

Contact: Marie Frederickson
(206) 781-9705

For Immediate Release
Kill Date: March 5, 2006

**TAPROOT THEATRE COMPANY OPENS ITS 30th ANNIVERSARY SEASON WITH
J.B. PRIESTLEY'S *AN INSPECTOR CALLS***

Taproot Theatre Company opens its 30th Anniversary Season, "A Season to Celebrate" with J.B. Priestley's compelling mystery, *An Inspector Calls*. In Priestley's riveting thriller an inspector unravels the secrets of a powerful, wealthy British family. News of a young woman's tragic death changes their lives forever in this compelling, unconventional whodunit. This 1991 favorite returns to the Taproot stage for our 30th Anniversary Celebration. *An Inspector Calls* runs February 1 through March 4. All performances are held at Taproot Theatre at 204 N. 85th Street in Seattle. *An Inspector Calls* is sponsored in part by The Tux Shop. Taproot Theatre's 2006 Season partners include ArtsFund, KUOW, The Seattle Foundation, and The Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences.

On a spring evening in 1912, the prosperous Birling family celebrates the engagement of their daughter to a promising young businessman. They make a toast to the future and individual prosperity. However, an unexpected caller quickly turns their merriment to bewilderment with the news of a young woman's tragic death. The inspector's enquiry - who is responsible? As the evening unfolds, it becomes increasingly apparent that the innocence of everyone in the room is in question.

An Inspector Calls was first produced by Taproot Theatre in 1991 to critical acclaim. The 2006 revival is produced under the direction of Artistic Director, Scott Nolte. His production team includes scenic and sound designer Mark Lund, costume designer Sarah Jane Burch, lighting designer Jody Briggs and properties designer Charity

Parenzini. Rebecca Patterson serves as stage manager and Sonja G. Lowe as dramaturg.

The cast of *An Inspector Calls* features Don Brady as Inspector Goole, Kevin Brady as Gerald Croft, Lorrie Fargo as Edna, Robert Gallaher as Arthur Birling, Pamela Nolte as Sybil Birling, Jesse Notehelfer as Sheila Birling and Sam Wilson as Eric Birling. "A fascinating Priestley mystery drama...a good old fashioned thriller...Taproot does Priestley proud." Seattle Post-Intelligencer (1991).

"The show [*An Inspector Calls*] is two hours of theatrical fun and the mystery is there for the taking." The Seattle Times (1991).

An Inspector Calls opens Friday, February 3 and runs Wednesday through Saturday through March 4. Midweek performances begin at 7:30 PM, Saturday matinees at 2:00 PM and Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 PM. Low cost previews are offered Wednesday, February 1 and Thursday, February 2 at 7:30 PM. There is a special pay-what-you-can performance on Wednesday, February 8. Tickets for that performance go on sale the day of performance at noon at Taproot Theatre's box office. A dessert reception with the cast and director follows the opening night performance on Friday, February 3. Post-play discussions follow all Wednesday evening performances except the preview.

Tickets for *An Inspector Calls* are \$23 - \$25 for midweek performances and Saturday matinees, and \$27 - \$30 for Friday and Saturday night performances. Wednesday and Thursday preview performances are \$19 - \$21. Individuals 25 or under can purchase \$15 tickets to all performances with photo ID. Full-time students and seniors receive a \$2 discount off all general tickets. Half-price student/senior rush tickets are available fifteen minutes prior to performance, subject to availability. Group discounts are available for parties of eight or more. Tickets may be ordered by phone by calling the TTC box office at (206) 781-9707 or Ticketmaster at (206) 292-ARTS.

One of London's most popular plays, *An Inspector Calls* was first produced in 1946. The British film version was released soon after in 1954. In 1992 The Royal National Theatre's revival broke records with 19 awards - more than any other play in history - receiving Tony awards for Best Play Revival, Best Director, Best Lighting and Best Featured Actress, and Laurence Olivier awards for Best Revival, Best

Director and Best Designer. The production has toured internationally and ran for a successful 18 months on Broadway.

John Boynton Priestley is well-known as a popular British playwright and novelist. A highly versatile writer, he also wrote essays, short stories, literary criticism, social histories, travel books and film scripts. His most popular plays include *Dangerous Corner*, *Time and the Conways*, *When We Are Married* and *An Inspector Calls*. His popular novels include *The Good Companions*, and *Angel Pavement*. Priestley received his degree in Modern History and Political Science from Cambridge University. In 1942 he co-founded the socialist Common Wealth Party, and in 1977 he was awarded the prestigious Order of Merit.

Taproot Theatre Company is a professional, non-profit theatre company with a multi-faceted production program. Founded in 1976, Taproot Theatre serves the Pacific Northwest with Mainstage Productions, Touring Productions and Acting Studio. Taproot exists to create theatre that explores the beauty and questions of life while bringing hope to our search for meaning. Taproot Theatre Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), Theatre Puget Sound (TPS), and the Greenwood-Phinney Chamber of Commerce.

###

TAPROOT THEATRE FACT SHEET

WHAT: *An Inspector Calls* by J.B. Priestley. Directed by Scott Nolte.

WHEN: Previews February 1 and 2. Opens February 3 and then runs Wednesday through Saturday through March 4.

WHERE: Taproot Theatre, 204 N. 85th Street in Seattle

TICKETS: Wednesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday matinees, \$23 and \$25; Friday and Saturday evenings, \$27 and \$30; Wednesday and Thursday previews, \$19 and \$21; Student/Senior discount of \$2 off per ticket. Tickets are \$15 for individuals 25 and under. Group rates are available.

SCHEDULE: Wednesday and Thursday 7:30 PM, Friday and Saturday 8:00 PM, Saturday Matinee 2:00 PM

CALENDAR:

Wed.	Feb. 1	7:30 PM	Preview
Thurs.	Feb. 2	7:30 PM	Preview
Fri.	Feb. 3	8:00 PM	Opening Night with Reception
Sat.	Feb. 4	2:00 PM	
Sat.	Feb. 4	8:00 PM	
Wed.	Feb. 8	7:30 PM	Pay What You Can, Post play discussion
Thurs.	Feb. 9	7:30 PM	
Fri.	Feb. 10	8:00 PM	
Sat.	Feb. 11	2:00 PM	
Sat.	Feb. 11	8:00 PM	
Wed.	Feb. 15	7:30 PM	Post play discussion
Thurs.	Feb. 16	7:30 PM	
Fri.	Feb. 17	8:00 PM	
Sat.	Feb. 18	2:00 PM	
Sat.	Feb. 18	8:00 PM	
Wed.	Feb. 22	7:30 PM	Post play discussion
Thurs.	Feb. 23	7:30 PM	
Fri.	Feb. 24	8:00 PM	
Sat.	Feb. 25	2:00 PM	
Sat.	Feb. 25	8:00 PM	
Wed.	March 1	7:30 PM	Post play discussion
Thurs.	March 2	7:30 PM	
Fri.	March 3	8:00 PM	
Sat.	March 4	2:00 PM	
Sat.	March 4	8:00 PM	Closing Night

###