

Charlton Kings Community Players
present

'An Inspector Calls'

by J. B. Priestley



on 31st October, 1st and 2nd November 1996
at Balcarras School Hall

PROGRAMME

A donation from the proceeds of this production will be made
towards the purchase of the new Old People's Welfare ambulance.

AUDITIONS

'AN INSPECTOR CALLS' by J.B. Priestley

After discussion at the AGM the new Committee confirmed that our next major production will be 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B. Priestley which we hope will be staged at Balcarras School in the half-term week, 31st October - 2nd November 1996. We are awaiting confirmation that we can again use their wonderful hall, but this time I would like to stage the play 'in the round' on rostra in the auditorium, using the stage as changing rooms.

For those who do not know the play, it is a tense human drama in which a well-to-do family are all in turn revealed to have been involved in the suicide of a young girl as the result of the questioning of a mysterious police inspector who drops in as they celebrate the daughter's engagement. To strengthen the message of community responsibility I intend to update the production and to set it in modern times (probably London) with a very simple open set.

Unfortunately the cast consists of only two ladies and four gentlemen, although all of the parts are substantial characters and there is quite an age spread. There are the father and mother, daughter (24+) and fiancé (28+) and younger brother (18), although the older ages could be raised. It so happens that it is a GCSE set book from next September which should not only help ticket sales, but could lead to our 'touring' local schools! A double cast was suggested at the AGM not only with this in mind but also to provide understudies in case of illness, but this requires further thought.

In parallel to this production there will be a number of other activities that will provide opportunities for those not involved in 'An Inspector Calls'. We are preparing a short drama for the Good Friday 'Walk of Witness' and another for the open-air Pentecost Service, both of which will need actors, and maybe dancers. There is a plan for an evening of drama and singing in at least two of our churches, Sacred Hearts and Holy Apostles, and an evening of two one-act plays with a musical performance (eg as 'Noah'). Both of these productions will give those thinking about directing a chance to 'have a go'.

In order to let everyone know early whether or not they are in 'An Inspector Calls', we have agreed that auditions will be on

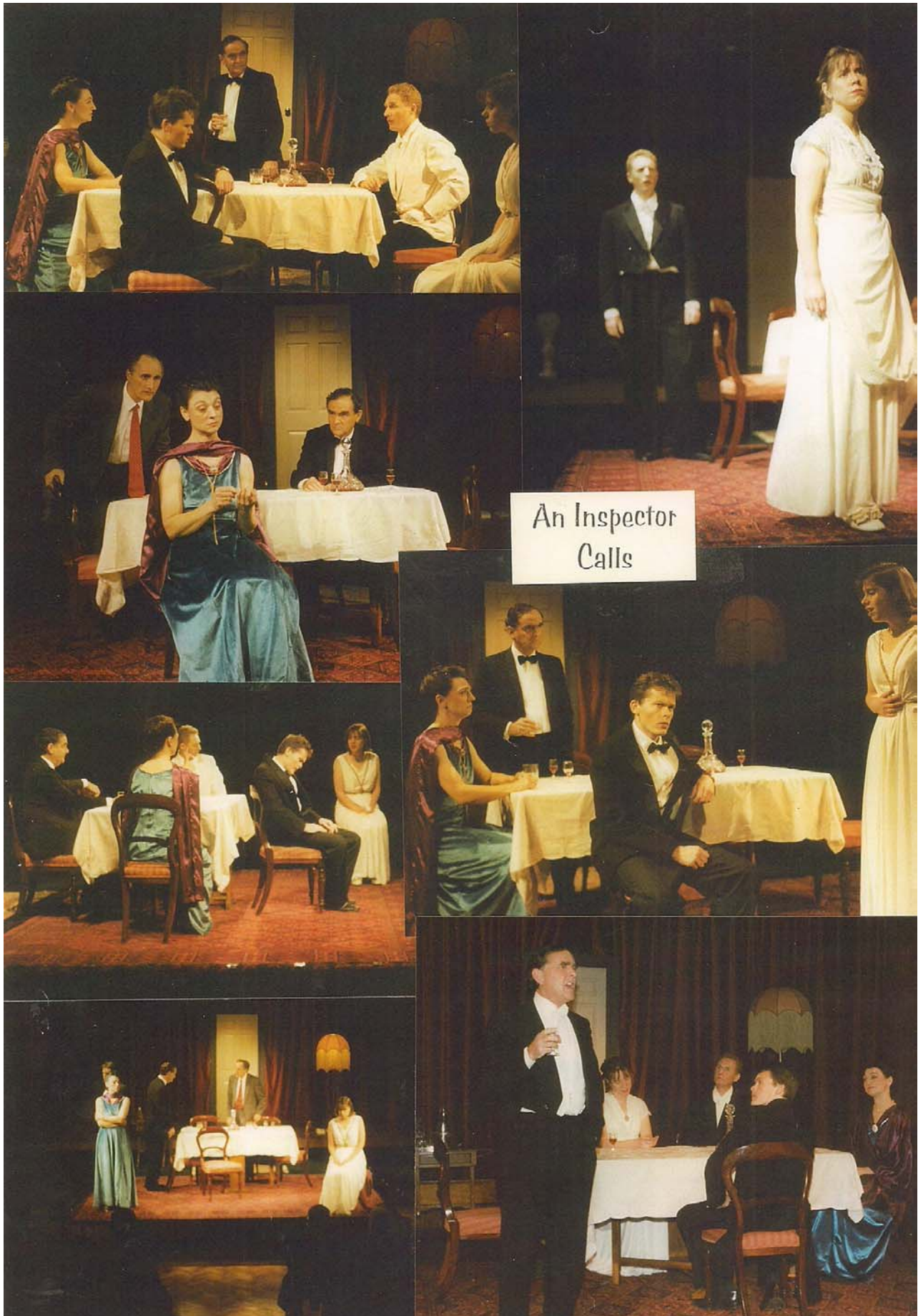
Tuesday 23rd April and Thursday 25th April 1996

at Charlton Kings Junior School beginning at 7.30 pm.

