

THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR

In 1834, when this play was written, Russia was ruled by a martinet of a Tsar, assisted by an army of bureaucrats responsible, ultimately, to him alone. The word "army" is not inappropriate, for they had ranks with high-sounding titles, wore uniforms, and on state occasions even swords. They were underpaid and therefore corrupt, imbued with traditional ideas, and therefore unenterprising and inefficient, absolute in power with no democratic checks, and therefore tyrannical, and above all stupid, since lip-service to traditional ideas was valued above brains. Only nine years before, a revolt had been savagely crushed. Under this "leaden régime" every progressive thought was repressed, and literature was so crudely censored that authors learned to write "between the lines."

Gogol scorned to do this. He saw that this grotesque army would have to go, if life were to be tolerable. He made the country town of the play a comically distorting mirror. The characterisation is expert and the action never flags from the beginning, when the Mayor gives his horrified officials the tip-off that a high official is coming to inspect the town, and incognito.

That the play was performed, in 1836, was due to a friend at court, who found the Tsar in a good mood, and gave him the script. The Tsar was so impressed that he ordered its production, despite the censors, and after the first night he said, "Everyone has received his due, and I most of all." His servants were not so generous, and hounded the author until his escape into voluntary exile.

D. J. CAMPBELL.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SPECIAL VARIETY CONCERT, Saturday, March 16th, 7.30 p.m. In aid of the New Theatre Fund.

Devised and produced by Wilfrid Sharp and Michael Green.
Watch for surprise item!

TICKETS ON SALE 5/- IN THE THEATRE TONIGHT.

SUNDAY CLUB NIGHTS, February 3rd, March 3rd.

See notice boards on either side of theatre for full details.

STUDENT GROUP ONE-ACT PLAYS

"Holiday in Biarritz."

"The Wedding."

"Cavalleria Rusticana."

Programme opens on Saturday, February 23rd, and will run for four performances.

"THE GOLDEN CUCKOO," by Denis Johnston.

Opens on Saturday, March 23rd, and will run for nine performances.

LAST NIGHT AND DISCUSSION

If you have enjoyed this play, why not come again on the last night and bring a friend? Members may obtain two tickets for the price of one for the last performance, which is given in aid of the New Theatre Building Fund. The date: **Wednesday, February 6th.**

The discussion of "The Government Inspector" will take place in the theatre on **Thursday, February 7th.**

King & Hutchings, Ltd., 57 The Mall, Ealing, W.5



present

THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR

by

NICOLAI GOGOL

(Translated and adapted by D. J. Campbell)

AT THE QUESTORS THEATRE
MATTOCK LANE, EALING, W.5
JANUARY 26th to FEBRUARY 6th,
1957

FOURTH PRODUCTION
TWENTY-EIGHTH SEASON
1956-57

PROGRAMME
SIXPENCE

THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR

NICOLAI GOGOL

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Characters in order of appearance :

The Judge	PETER WHELAN
The Charity Commissioner	VINCENT McQUEEN
The School Superintendent	DOUGLAS THOMAS
The Mayor	WILFRID SHARP
The Postmaster	PAUL IMBUSCH
Dobchinsky } Bobchinsky }	<i>two landowners</i>	KENNETH CHEALE DAVID LORRAINE
Mishka, servant to the Mayor	NED GETHINGS
Police Superintendent and A Merchant	NEVILLE BRADBURY
Anna, wife of the Mayor	MARY GRIFFITHS
Marya, her daughter	JO ARUNDEL
Josif, servant to Hlestakov	RONNIE MANNS
Hlestakov...	GORDON MILLAIS
Waiter and A Merchant	MICHAEL GREEN
A Gendarme and A Merchant	ROGER FLEMING
Locksmith's wife and Korobkin's wife	BETTY WHITE
Sergeant's wife and School Superintendent's wife	SYLVIA ESTOP
Korobkin	DEREK CUSDIN
Rastokovsky	ALAN DRAKE

The play produced by	JOHN CLEMOW
Assisted by	JOHN HOLBROOK
The setting designed by...	JANE KINGSHILL
The costumes designed by	VIVIEN INNES

ACT 1. A room in the Mayor's house, early in the morning.

ACT 2, Sc. 1. A small room at the inn, shortly after.

ACT 2, Sc. 2. The room at the Mayor's house, on the afternoon of the same day.

ACT 3, Sc. 1. As before, about eight o'clock the next morning.

ACT 3, Sc. 2. As before, later in the same day.

The action of the play takes place in a small town in Russia about 1830.

There will be two short intervals after Act 2, Sc. 2 and Act 3, Sc. 1, and the main interval of fifteen minutes between Act 2, Sc. 1, and Act 2, Sc. 2, during which you may remain in your seats and be served with tea and biscuits, at the fixed price of 6d., or cross to the Lounge where coffee and light refreshments may also be obtained.

★

Stage Manager BERYL OWEN

Assisted by MARY COLLINS, JOSE ROBERTS, ROSEMARY RUTTLE
MARY SMITH, MOLLY DALE, MARJORIE McGARRICK
FFRANGCON PRICE and RUTH MILNER

The setting constructed in The Questors' workshop
under the direction of IAN JONES

The costumes made in The Questors' Wardrobe
under the direction of JOYCE FISHER

Lighting SIMON GRAY

Sound MICHAEL GAMBLE

BOX OFFICE (6.30—7.30 p.m.) EALING 5184

MEMBERS ARE RESPECTFULLY REMINDED THAT SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE THEATRE WHILE THE PLAY IS IN PROGRESS