

COMPANY THEATRE

An Inspector Calls

By J.B. Priestley.

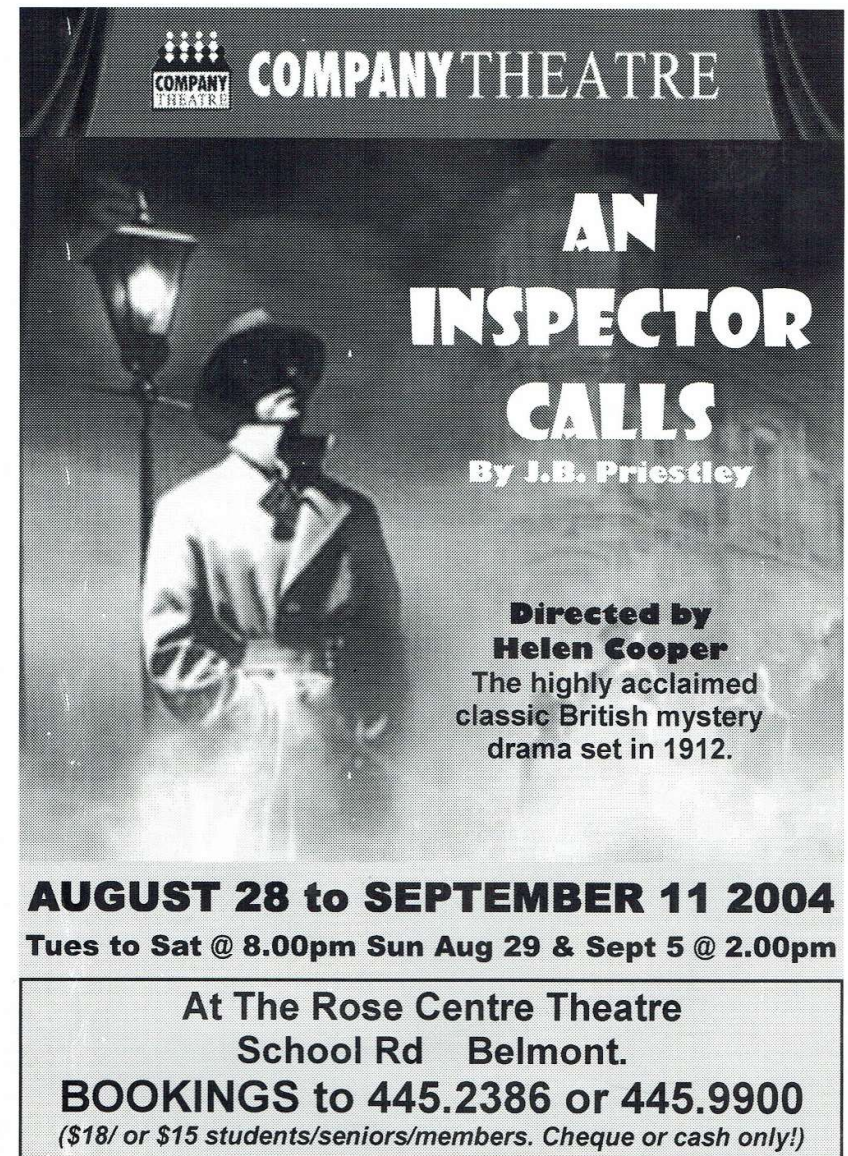
Directed by
Helen Cooper

28th August to
11 September 2004
Tues-Sat @ 8.00pm

Sun 29th August
& 5th September
@ 2.00pm

The highly acclaimed classic British mystery drama set in 1912.
At The Rose Centre Theatre, School Rd, Belmont

Bookings to 445.2386 or 445.9900
(\$18/ or \$15 students/seniors/members. Cheque or cash only!)



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Cast in no particular order:

SHEILA STEVENS

In the 80's and 90's, Sheila was part of a thriving local children's theatre group using puppets and fantasy to entertain younger children. Soon afterwards she became an active member of Company Theatre but her involvement has been mostly behind the scenes. She says that playing Mrs Birling has been a challenging and wonderful opportunity.

DAVID STEADMAN

David has performed in various theatrical productions around Auckland including "The Cherry Orchard" for Company Theatre. David can also be seen performing stand up comedy at the Classic Comedy Bar on Queen Street.

NIGEL FLOCKHART

Nigel has been a member of Company Theatre for the past 8 years and has appeared in numerous productions as well as currently serving as Committee Secretary. He first studied "AIC" at High School and has revelled in playing a "cad about town" complete with specially grown moustache !!!

