leeds Fireplace Centre
Domestic Street Industrial Estate
Leeds LS11 9RT
0113 244 2114

Leeds Arts Centre

Leeds Arts Centre was formed in 1945 as an amateur society. Our members come from all walks of life and include people who have worked in the theatre, others who hope to make a career on the stage and quite a number who are very happy to remain amateurs. We're a friendly company, working together to maintain the high standards for which our productions are known. First and foremost we aim to enjoy ourselves.

Each year we produce plays at the Civic Theatre – but that's not all...

Our **Green Room** group devises plays, readings, quizzes and other entertainments to keep members not involved in current productions busy and to develop our skills in acting, directing and production.

Last, but not least, we enjoy a variety of other **social activities**, including theatre visits, outings, parties etc.

We welcome new members...

... so if you're interested in:

acting, directing, producing, set building & painting, making and repairing costumes back stage and front of house or publicity and promotion

... why not have a chat with one of our members front of house this evening or in the bar after the show. You can also write, with contact telephone number for further information to:

The Secretary
Leeds Arts Centre
C/o The Civic Theatre
Cookridge Street
Leeds LS2 8BH

Forthcoming Productions

Wednesday 12th to Saturday 15th June 2002
At 7.30pm

The Taming of the Shrew

By William Shakespeare

Directed by

Marie Lindley and Chris Hudson

Wed 16th – Sat 19th October 2002 7.30pm

The Servant of Two Masters

By Carlo Goldini

Adapted by Malcolm Brown

The next Guild production at The Civic Theatre

POPCORN

Presented by

Leeds Art Theatre

Wed 1st May – Sat 4th May 2002 7.30pm

Friends of the Civic Theatre

If you would like to support this theatre –why not join the Friends
Application forms available in the foyer