

2023
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An

INSPECTOR CALLS

by J.B. Priestley



SEPTEMBER 15
THRU
OCTOBER 7,
2023

Directed by JAMES RICE

Produced by LYND SAY PALMER & MARTY FELDMAN

AN INSPECTOR CALLS is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

 Kentwood
Players
proudly presents

An

INSPECTOR CALLS



DIRECTED BY James Rice
Assistant Directed by Jayla Bryant

Produced by Lyndsay Palmer & Marty Feldman

Set Designer
Ben Lupekis

Costume Designer
Michael Mullen

Lighting Designer
Daniel Mitchener

Sound Designer
Susan Stangl

Act I

A spring evening in Brumley, England 1912

*There will be one 15-minute intermission between
Act I and Act II.*

Act II

Same evening

CAST

(in alphabetic order)

Edna

Inspector Goole

Gerald Croft

Arthur Birling

Eric Birling

Sybil Birling

Sheila Birling

Elora Becker

Chiquita Fuller

Aaron Hagler

Ben Lupejkis

Payton Ross

Lisa J. Salas

Ren Warzecha

Director's Note

I want to welcome you to tonight's performance of "An Inspector Calls." The play examines Victorian and Edwardian society in the Gilded Age. It has long been considered a classic of drawing room theater. But what intrigued me, when I read it just a few months ago, was the timeliness of the story and message. For me, it is a predecessor of Alfred Hitchcock Presents and *The Twilight Zone*. It is a morality tale with a strong and startling twist at the end. Even more, it is its message of man's commitment and responsibility to his fellow man that speaks loudest to me. And makes it the perfect play and story for today. I want to thank Kentwood Players for the opportunity and this wonderful cast for its commitment and talent.

James Rice, Director

Meet the Cast



Elora Becker - Edna

Elora is thrilled to be a part of her first production with Kentwood Players, *An Inspector Calls*. She has performed in various productions over the years, some of her favorites being *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* (Raya) and *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Molly Aster). Elora has always loved storytelling. Aside from acting, she also illustrates and writes. Elora would like to thank her cast and crew, friends, and family for their support throughout this experience.



Chiquita Fuller – Inspector Goole

Chiquita Fuller returns to the stage after an eight-year hiatus. This is her first time appearing on the Kentwood Players stage and she is happy and excited to be here. Having just wrapped her 5th successful season on the hit show *9-1-1* on FOX, where she portrays the role of Linda Bates. After a few years away, honing her craft in the realms of television and film, Chiquita is thrilled to be on stage once again.



Aaron Hagler - Gerald Croft

Aaron (Ari) Hagler is delighted to make his West Coast debut in *An Inspector Calls*. Recently, that is, before the pandemic and before moving from Montgomery, Alabama to Los Angeles in 2021, he portrayed Lenny in *Rumors* and Gerry in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, thus making this role his second consecutive British “Gerald” of dubious morality. He is the author of two books (one forthcoming), has a PhD in Islamic Studies, and daylights as a history educator at Geffen Academy at UCLA.



Ben Lupejkis – Arthur Birling

Ben Lupejkis is absolutely chuffed to be the patriarch of this classically brilliant dysfunctional family. Last summer he appeared as Max Prince in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. Iconic characters he portrayed include Don Quixote/Cervantes (*Man of La Mancha*) and Fagin (*Oliver*). He has performed lead roles in *Candide* (Voltaire/Pangloss), *Dracula* (Van Helsing), *Falsettos* (Marvin), and *Tintypes* (Charlie and TR). Thanks to Jim and Lyndsay and Marty for the opportunity and faith, his kitty family, and most importantly to Pattie for her 39 years of unwavering devotion. He'd also like to recognize mentors who shaped his work and passed too soon: Simm Landres, Alan Schneider, and A.J. Esta.