Scripts will be available from June Pearce (516953) or myself (526947) from the middle of March. Because characterisation and team playing are going to be very important in this production I would urge everyone interested to read at least the part of the play in which their character is questioned before coming to the audition. I look forward to seeing you there! Do give me a call if you have any queries that I may be able to answer at this early stage or if you can't manage either of the two dates. Rehearsals will not start before June.

Peter Grainger

March 1996 Charlton Kings Community Players newsletter









CAST

Arthur Birling	Martyn Fry
Sybil Birling	Lynne Glover
Sheila Birling	Kate Nye
Eric Birling	Andy Cleary
Edna	Mary-Ann Davies
Gerald Croft	Don Goold
Inspector	John Palmer
Producer	Peter Grainger
Lighting	Chris Ramshaw
Set	Ray Talbot
Costumes	Joyce Brooks
Stage Manager	Alison Luna
Props	Tricia Ratcliffe
Hair Advisor	Sue Travaskis
Make-up Support	Jill Richell, Claire Baker, and Alison Mansfield
Front of House	Peter Collins and assistants

There will be one interval of 20 minutes in the course of Act II.

Publicity	Lynne Glover, Melanie Stern, Tricia Ratcliffe and Kate Nye
Drawing of the girl	Ian Alexander
Photography	Barry Curl
Displays	Jill Richell and Michelle Grainger
School Liaison	June Pearce

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Welcome and thank you for supporting another *Community Players'* production .

The contrast between this production and the last, *'Oh What A Lovely War'*, could hardly be greater. Last time we had forty cast members on stage, this time only six and a half! Last time we had numerous short scenes, from Flanders fields, Waterloo Station and Sarajevo to a North country factory; this time we are spending a single evening with a single family around a single dining-room table.

As many of you are aware, Priestley set the play in 1912 with the irony of the approaching First World War all too apparent in the early pages.. The two productions therefore have links as well as marked contrasts. But most importantly the messages of the play have deep resonances for today, which was a powerful reason for our choosing it.

Those who have seen the recent National Theatre production will notice a marked contrast in both perspective and time. We have focused on the intimacy and topicality of the developing family situation, using a small 'thrust' acting area. So many know and love the play - despite, or maybe because of, its place in the exam curriculum! - and all of us, I know, have been completely won over by the twists and turns of the unfolding drama.

The play has given us the opportunity to welcome two newcomers to acting. Since those acting with us must live, work or worship in the parishes of the Charlton Kings churches, we are delighted to be 'growing our own' and are always on the look-out for new and local talent, be it acting or singing.

We are very pleased this year to be able to help the older members of the community by making a donation to the Old People's Welfare ambulance. For many old and disabled people this ambulance is the only means by which they can get out of their homes. There will be a collection at the end of each performance as you leave and we would ask you to give generously.

For the first time we are putting on two major productions in the same twelve month period. In order to respond to all our frustrated actresses we have chosen a one-act play, *'Edward'* by local writer Margaret Wood, which has, believe it or not, an all-female cast! We welcome Pat Hunt for her first production with us, and the evening will begin with a Frank Wood creation which he has entitled *'A Kaleidoscope of Romance'*. The production will be at Charlton Kings Junior School in March next year, and we hope you will give it your usual support.

Thank you again for coming and enjoy your evening.

Peter Grainger

Publicity displays for *An Inspector Calls*

We are trying to get together a publicity display for *An Inspector Calls* based on the fact that the fiftieth anniversary of the first London production falls during October 1996 - neatly coinciding with our production.

Do you have any photographs of the following subjects that you could lend us please? Encyclopaedias and books of photographs have so far proved to be good sources, but we have also found suitable photographs in the most unlikely looking books and magazines. We do need more though, so could you please look through your bookshelves and photograph albums?

All from late 1940s unless otherwise indicated.

Copies will be used in the display

- Ralph Richardson
- People smoking
- Blackpool tower
- Cannes Film Festival
- Still from the 1946 film *Brief Encounter*
- Comet Giacobini-Zinner
- Franklin D Roosevelt
- Group of girls
- Girls & young men dancing
- Paris Peace Conference 1946
- Eiffel tower
- United Nations
- Berlin - elections of 1946
- Nurses
- Volcano erupting
- Cunard White Star Liner *Queen Elizabeth*
- Low horse power cars of the late 1940s - particularly those seen at the 1946 Paris International Motor Show e.g. the 3 wheeled Mathis, 3 HP Dyna Panhard, 4 HP Renault.
- New Bodleian building - preferably the opening ceremony 24/10/46.

We are also looking for items for use in the displays in the library and Lyefield Road Post Office, particularly women's possessions such as small handbags, evening bags, jewellery, gloves, scarves, photographs and pieces of lace. Do you have anything that you could lend us please? We'd be very grateful and take great care of it.

Contact Lynne Glover 01242 524715 -*Many thanks!*

September 1996 Charlton Kings Community Players newsletter