

ANTHONY SHAFFER's

# WHODUNNIT



15 - 18  
May 2013

A taped message, from the disguised voice of a murderer, tells the audience what they're about to see isn't just another murder/mystery and it's up to them to help solve the case.

The playwright who brought you *Sleuth* once again amusingly proves "the truth can be shown upside down" ..

## GOLD CARD HOLDER

FOUR PLAYS for LESS THAN the price of THREE!

Vouchers for 4 tickets ("Single") or 8 tickets ("Double") included - you choose which plays to use them for & how many!

### PLUS

- ⇒ Free Season Preview Evening Invitation
- ⇒ Free Quarterly Newsletter, *Prompt Please*
- ⇒ Advance Notification of News and Events

- JOIN NOW -

£ 25.00 (Single) / £ 45.00 (Double)

See Front of House / Brochure for details

[www.banburycrossplayers.co.uk](http://www.banburycrossplayers.co.uk)



JB PRIESTLEY's

# An Inspector Calls



[www.banburycrossplayers.co.uk](http://www.banburycrossplayers.co.uk)

Mar 2013

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Banbury Cross Players' Spring production of J B Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*. We are incredibly excited to perform this piece for you tonight for many reasons not least of which is the Treasurer's joy at the unprecedented ticket sales this production has returned!



BCP prides itself on vibrancy and development of our society and we are proud to boast four actors performing with us for the first time this evening.

Tonight, we take you back to 1912, before the horror of the First World War and at a time when the mighty Titanic was deemed an unsinkable giant. First produced in 1946, the play deals with issues of exploitation, abandonment and the values of a society seemingly removed from our own.

*An Inspector Calls* should have been BCP's second production this season but the November monsoon meant that our much anticipated (and equally sold out) production of Tim Firth's *Calendar Girls* had to be re-scheduled for November 2013.

We look forward to entertaining you in May 2013 with Anthony Schaffer's *Whodunnit* - a period mystery/comedy piece - or is it? Cleverly written with a clue-laden narrative from the murderer, we challenge you to uncover the perpetrator from the six classic Cluedo-like suspects amidst the web of intrigue.

We would encourage anyone with a love of theatre, keen to get involved on stage or off, to come and see what we do at BCP first-hand. More information is available on our website [www.banburycrossplayers.co.uk](http://www.banburycrossplayers.co.uk). You'll find details of our *Gold Card Holder* scheme - which offers great discounts for our entire season - both on the website and in our Season Brochure (available in the foyer).



Thank you for your continued support of Banbury Cross Players and we look forward to welcoming you again in May!

**Tara Lacey**  
Chairman



**noun (plural societies)**  
the aggregate of people living together  
in a more or less ordered community

*oxforddictionaries.com*

"I could not be entirely serious  
about anything, except the well  
being of our Society itself"

*J B Priestley*  
1962



"There is no such thing as Society.  
There are individual men and  
women and there are families."

*Margaret Thatcher*  
*Women's Own magazine*  
31 October 1987

"There is such a thing as society.  
It's just not the same thing as the  
state."

*David Cameron*  
*After winning the Conservative Party  
leadership contest*  
6 December 2005



**Director**

Terry Gallagher

**Stage Manager**

Janice Lake

**ASM**

Kate Fricke

**Lighting**

John Hicks

Linda Shaw

**Sound**

Jason Bennett

Mark Neale

**Props**

Becs Calverley

Marilyn Fairbairn

**Costume**

Jane Shanahan

**Hair**

Anne Twigg

**Make Up**

Jenny Tustian

**Set Construction**

Richard Ashby

Nik Lester

**Prompt**

Anne Bloor

**Production Manager**

Dave Robinson

**Creative Team**

Mark Neale

Richard Oliver

# An Inspector Calls

## CAST

Arthur Birling  
 Sybil Birling  
 Sheila Birling  
 Eric Birling  
 Gerald Croft  
 Edna  
 Inspector Goole  
 Eva Smith/Daisy Renton



Peter Bloor  
 Trish Thompson  
 Victoria Harvey-Jones  
 Thomas Perry  
 Ian Nutt  
 Camilla Betts  
 Bruce Walton  
 Helena Boughton

**The action, which is continuous, takes place during one evening  
 in April 1912 in the dining room of the Birlings' house in Brumley  
 (an industrial city in the North Midlands)**

*There will be one interval of 15 minutes*

Patrons are requested to switch off mobile phones before the performance begins  
 and are reminded that photography and video recording is strictly prohibited

Emergency exits are to the left of the stage area and to the rear of the auditorium

In case of emergency, please follow instruction from Front of House staff

**Front of House Managers**

Dave Ellis, Mike Jack

**Foyer Display**

Clare Lester

Members of the Society  
 built the Set and  
 staffed Front of House

The Mill Management & Staff  
 Banbury Guardian  
 The Banbury Cake  
 Radio Horton  
 Castle Quay Shopping Centre  
 Fairprint UK  
 Pan Designs  
 St Mary's Church  
 KallKwik  
 Holt Hotel

Simon Lutter, A D & D Photographic Society  
 Marlborough Rd Methodist Church  
 Banbury Town Council  
 Bradford Industrial Museum  
 Brenda Leedham  
 1460 (Banbury) Squadron ATC  
 Laura Boffin



**John Boynton Priestley**, OM, was born in 1894 in Manningham, which he described as an "ultra-respectable" suburb of Bradford. His father was a headmaster and his mother died when he was just two years old. His father remarried four years later.

He left school, aged sixteen, to work as a junior clerk at Helm & Co, a wool firm, and during his time there started writing at night. He had articles published in both local and London newspapers.

Priestley served during the First World War and was wounded in 1916 by mortar fire. After his military service he received a university education at Trinity Hall, Cambridge and by the age of 30 he had established a reputation as a humorous writer and critic.

His first major success came with the novel *The Good Companions* which earned him the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for fiction and made him a national figure.

He moved into a new genre and became equally well known as a dramatist. *Dangerous Corner* was the first of a series of plays that enthralled West End theatre audiences. Many of his works have a socialist aspect. *An Inspector Calls*, for example, contains many references to socialism - the Inspector arguably an alter ego through which Priestley could express his own views.



During the Second World War he was a regular broadcaster on the BBC with his *Postscripts* - short talks following the Sunday evening news - drawing peak audiences of 16 million!

Priestley chaired The 1941 Committee and was a co-founder of the Socialist Commonwealth Party. The political content of his broadcasts and his hopes of a new and different England after the war influenced the politics of the period and helped the Labour Party gain its landslide victory in the 1945 general election. He went on to be a founding member of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in 1958.

The University of Bradford awarded Priestley the title of Honorary Doctor of Letters in 1970 and he was given the Freedom of the City of Bradford in 1973.

He died on the 13th August 1984 and his ashes are buried at the church at Hubberholme in the Yorkshire Dales.