Meet the Cast



Payton Ross – Eric Birling

As his first theatre performance outside of school, Payton is thrilled to be playing Eric. He really hopes to make this debut as stunning as ever. Previously he has played the role of Ed in *A Curious Incident of a Dog in the Nighttime*; as well as various characters in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *1776*. From show-choir to band gigs to live theatre, Payton is a lover of all the arts with a particular passion for acting. With that, break a leg to the rest of the cast and enjoy the show!



Lisa J. Salas – Sybil Birling

Lisa J. Salas is excited to be back on the Kentwood stage at Westchester Playhouse! Lisa was last seen here as Sue Baylis in *All My Sons*, and as Helga in *Night Watch*. Lisa was most recently seen as Virginia in *The Clean House* at Long Beach Playhouse. Other favorite roles include Hannah/Rabbi/Henry/Ethyl Rosenberg in *Angels in America*, and Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret*. Lisa is, as always, grateful to her son, Zack, for his love and support.



Ren Warzecha – Sheila Birling

Ren is excited to appear in her first production with Kentwood Players. A native of California, Ren was very involved in her high school drama and performing arts programs, but took a hiatus during her college and post college years. She is thrilled to be back on stage! For cat pics and general shenanigans, follow her on instagram @ieatfoodoffthefloor.



Meet the Production Team

James Rice – Director

James is a nearly 35-year veteran actor and director who has been involved with over 100 productions throughout Los Angeles and Orange Counties. He has directed *The Final Adventure of Sherlock Holmes*, *Rumors* and *A Flea in Her Ear* at Long Beach Playhouse. He most recently directed *Lysistrata* in the Studio Theater and *Murder on the Orient Express* at Long Beach Playhouse. He is happy to direct his first show with the Kentwood Players.

Jayla Bryant – Assistant Director

This is Jayla Bryant! She is making her debut as the AD of an *Inspector Calls* at Kentwood! Her directing history includes directing many school edition productions such as *Hello Dolly* and *Heathers!* As far as being behind the scenes, she has as well been stage manager to a number of plays such as *As You Like It* and *5 Women Wearing The Same Dress!* As a theatre student and music student of many years, she has appeared in *RENT* as Mimi and the Seasons of Love soloist, *Into The Woods* as the Witch, *Ordinary Days* as Claire, and *Alice Beineke* in *Addams Family!* She is now currently teaching opera to prepare for her next show! She's very excited to share this beautiful show with you all and can't wait to hear what you all think!

Lyndsay Palmer – Co-Producer

This is Lyndsay's second time producing, her previous credit was *Pippin*. She has also appeared onstage in many Kentwood productions, most recently *Moon Over Buffalo*, *9 to 5 the Musical*, and *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. She is also the Artistic Director of theatre at the Summit View West school. She thanks Marty, Jim, and the cast & crew for their dedication. Enjoy the show!

Marty Feldman – Co-Producer

An Inspector Calls is Marty's first opportunity to produce for Kentwood Players along with the extremely talented Lyndsay Palmer. He is honored to work with this gifted cast, crew, and Director James Rice and would like to thank them all for their hard work. Marty has performed in many shows at Kentwood and is currently the President of the Kentwood Board, and is always grateful for the generosity of the Kentwood members as they give of their talents, time and friendship. "We don't live alone, We are members of one body, We are responsible for each other." – Inspector

Meet the Production Team

Ben Lupejkis – Set Designer

An Inspector Calls is Ben's seventh set design for Kentwood Players. Ben has designed several sets for KP, beginning with the musical *Two by Two*. A believer in functional authenticity, his research for Noah's Ark searched all extant records, vetted research, and social media (everybody has an opinion lol). Seriously, from an ark, to a river cruise ship (*Murder on the Nile*), to the world of a Titanic survivor (*Unsinkable Molly Brown*), to smalltown Texas (*Sordid Lives*), to a radio studio (*It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*), to a suburban backyard (*All My Sons*), Ben's sets show an attention to an inventive detail with a livable environment for the director to tell the story and support the actors' imaginations.