HANNA CRAVEN-MCLEAY

Hanna has appeared in several high school productions, including Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and *Pericles*. This, however is her first major role in a play.

JOHN WILSON

John has acted in various roles, primarily Shakespeare, for several companies in the last five years and relishes this chance to work with Company and Helen. He is Vice President of Shoreside Theatre.

RICHARD PARMEE

Richard has been involved with Company Theatre for nine years and has played many roles in numerous productions. Last year he was Aubrey in *Tons Of Money*, Frank in a *Memory of Water* and Stanley in the hilarious comedy *Run For Your Wife*. He is currently Vice President for Company and technical adviser to the Rose Centre. The part of *The Inspector* is one he has always wanted to play and he is thoroughly enjoying the opportunity.

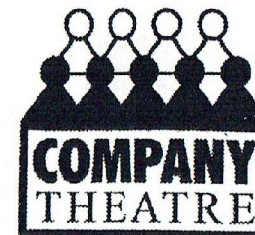
MAUREEN KENNY

Maureen Kenny is another long term valuable member of Company Theatre who specialises in preparing the properties for many of our shows. She originally volunteered to be a prompt and after this first acting experience as the Maid, she says she would much prefer to remain out the back amongst the properties and never appear on stage again!

Acknowledgements: Shoreside Theatre, Phil Davis and Torbay Dramatic, Geoff Jull, Junk and Disorderly, Shirley Elliott, Molly Clarke, Anne Rimmer, Steve Wright, Ann & Grant Vaughan, Auckland Music Theatre.

www.companytheatre.co.nz

Next year will be the 25th anniversary of Company Theatre. We began in 1980 with just nine members who are represented and remembered in our logo.



AN INSPECTOR CALLS

By J.B. Priestley

Directed by HELEN COOPER



28 August
to
11 September
2004

Bookings: 4452386

CAST



EDNA, THE MAID.....MAUREEN KENNY
 ARTHUR BIRLING..... JOHN WILSON
 SYBIL BIRLING.....SHEILA STEVENS
 ERIC BIRLING..... DAVID STEADMAN
 SHEILA BIRLING.....
HANNA CRAVEN-MCLEAY
 GERALD CROFT.....NIGEL FLOCKHART
 INSPECTOR GOOLE.....RICHARD PARMEE

The action of the play is continuous and takes place in the dining-room of the Birlings' house in Brumley, an industrial city in the North of England. An evening in spring, 1912. There is one short scene break within each Act.



INTERVAL
 There will be one interval of 15 minutes.



We serve Cooper's Creek Wines.

CREW



DIRECTOR..... HELEN COOPER
 PRODUCTION MANAGER. SHERRY EDE
 REHEARSAL PROMPT.....SHERRY EDE
 STAGE MANAGER LYNNE DAVIS
 COSTUMESCATHIE SANDY
 WARDROBE Assistant.....GAIL CURRAN
 PROPERTIES.....MAUREEN KENNY
 SET BUILDING MANAGER: TONY SANDY
 Set Building Team:..... PHIL DAVIS,
 RICHARD PARMEE, HELEN COOPER,
 ANNE RIMMER, CAROLINE PARKER,
 BOB STEVENS, GRAHAM WAGSTAFF
 LIGHTING DESIGN.....PHIL SEARLE
 LIGHTING OPERATOR.....PHIL SEARLE
 SOUND DESIGN.....HELEN COOPER
 SOUND OPERATOR.....MARK HIGGINS
 PUBLICITY; PHOTOS; PROGRAMME and
 FRONT OF HOUSE.....SHERRY EDE
 BAR MANAGER.....TONY SANDY

This production is dedicated to the memory of Doug Bourke. See Foyer for more details.

THE PLAY

- Notes from the Director

I first became attracted to Priestley, as a playwright, about 8 years ago when I appeared in one of his earlier plays "*Time and The Conways*". I was fascinated by his examination of the human condition.

"*An Inspector Calls*" is so jam packed with allegories and subtext that I could write so much more than space allows! What does stand out about this play to me, is an analysis and strong criticism by Priestley, of the British class system that existed in England.

Via Inspector Goole (one could almost refer to him as "in spectre Ghoul") and his interrogations, we see Priestley apply his devoutly socialist inclinations on to the Birling family, to make them account for their "crimes and idiocies" towards the lower classes.

What makes this play still so relevant, today, and what sees it constantly revived worldwide, is the message that we must ALL be aware of how we treat others in our day to day lives as we just never know what ramifications our actions or a careless or flippant remark can have on those we meet.

On behalf of the cast and crew I hope you enjoy our production of "*An Inspector Calls*".
Helen Cooper, Director.

