

Mercer University Theatre
presents

An Inspector Calls

by J.B. Priestley

Directed by Jason Teague
Scene Design by Jason Teague
Lighting Design by Marian Zielinski
Costumes Designed by Shelley Kuhen
Sound Design by Brenda McCann

CAST

Arthur Birling..... Charles Harris
Sybil Birling..... Suzanne Glennon
Eric Birling..... Bert Hopkins
Sheila Birling..... Monica Stevens
Gerald Croft..... Patrick Sinclair
Edward, the butler..... James Rodatus
Inspector Goole..... Heidi Hulsey

Act One

Time: Evening just after dinner, in the spring of 1912
Setting: The home of Arthur Birling and his family
in Brumley, a small industrial city in England

Act Two

The moment ending Act One

Act Three

The moment ending Act Two

There will be ten minute intermissions between acts.

Please turn off all beepers and watch alarms.

No cameras or recording devices may be used during the performance.

NEXT UP

"A Funny Thing Happened . . .
. . . On The Way To The Forum"

Mercer University Theatre presents the hilarious Tony Award-winning
Sondheim musical at The Grand Opera House.

April 22, 23 & 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Call: 752-5470 or visit the Mercer Bookstore

~Who's Who~

Natalie D'Alessandro (Stage Manager) is a junior transfer student who is working on a concentration in Drama and Theatre with a double major in English.

Suzanne Glennon (Sybil Birling) has been working since 1990 between paying gigs (teaching and directing) towards a degree in Communication and Theatre Arts, Theatre concentration from Mercer University. At Mercer she has appeared as Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as Maggie in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, as Hannah Jelko in *Night of the Iguana* and as Ma in *Da*.

Charles Harris (Arthur Birling) is a Macon resident and a retired bureaucrat. His previous productions include *The Tempest*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *School for Scandal*, *Terra Nova*, and *A Few Good Men*.

Bert Hopkins (Eric Birling) is a Maconite in his first year at Mercer. He plans to major in Political Science and something in theatre. This is his first Mercer production but he is no stranger to the stage. His credits consist of four musicals and 10-15 plays including *Little Women*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Is There Life After High School?*

Heidi E. Hulsey (Inspector Goole) is a senior Women's and Gender Studies major who plans to attend graduate school in the fall.

Sean Johnson (Technical Director) earned his B.A. in Theatre Arts from Marian College in Indianapolis, and has been working in technical theatre for the last 15 years. He also works as a free-lance scenic designer. Look for his upcoming designs for Macon College's *Cobb* and Mercer's *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

Shelley Kuhen (Costume Designer) designed three of last season's productions here at Mercer, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Da*, and *Cyrano de Bergerac*. She also designs costumes for Macon State College. This is her third year at Mercer as Costume Shop Supervisor/Designer, and she wants to thank her wonderful crew for all their hard work.

Brenda McCann (Sound Design) is a sophomore majoring in Psychology and Drama/Theatre Concentration. She has performed various tech responsibilities in the past five Mercer productions including light crew, light operator, sound operator, costume crew and construction crew.

James Rodatus (Edward, the butler) is a sophomore English major at Mercer. This is his 3rd production with Mercer Theatre. Previously James played a fop in *Cyrano de Bergerac* and he worked backstage in *Da*. He would like to thank the cast and crew for a great performance.

Patrick Sinclair (Gerald Croft) is a freshman from Gray, Georgia. He has not declared any major yet, but he hopes to major in English Education and Theatre in order to be a drama teacher. This is Patrick's second show at Mercer, after his debut with *The Good Doctor*. He spends his free time with friends and doing anything but studying.

Monica Stevens (Sheila Birling) is a junior at Mercer who is majoring in English and Communication/Theatre Arts.

Jason Teague (Director, Scene Designer) is a senior student of English and Theatre at Mercer. This production marks his first mainstage directing and scenic design project. Other design credits include lighting for *Extremities* and *Cyrano de Bergerac*.

Ashley Whitten (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior pursuing a Drama and Theatre Concentration, an English minor, and an Art minor. Working primarily backstage this year, Ashley stage managed Mercer Theatre's production of *Extremities* and was the costume mistress for *The Good Doctor*.

Marian Zielinski (Lighting Designer) is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication and Theatre Arts at Mercer. She has designed sets, costumes, and/or lighting for over fifty Mercer productions. Marian has also designed for the professional stage, including the Illinois Shakespeare Festival and the Shawnee Theatre. She earned a BA in Theatre from the State University of New York at Buffalo and her MFA from Illinois State University. Last semester she directed *The Good Doctor* at the Grand Opera House which toured to Kitakyushu, Japan, to perform during the city's celebration of International Week. Travelling to Japan with her husband, Dr. Frank Macke, and six of Mercer's finest students has been the highlight of her tenure at Mercer.