Michael Mullen – Costume Designer

Michael Mullen is an actor and costume designer. He is thrilled to be a part of this production! Among his theatrical design credits are *Dreamgirls*, *The Boy From Oz*, *Siamese Sex Show*, *Fugue*, *When Jazz Had The Blues*, *Burners*, *Cabaret*, *Year Of The Rooster*, *Fixed*, *Sweeney Todd*, *American Idiot*, *The Legend Of Georgia McBride*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Wild Party*, *Guess Who's Coming To Dinner*, and *L.A. Now And Then*. He has received several awards and nominations for his work both onstage and off from such organizations as L.A. Stage Alliance Ovation, L.A. Drama Critics Circle, L.A. Weekly, N.A.A.C.P., StageSceneLA, Stage Raw, Robby, Broadway World, Ticket Holder, Eddon, and Desert Theatre League. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Daniel Mitchener - Lighting Designer

Daniel is super excited to be working on his 2nd show with the Kentwood Players! His previous credits include *Beauty and the Beast* (Cabrillo College), *Anything Goes* (HOOLIGAN Theatre Company), *Beauty and the Beast* (HOOLIGAN), *Anything Goes* (All About Theatre) and *Rent* (Kentwood Players). When Daniel is not at the theatre, he prefers to spend his time staring at walls wishing he were back in the theatre. Daniel would like to thank his amazing wife Lizzy, and the artist formerly known as Rothgar for all the love they have provided over the years.

Meet the Production Team

Michael Thorpe – Master Electrician

Maybe you haven't locked a cat in a box with a radioisotope, Geiger counter and phial of poison and waited, but I'm sure you've done something in your life you wouldn't want to bring up in polite company. But then, I bet those other people you're sharing polite company with have done something they wouldn't want to share with you. Sharing is caring, so why not unburden your soul? What's a little jail time between friends...

Susan Stangl – Sound Design

Susan Stangl is an actor, director, singer, songwriter and sound designer who has worked at several SoCal theaters in all those capacities. She is currently finishing out the season acting at Theatricum Botanicum in Topanga and performing with her band Dreamers and Drifters.



Production Team

Stage Manager
Asst. Stage Manager
Master Builder
Special Carpentry/ Construction
Dialect Coach
Set Decoration
Props
Wig Designer
Graphic Design
Booth Operator

Isabella Francisco
Elora Becker
George Kondreck
Doug Carlson
Chris Aruffo
Jamie Dawley, Ben Lupejkis
Lyndsay Palmer, Jamie Dawley
Jon Sparks
West Maätita
Daniel Mitchner, Natalie Mann

Work Sunday

Saul Aguayo, Nedra Allmond, Gail Bernardi, Alison Boole,
Stanley Brown, Mark Bruce-Casares, Jamie Dawley, Marty Feldman,
Isabella Francisco, Ross G, Sam Goldman, Kelly Gresalfi, Aaron Hagler,
Margaret Harrington, Myron Klafter, Anne Klafter, George Kondreck,
Ben Lupejkis, Howard Male, Melvin Miller, Daniel Mitchener,
Colleen Okida, Fiona Okida, Roy Okida, Shawn Plunkett, James Rice,
Payton Ross, Lisa J. Salas, Michele Selin, Susan Stangl,
Ren Warzecha, Susan Weisbarth

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A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER

Book and Lyrics by Robert L. Freedman

Music and Lyrics by Steven Lutvak

Directed by Catherine Rahm

January 19 – February 10, 2024

PRIVATE LIVES

by Noël Coward

Directed by Richard Perloff

March 15 to April 6, 2024

STEEL MAGNOLIAS

By Robert Harling

Directed by Jon Sparks

May 10 - Jun 8, 2024

ONCE ON THIS ISLAND

Book and Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Music by Stephen Flaherty

