

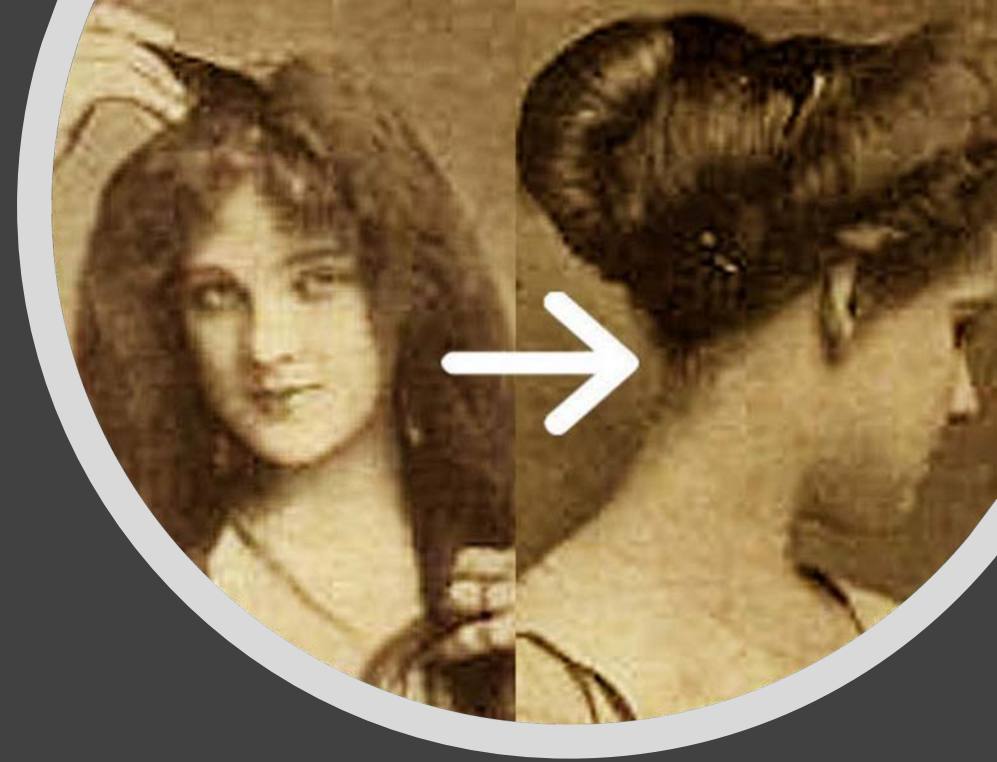
Mr Birling



- Dressed in an Edwardian Men's evening dress attire to reflect the formality of Sheila's engagement dinner. This consists of a tightly fitted black silk tailcoat, completed with a piccadilly collar and bow tie, which are both a typical trend of the era.
- Mr Birling desires to achieve the highest social status possible, reflecting why he's smartly dressed.
- The symbolisation of wearing his top hat and white gloves inside, particularly presents to Gerald his ability to satisfy the Croft family.
- Accessory wise, Mr Birling would wear silver cuff links as well as a pocket watch on a silver chain to show the businessman aspect of his character.
- Finally, he would be wearing highly polished black brogues.

Mrs Birling

- Sybil Birlings costume is an extravagant one, in order to give the audience a clear indication of her wealth and high status.
- She would be dressed in a well fitted, floor length Edwardian gown. Colours such as red and purple can be used, to connote royalty, wealth and prosperity, such qualities commonly associated with Mrs Birling.
- Adorned with sparkly jewelry, such as pearls, not only to keep her confidence by looking immaculate, but to strongly represent her wealth.
- Overall, she is dressed appropriately for the engagement party of her daughter, Sheila and her appearance is a physical symbol of her strong sense of arrogance. As well as this, as an audience we can understand very quickly that she is someone who cares very much about her appearance from the way she is dressed.
- In terms of hairstyle, she would be styling the defining hairstyle for Edwardian women of the upper class which was the pompadour. The pompadour shape is high, rounded and curved away from the head. A woman's long hair would be backcombed and rolled to create the desired shape.



Eric



- Similar to Mr Birling, Eric Birling's status is shown through his costume. Dressed in a white tie and tails it reflects that he is from a wealthy family of high social status. However, Eric does rebel his status by drinking a great deal and being in a "relationship" with Eva Smith, which was not deemed appropriate in Edwardian times.