Production Staff

Director Jason Teague
Scene Designer Jason Teague
Costume Designer Shelley Kuhlen
Lighting Designer Marian Zielski
Stage Manager Natalie D' Alessandro
Assistant Stage Manager Ashley Whitten
Technical Director Sean Johnson
Set Crew Merideth Kirkland, Courtney O'Neill, Marlene Silva,
..... Mike Troyer, Wade Williams, Ashley Whitten, Jennifer Wright
Costume Crew Shelley Kuhlen, Jessica Murphy, Brenda McCann,
..... Marian McHugh, Courtney O'Neill, Ashley Whitten
Running Crew Stephanie Reavis
Master Electrician Courtney O'Neill
Light Board Operator Courtney O'Neill

Special Thanks . . . to "Uncle" Robert Wettlaufer, whose care and insight into the lives of these characters has had a tremendous impact on this production.

Director's Notes

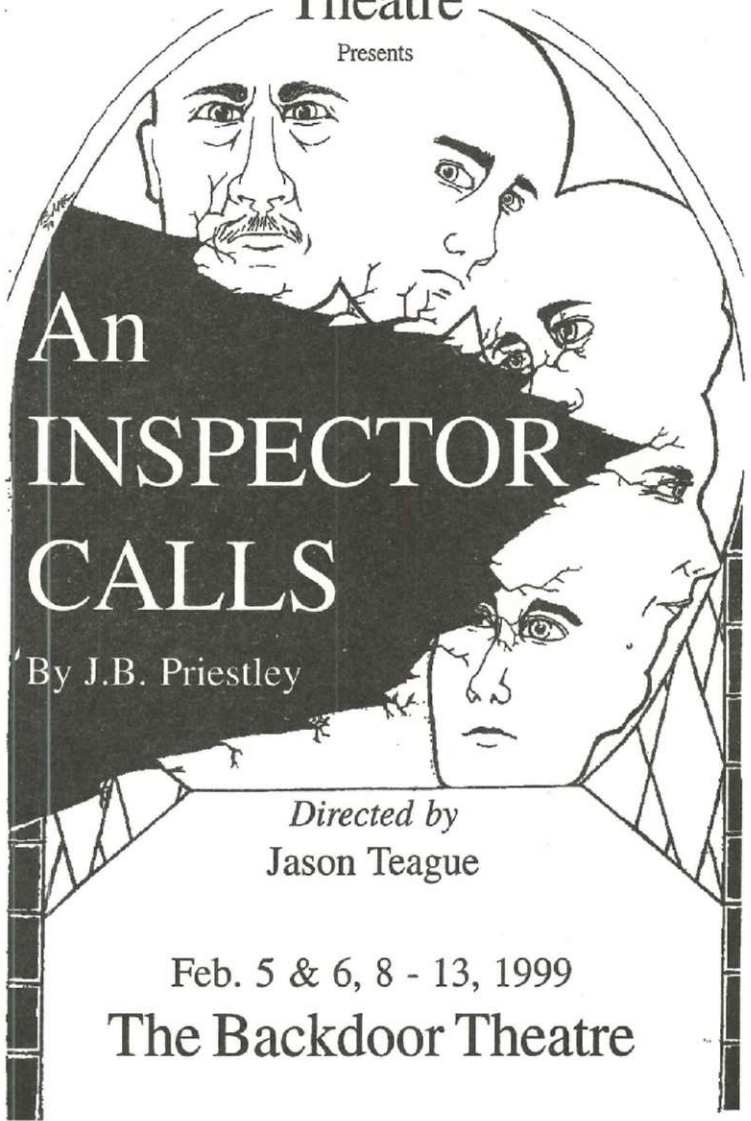
A director for the theatre has many difficult tasks. Choosing plays for production appropriate for the company and for its audiences is one of the most difficult tasks one faces in this role. There were many reasons for selecting *An Inspector Calls* for this project. First of all, it is a play I fell in love with the first time I read it some years ago. It is an exciting play and its themes hold great significance looking back at the intellectual transition from the Modern era to the Postmodern world in which we now live. Another reason for choosing from among Priestley's work is that he is a dramatist from the 1930's and 40's who was essentially forgotten after the drama of the 1950's took the stage until only very recently—seven or eight years ago—when revivals of *Inspector* and others of Priestley's 49 plays began to achieve great success in New York and London.

The most compelling reason for producing *Inspector* is that this is simply a play which must be seen. The Birlings are people much like ourselves. We see their hopes, dreams, and ambitions and must realize that these are essentially the same as our own. They believe just as passionately about their lives as we do ours. We must not see them as something less than human because of their downfall, but as a synthesis of everything it means to be human. They are more than we are, and so their potential tragic end must frighten us beyond our personal fears and insecurities. Because of them, we need to be better for each other. I have learned a great deal from the Birlings; I have learned even more from the actors who have for the past five weeks confronted on a daily basis both the wretchedness and nobility of being human. I sincerely hope this play means as much to you as it does to us.

~Jason Teague~

Mercer University Theatre

Presents



An INSPECTOR CALLS

By J.B. Priestley

Directed by
Jason Teague

Feb. 5 & 6, 8 - 13, 1999
The Backdoor Theatre