Directed by Cece Suazo

Jul 19 - Aug 10, 2024

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By Neil Simon

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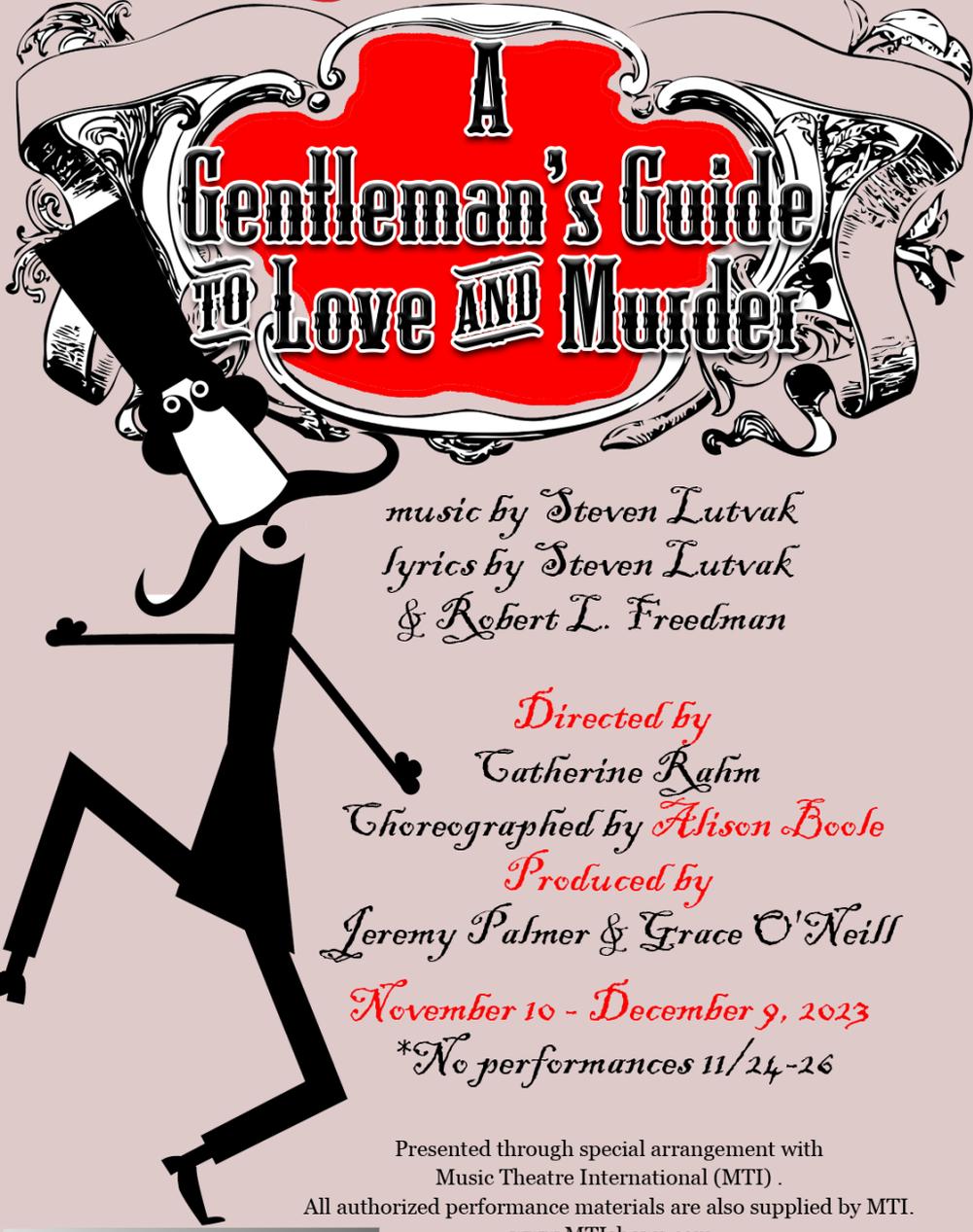
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lyrics by Steven Lutvak
& Robert L. Freedman

Directed by

Catherine Rahm

Choreographed by *Alison Boole*

Produced by

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