- It was traditional for men to have their cuffs slightly longer than their jacket, but Eric's cuffs are not visible, again showing his attributes of a stereotypical drunk.

- To complete his costume, he would wear polished black brogues, however they would be scruffier than Mr Birling's and Gerald's.

Sheila



- Sheila's costume in particular, helps to show her wealthy status and place in society.

- By the look of her well fitted floor length gown with a lower neckline and shorter sleeves, it is made clear to the audience that she is a member of the upper classes.

- Her attire can be white, cream as well as pale shades of pink. This particularly symbolises the fact that Sheila is about to get married to Gerald so a colour like those mentioned above highlights this.

- It is crucial that the audience see Sheila as a future bride and making her costume white is a clever design concept to heighten the moment when it is revealed that Gerald has had an affair with Eva Smith, it makes us feel greater sympathy for Sheila.

- The white costume also makes Sheila look young and innocent also reflecting her childlike attributes.

- Similar to Mrs Birling, Sheila will also be adorned in jewelry such as pearls and diamonds, but more subtle to represent the contrast in their characters. She will also have the pompadour hairstyle to represent her part of the upper class.

Gerald



- Gerald is dressed in traditional Edwardian men's evening dress, fairly similar to modern formal wear consisting of a black tailcoat usually with satin faced lapels. His white formal shirt underneath has winged collars, finished with a bow tie which can be either white or black.
- Although he is inside, he still wears his top hat and white gloves to demonstrate his place in society.
- He has pockets as a part of his dress wear, where he carries the engagement ring for Sheila which she then gives back to him.
- Accessory wise, Gerald also wears silver cuff links to symbolise his reputation and not only his personal wealth, but also his family's.

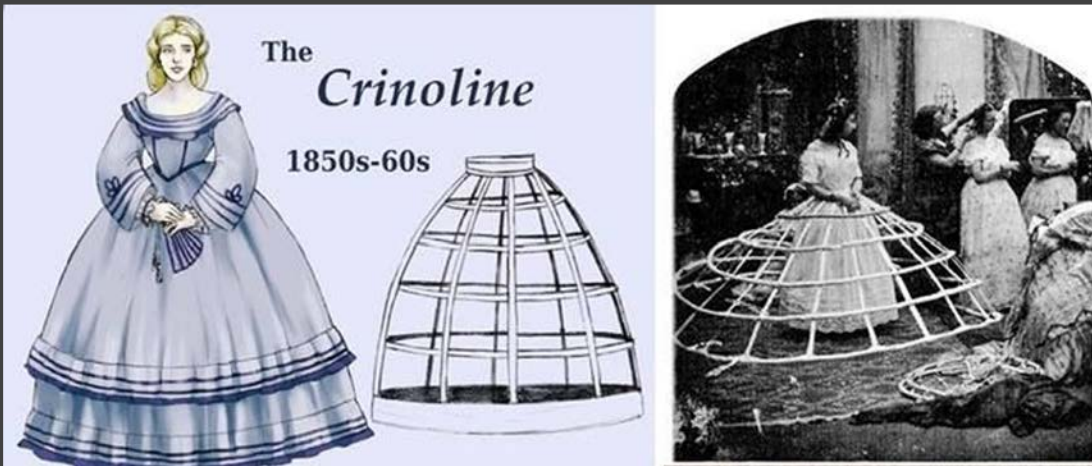
Inspector Goole



- The inspector's costume allows us to identify him quickly as someone of importance and perhaps authority. The costume is reflective of his job role and helps to create tension.

- He wears a three-piece suit complete with a top hat, as well as carrying a briefcase in order to look smart and well put together. He also wears a long coat, clearly setting him apart from Mr Birling, Eric and Gerald, giving more of an authority figure. The coat would also contain pockets, where he places the picture of Eva Smith in order to present later on in the play.

- For footwear, the inspector would be wearing well worn brown brogues, contrasting the well polished black brogues belonging to Mr Birling.



- The crinoline, a fashionable silhouette would be worn, which contains fewer rings, so therefore the skirt dips in at the sides indicating her social status, of being lower than that of the Birlings.

- Edna is dressed in a traditional maid's uniform, consisting of a black gown with a white apron to the knees, which was a typical maid look from the 1860s.



Edna

- As reflected in the play, even though Mrs Birling is not accepting of the working class, she has a certain image her household needs to uphold, therefore instructs the maid to dress fashionably.