The Director – HELEN COOPER

An Inspector Calls marks a couple of "firsts" for Helen; the first time directing for Company and the first show that she has directed in NZ since arriving three years ago from her native UK. However, she is no stranger to the director's seat having directed her first show, a production of "*The Boyfriend*" at the age of 17. Helen has previously been seen on stage for Company playing Sandra in "*Curtain Up on Murder*" in 2002; and Eileen in "*The Sex Fiend*" in the same year. More recently, she appeared with Mairangi Players in the NZ premiere of "*The Talented Mr Ripley*" playing the dual roles of Aunt Dotty and Emily and has also featured in a number of films and TV commercials made locally in the past year or so. A committee member for the past two years, Helen is also the current Editor of the Company Theatre newsletter. From the outset Helen has been passionate about this play and hopes the audiences enjoy the show as much as she has.

**For Membership of Company Theatre
 phone Sheila on 445.6580.**

Our EMAIL LIST IS FREE!

Our next production

UP FOR GRABS by David Williamson.

A sexy, Australian comedy!

Directed by Richard Parmee

20 November - 4 December 2004.

www.companytheatre.co.nz

2004 AN INSPECTOR CALLS

Written at the end of the Second World War, and set before the First, *An Inspector Calls* is a compelling and haunting thriller, which examines in depth the human conscience and how our actions can affect those around us without us even being conscious of this. I am absolutely delighted to have the opportunity to direct this masterpiece which provides some superb roles for our talented members to get their teeth into!

A well to do, middle class family, the Birlings of Brunley are celebrating the engagement in 1912 of their daughter, Sheila to Gerald Croft, local landowner, a dynastic marriage in terms of the prosperous business classes of the Midlands of England. Mr Birling owns a local factory and hopes for a knighthood, the ultimate accolade for the aspiring. His wife Mrs Birling already acts the grande dame; with all the pretension and none of the responsibility or gentility. The Birlings' son Eric is lazy and a drunkard, having never worked a day in his life. Into this family gathering arrives the mysterious inspector who has come to investigate the death of a destitute girl who has committed suicide by swallowing disinfectant. Slowly the inspector reveals the part that each member of the gathering has playing in the girl's descent. To say any more at this stage would be to spoil the experience!!!

Classic drama when An Inspector Calls

Members of Company Theatre are in the final rehearsal stages for their third show this season, the classic mystery drama, 'An Inspector Calls' by the highly acclaimed British playwright, J.B. Priestley.

The play opens with the Birling family (see photo) celebrating the engagement of their only daughter, Sheila, to the son of a wealthy business rival.

This happy occasion is interrupted by the arrival of a mysterious police Inspector, played by Company Theatre's Richard Parmee, who brings some disturbing news about a girl who has just died in the local hospital.

The Inspector then takes individual members of the family on a roller coaster ride in an investigation that changes their lives forever. Some people may have seen the classic 1940s film version of the play, starring the wonderful Alistair Sim as the Inspector

Other members of the cast are Nigel Flockhart, playing the wealthy son-in-law-to-



THE FAMILY: Back row left to right, Nigel Flockhart, David Steadman and John Wilson. Front left to right Hanna Craven-McCleay and Sheila Stevens.

be, Gerald Croft; David Steadman, who returns to Company after a two year break to play the son, Eric; Devonport resident, Sheila Stevens, who has helped behind the scenes on many Company productions and now takes to the stage in the part of the rather overbearing

Mrs Birling. John Wilson as Mr Birling and Hanna Craven-McCleay as the daughter Sheila, complete the main members of the cast whilst Maureen Kenny makes her first brief stage appearance as the maid.

President of Company and Production



THE INSPECTOR: Played by Richard Parmee.

Manager Sherry Ede, says that for this stage of proceedings, bookings are exceptionally good, with four nights already sold out. To avoid disappointment she encourages an early phone booking.

This drama has long been regarded as one of the classic plays and is constantly revived around the world. Director, Helen Cooper promises an entertaining evening of high intrigue! Wonderful 1912 period costumes have been created by the talented Cathie Sandy, and lighting is by Phil Searle.

Audiences can expect the usual warm welcome from the Company Theatre volunteers, with mulled wine on the menu at the bar, to warm you on the cold winters evening.

The season runs from August 28 - September 11 at 8pm at The Rosecentre in Belmont, with matinee on Sunday September 5 at 2pm. Tickets are only \$18 or \$15 for seniors, students or Company Theatre members. Bookings can be made on 445-2386. Please note that there are no eftpos facilities at the theatre.