

John Boynton Priestley (1894-1984)

John Priestley was born at in Bradford, England on 13th September 1894. He was not given a middle name by his parents but adopted Boynton later in life.

Tragedy struck the young Priestley very early in life when his mother died soon after giving birth to him. At the age of 17 he went to work in the wool trade. He had, though, made up his mind to be a writer and spent much of his spare time writing in his front attic. His first published piece appeared in the *London Opinion* in 1913.

His comfortable existence in the City was rudely interrupted by the outbreak of war and, in September 1914, he joined the 10th Duke of Wellington's. In France nearly two years later he was badly injured by a mortar bomb and had only been back at the front for a few months after recovering when the armistice was signed.

Within a year of the war ending Priestley married Pat Tempest, a neighbour from Bradford, and accepted a place at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he read modern history and political science. In 1922, having completed his degree, he moved, with his wife to London where he took up the life of a professional writer. His work, including *An Inspector Calls* confirmed him as a major literary talent.

He died on 14th August 1984 just short of his 90th birthday. His ashes are buried at Hubberholme in Upper Wharfedale.

COMING ATTRACTION

Agatha Christie's murder mystery *The Unexpected Guest* is our next production.

Directed by Joyce Birch, this rivetting whodunit will be sure to keep you on the edge of your seat. It opens on 28 Oct and performs on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8.00 p.m. and Sundays at 4.30 p.m. until 16 Dec. There will be no performances between September 10 and October 27 due to maintenance work in the theatre.

The Genesian Theatre History

The building which houses the Genesian Theatre Company Inc dates from 1868. It served as both a church and a poor school until 1932 when it became the Kursaal Theatre, housing the Sydney Repertory Company. In 1938 it became the first Matthew Talbot hostel. Since 1954 it has been the home of the Genesian Theatre Company which was formed in 1944 and took its name from Saint Genesius, the patron saint of actors.

Over the years the Genesian Theatre Company has developed into a community theatre group providing a training ground for young actors and a place where those who love the theatre can meet, share and extend their knowledge of the performing arts.

If you would like to add your name to our mailing list or join the Genesian Theatre Company, please write to: GPO Box 1988, Sydney, NSW 1043 or e-mail

genesiantheatre@hotmail.com



Wilson's Car Park

Wilson's Kent St Car Park diagonally opposite the theatre offers a \$6.00 flat rate to all our patrons attending Saturday and Sunday performances. For this discount rate please present your Genesian Theatre ticket stub together with your parking ticket to the cashier at the carpark as you leave.

GENESIAN THEATRE Inc
420 Kent St Sydney

By special arrangement with Dominie Pty Ltd

presents

An Inspector Calls

By J.B. Priestley



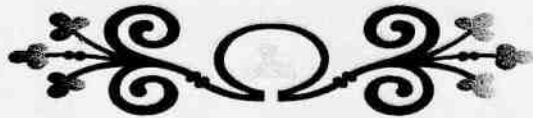
Season 22nd July to 9th September,
2000

Friday, Saturday 8.00pm,
Sunday 4.30pm

For Bookings call MCA ticketing
(02) 9873 3575

Director's Notes

An Inspector Calls by JB Priestley was first presented in London on October 1946. Vincent Brown notes in his biography of Priestley that he originally had 'an idea about a mysterious inspector visiting a family....before the (Second World)War. The play is set inside the backdrop of the impending First World War which clashes with the optimism of Mr Birling, the patriarch of the family and the less certain future for his children and his grandchildren, in the catastrophe which Priestley was living through when he wrote the play. The inspector is like a Greek chorus . He prophesies the future of a society which permits the selfish and acquisitive conduct of the Birling and Croft families who as representatives of their community, live out this night suspended between their apparent present and the impending future.



Synopsis of Scenes

All three acts, which are continuous, take place in the dining-room of the Birlings' house in Brumley, an industrial city in the North Midlands.

It is an evening in Spring, 1912.

ACT 1 Early evening.

ACT 2 Later, the same evening.

ACT 3 Midnight, the same evening.

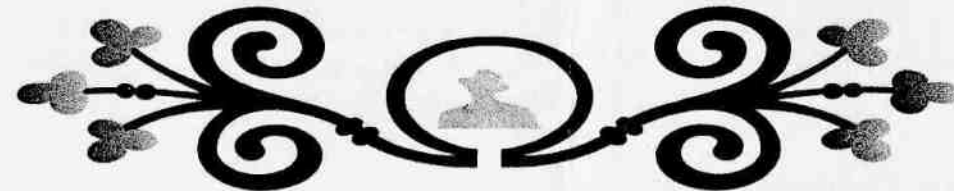
**There will be an interval of 15 minutes
between each act.**

Cast

Arthur Birling.....	Dave Kirkham
Gerald Croft.....	Jason Murdoch
Sheila Birling.....	Ann Leslie
Sybil Birling.....	Caroleen Heaton
Edna.....	Janet McCauley
Eric Birling.....	Marc Taylor
Inspector Goole.....	Barry Jenkins

Directed by Brian Donovan

Designed by Peter Henson



Assistant to the director.....	Roger Gimblett
Stage Manager.....	Eric Bicknell
Assistant Stage Manager.....	James Wright
Set and Costume Design.....	Peter Henson
Lighting Design.....	Eric Bicknell
Lighting Operator.....	Diane Henderson
Sound Design.....	John O'Brien-Hall
Sound Operator.....	Genevieve La Rosa
	Janet Poole
Publicity and Program.....	Meg Carroll
	Gary Dooley
Furniture Restoration.....	Caroleen Heaton

Set construction by members of the Genesian company, cast and crew