

An Inspector Calls Character Descriptions

Arthur Birling – A prosperous factory owner, businessman, whose first priorities are money and power. He is a self-made man, but is jealous of the aristocracy and is striving for knighthood. Late forties to fifties.

Sybil Birling – Arthur's wife, who is very much the conservative, old-fashioned, selfish, society woman. She is interested in the family reputation and will do anything to make them look good. Late forties to fifties.

Sheila – The Birling daughter who appears shallow, snobbish and self-confident, but has the capacity to change into someone who is nice and honest by the end of the show. Twenties.

Eric – The Birling son who appears to be the joker, happy-go-lucky guy, but drinks too much and is probably running from his true feelings and trying to cope with the family he has lived with. Also needs to have the capacity to change. Twenties.

Gerald Croft – Sheila's fiancé. He is good-looking, rich and clever. Also the son of an industrialist, he comes from "older money" than the Birlings. Twenties to thirties.

Inspector Goole - The inspector who isn't an inspector. He is more like the voice of God. Think of a British Columbo. Thirty to sixty.

Eva Smith – The face of the common people in contrast to the family she works for. She's probably smarter than any of them. Could be somewhat of an old crone.

Boy and Girl – Small non-speaking roles who help set the mood of the mood of war torn Britain, and are the image of the public looking into the private lives of the Birlings. They should appear to be elementary school age, no younger than six. The boy is older than the girl.

Notable quotes from previous reviews

'A thrilling, magisterial production'
Sunday Times

'Stunning. A steadily engrossing drama. Blazingly original stage imagery. Dark and gleaming and elegant'
New York Times

'This is first-rate Priestley played with atmosphere, purpose, style and wit'
Financial Times

'**** Spine-tinglingly good. The production grabs you by the throat and won't let you go. Long may it do so'
The Guardian

'A thrilling piece of theatre which must be seen'
Daily Mail

'Outstanding. A genuinely great production, enthralling and visually stunning'
Daily Telegraph