



Review: Theatre UAF Answers the Inspector's Call

FAIRBANKS — If you've ever dreamed of being on the Salisbury Theatre main stage, UAF's production of "An Inspector Calls" offers the chance. J.B. Priestly's 1945 drama opened last week in an intimately staged production by UAF Theater professor Brian Cook.

Set in 1912 Brumley, England, the show is performed in the round, which means the audience surrounds the players at all times. The scaled-down performance space invites the audience to look closer as the story of the affluent Birling family and an emerging scandal unwinds.

Centered on an assumption that a girl has died by her own hand, Marley Horner conveys a strong performance as the calling Inspector Goole. What follows are intense verbal interrogations that lead each member of the Birling family down individual broken paths that all lead to an unhappy conclusion: we are all connected.

The blustery Mr. Birling, solidly played by Nolan Raapana, offers comic relief during otherwise intense scenes. Mr. Birling's character was complemented in personality, by the dashing, but guarded character of Gerald Croft, played by Ian Hendren.

Two standout performances by onstage siblings Katrina Kuharich as Sheila Birling and Mallory Smith as Eric Birling set a pleasant tone that ultimately falls on the seemingly deaf ears of Rachel Blackwell, who plays the patronizing Mrs. Birling.

The nearly silent Edna, the Birling's maid played by Nancy Nguyen, contrasts Blackwell's static performance with simplicity and a clear presence.

As a whole the painstaking processes and hours of preparation paid off for the cast and crew. Inconsistencies forgiven and forgotten, the cast delivered an overall strong performance.



Theatre UAF presents "An Inspector Calls" starring graduating senior Marley Horner in his thesis role of Inspector Goole. Kade Mendelowitz Photos



Theatre UAF presents "An Inspector Calls." From left are Ian Hendren, Marley Horner and Katrina Kuharich. Kade Mendelowitz, Theatre UAF Photos