

# An Inspector Calls – Pre-show Notes

Welcome to this introduction of *An Inspector Calls*, the classic play by J. B. Priestly, daringly reimagined by director Glen Goei and presented by Wild Rice.

## Audio-described Performance Information

The audio described performance is at 2:30pm on Saturday the 18th of March, with a Touch Tour commencing at 1:15pm, an hour and fifteen minutes ahead of the show. Your audio describers are Daniel Yong and Seren Chen. The performance runs for approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes with no intermission.

## Synopsis

In a comfortable middle-class home, a family sits down to a celebratory dinner. But their evening is cut short by the unexpected arrival of an Inspector. He brings news of the tragic death of a young woman. As the Inspector investigates, tensions escalate – threatening to shatter the very foundations on which entire lives and identities have been built. What crime has been committed here? Who is guilty? And who isn't?

A riveting clash of murder and morality, class and conscience, this classic play asks its characters – and today's audiences – to take a good, hard look at the troubling disparities in the world brought about by power, privilege and poverty.

## Production Credits

The director of this production is Glen Goei.  
The composer and sound designer, Julian Wong.  
Set designer, Wong Chee Wai.  
Lighting designer, James Tan.  
Costume designer, Leonard Augustine Choo.  
Props designer, Joyce Gan.  
Hair designer, Ashley Lim.  
And finally, make-up designer, Bobbie Ng.

## Cast, Characters, and Costumes

There are 6 characters played by 6 actors. In the Ling family, there are the father and mother, Arthur and Sybil Ling, with their son and daughter, Eric and Sheila Ling. Edna is the family's maid. Gerald Kuok is a family friend and Sheila's fiancé. Inspector Goole will interrupt their family dinner.

Lim Kay Siu plays Arthur Ling, a bald burly man seemingly in his mid 50s. He is the stubborn and hard-headed owner of Ling and Company. He wears a dress suit, with a black blazer, grey waistcoat, white shirt, shiny black leather shoes, and a black bowtie.

Serene Chen plays Arthur's wife, Sybil Ling, a pompous and unsympathetic lady also seemingly in her 50s. She wears a black kebaya, with a lace button-down blouse and narrow skirt, accompanied by white pearl necklaces, bracelets, and earrings as well as red lipstick.

Dennis Sofian plays the son, Eric Ling, a young man that sometimes behaves immaturely and lacks confidence. He wears a smart dress suit with a black bowtie, with slicked back hair. Later in the show, he returns in a disheveled state, with his jacket undone and without his bowtie.

Yap Yi Kai plays their daughter, Sheila Ling, a naïve and entitled woman that appears to be in her 20s. She has voluminous curled shoulder-length black hair that perks up on both sides. She wears a pale teal dress covered in a black polka-dot mesh. It has a fitted waist with a flared, swishy calf-length skirt, and very short dainty sleeves. She wears red lipstick, eyeliner and pink blush, along with a white necklace and earrings.

Siobhan Covey plays Edna, the Ling Family's maid. She wears a 19th century maid outfit, comprising a black dress with a white half-apron on top and a white lace collar.

Benjamin Chow plays Gerald Kuok, a well-dressed and confident man that looks like he's in his 30s. His father owns Kuok Limited, a business rival to Ling and Company. He is also Sheila Ling's fiancé. He has short waxed hair, and also wears a smart dress suit with a black bowtie and well-polished shoes.

Ghafir Akbar plays Inspector Goole, a mysterious man, seemingly in his 30s. He wears a long grey coat over a grey suit and jacket, with a grey hat with a red inner lining. Whilst everyone else's shoes are well-polished and shiny, the Inspector's shoes are not. He is tall, slim and has a mustache. Throughout his inquiry, he repeatedly refers to a notebook and photographs that he pulls out from a pocket from his jacket.

## Set and Setting

The play takes place over a single evening within the dining room of the Lings' luxurious home. With a black and grey colour scheme accompanied by dramatically filigreed furniture and walls almost double the standard height, the room carries an air of sombre opulence.

All the walls, windows, and furniture are black. Walls form the backdrop of the stage. The centre wall features a set of large double doors, while the side walls, angled gently towards centre, feature slatted windows that allow only some of the cool blue light of evening to filter in. While the left and centre walls are connected, there is a dark corridor between the centre and right walls through which actors may enter and exit.

This far end of the stage is on a raised platform, just one step above the bulk of the space – a squarish thrust stage, about 6 by 6 metres, surrounded by audience seats on three sides. Two narrow catwalk platforms also extend from the close left and right corners to the theatre doors, through which actors may come and go. The floor appears to be marble in two shades – black streaked in white and pale grey streaked in black. A black and grey checkered starburst pattern extends from a black circle tile in the centre, forming a wide circular motif that takes up the bulk of the space, surrounded by black marble to its square edges, down the catwalks and up the platform. This entire squarish lower space will be referred to as the circle.

On the platform, in front of the left windows, there are two tall, straight-backed armchairs carved in filigree, with curved legs and black velvet upholstery on the seat and back. Between them is a small, square, triple-drawer table, just large enough to hold an old-fashioned black rotary dial telephone, a box of cigars, an ashtray, and a built-in table lighter. Under the right-side windows is a narrow, similarly filigreed rectangular table holding two lamps, a tray of glasses, and three decanters containing amber-coloured liquid. From here,

down one step to the circle is a two-seater armchair with two separate straight wooden backs in carved filigree and a velvet seat. To the left is a less ornate armchair, with no cushioning, straight legs and a low, slatted back. Another of these chairs is placed in the front right corner, blocking the right-side catwalk, facing in towards the circle. As a result, the facial expression of whoever sits in this chair is obscured.

Above the space hangs a chandelier dripping in crystals. In addition, three pairs of Victorian wall sconces – ornately decorated wall-mounted lamps – are dotted along the back wall. One pair is mounted on the far left of the backdrop, close to the audience, and two pairs flank the double doors. All these lights, including the two lamps on the right-side table, glow warm and orange, but the dining room is usually bathed in a neutral white light.

## Access Information

Wild Rice aims to provide an excellent experience and service for all patrons who may require additional support to access our venue and enjoy our events.

Wild Rice at Funan is located on the 4th floor of Funan Mall, at 107 North Bridge Rd, Singapore 179105. The nearest parking option is in Funan Mall itself.

For public transport, the nearest bus stops are 04249, Opposite the Treasury; 04168, After City Hall Station Exit B; 04149, Grand Park City Hall; and 04223, Old Hill Street Police Station.

The nearest MRT station is City Hall, on the East-West and North-South lines.

If you are attending the Touch Tour, please have your mobile device and headset with you. Say hello to the friendly Box Office manager and they will gladly assist you.

There will also be captioned shows on the 14th and 15th of March at 7.30pm.

Wild Rice at Funan and Funan Mall are assistance dog friendly. They are also accessible for wheelchair use, and an accessible toilet is available on the same floor as the theatre, near the lifts.

If you require a wheelchair space, would like to learn more about transferring options, or have any other questions, do contact our venue team at 6971 1051.

The bar will be open before and after the show, as well as during intermission, serving a variety of beverages and ice cream from Birds of Paradise.

We look forward to welcoming you and hope you have a wonderful time with us!