



THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR

Nikolai Vasilevich Gogol was born in 1809; his family were small gentry of Ukranian Cossack extraction, and his father was the author of a number of plays based on Ukranian popular tales. He attended school in Nezhin and gained a reputation for his theatrical abilities. He went to St Petersburg in 1829 and with the help of a friend gained a post in one of the government ministries. Gogol was introduced to Zhukovsky, the romantic poet, and to Pushkin, and with the publication of *Evening on a Farm near Dilenka* (1831), he had an entrée to all the leading literary salons. He even managed for a short period to be Professor of History at the University of St Petersburg (1834-5). *Diary of a Madman* appeared in 1834, *Marriage* in 1835, *The Nose* in 1836 and *The Overcoat* in 1842. Gogol wrote the play *The Government Inspector* in 1836 and *Dead Souls* in 1842. He lived a great deal in Rome, and in his last years became increasingly prey to religious mania and despair. He made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 1848, but was bitterly disappointed in the lack of feeling that the journey kindled. He returned to Russia and fell under the influence of a spiritual director who told him to destroy his writings as they were sinful. He burned the second part of *Dead Souls*, and died in 1852 after subjecting himself to a severe regime of fasting.

The charges directed against *The Government Inspector* by resentful people, who saw in it an insidious attack against Russian officialdom, had a disastrous effect upon Gogol. It may be said to have been the starting point of the persecution mania that in various forms afflicted him to the very end of his life. The position was very curious: fame, in its most sensational form, had come to him; the Court was applauding the play with almost vicious glee; the stuffed shirts of high officialdom were losing their stuffing as they moved uneasily in their orchestra seats; disreputable critics were discharging stale venom; such critics whose opinion was worth something were lauding Gogol to the stars for what they thought was a great satire; the popular playwright Kukolnic shrugged his shoulders and said the play was nothing but a silly farce; young people related with gusto its best jokes and discovered *Khlestakovs* and *Skovsnik-Dmukhanovskys* among their acquaintances. Another man would have revelled in this atmosphere of praise and scandal. Pushkin would have merely shown his gleaming Negro teeth in a good-natured laugh - and turned to the unfinished manuscript of his current masterpiece. Gogol did what he had done before: he fled, or rather slithered, to foreign lands.

From 'Gogol' by
Vladimir Nabokov

The Questors 54th Student Group
presents
THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR
by Nikolai Gogol, adapted by Adrian Mitchell
First performance of this production on the 21st March 2001.

A town in provincial Russia 1836
The action takes place in the Governor's house and in a room at the local inn.
There will be one fifteen minute interval.

Cast

Red Cast

performs 21st, 22nd, 24th,
28th, 30th March
Alex Young
Amani Al-Aidroos
Tsvety Voynova
Donna Freeman
Jason Etherington
Tony Marshall
Stephanie Williams
Juliet Vaughan Turner
Theodora Athanasiadu
John Mooney
Barry Rawkins
Debbie Arnsby
Anne Devlin
Tom Butler
Evan Rule
John Mooney
Debbie Arnsby
Anna Maria Oleksak
Anne Devlin
Anna Maria Oleksak
Debbie Arnsby
Anne Devlin
John Mooney
Debbie Arnsby
Barry Rawkins
Tom Butler

White Cast

performs 23rd, 25th, 27th,
29th, 31st March
Alex Young
Debbie Arnsby
Anna Maria Oleksak
Donna Freeman
Jason Etherington
Tony Marshall
Stephanie Williams
Juliet Vaughan Turner
Anne Devlin
John Mooney
Evan Rule
Amani Al-Aidroos
Theodora Athanasiadu
Tom Butler
Barry Rawkins
John Mooney
Amani Al-Aidroos
Tsvety Voynova
Theodora Athanasiadu
Tsvety Voynova
Amani Al-Aidroos
Theodora Athanasiadu
John Mooney
Amani Al-Aidroos
Evan Rule
Tom Butler

Production

John Horwood
Ruth Jackson, Amanda Rijlaarsdam
Charlie Lucas, Damien Lazell
Dinah Squire, Natalie Weedon
Joel Schrire
Christopher Tomlins
Paul Wilson

Stage Management

Natasha Lewis
Brin Parsonage
Anna Harvey
Alex Townsend, Simon Wright, Tom Glanfield, Patrick Doherty,
Matthew Urbanowicz, Siobhan Hyams, Deborah Leigh,
Woody Hughes
John Horwood, Evan Rule, Natasha Lewis, Anna Harvey,
Joel Schrire, Colin Home, Jim Craddock, John Wibberley
Harriet Simons
Louise Nockles, Jessica Gooch and Michele McMahon

GOVERNOR
ANNA
MARYA
SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT
JUDGE
POSTMASTER
DOBCHINSKY
BOBCHINSKY
CHARITY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT DOCTOR
POLICE INSPECTOR
SVISTUNOV
DERZHIMORDA
IVAN KHLESTAKOV
OSIP
WAITER
MISHKA
LOCKSMITH'S WIFE
SERGEANT'S WIDOW
RASTAKOVSKY
POLICE INSPECTOR'S WIFE
SUPERINTENDENT'S WIFE
1st MERCHANT
2nd MERCHANT
3rd MERCHANT
GENDARME

Director & Set Design
Costume & Wardrobe
Lighting Designer
Lighting Operator
Flying Designer / Sound Designer
Flying Operator
Sound Operator

Stage Manager
Stage Manager (mentor)
Deputy SM
ASM

Construction

Consultant Props
Make-up & Hair

THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

TRANSLATIONS *by Brian Friel*

In the Playhouse, 4th - 12th May

In this poignant and touching play, regarded by many as Friel's finest, the playwright uses his unique poetic vision to give us an insight into the world of an Irish community in 1833, and the wider political resonance.

He uses humour and pathos to tell the story of the conflicts and misunderstandings between the local people and the British Army, who have encamped themselves in a nearby field and are engaged in a map making exercise - changing the Gaelic place names into English in the process.

SHOPPING AND F**ING** *by Mark Ravenhill*

In the Studio, 12th - 26th May

The shock of this play does not end with its title - that is only the beginning. Ravenhill's blackly humorous play is set in a mid-nineties Britain of wasted wealth and acquisitive desire. It plunges us into a nightmare world where sex and money become mutual units of exchange and relationships are reduced to transactions.

This play contains swearing and explicit scenes of sex and violence.

THE FAN *by Carlo Goldoni, translated by Steve Fitzpatrick*

In the Playhouse, 9th - 16th June

This robust comedy has all the vigour and physicality that one would expect from the founder of modern Italian comedy.

The complex twists of the plot revolve around two love triangles and the eponymous fan, but the real subject is a celebration of life and humanity with all the passionate heat of the Mediterranean sun, set amongst the bustle of the piazza of a small hill town in Northern Italy.

A must for all 'fans' of Goldoni!

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY *by Harold Pinter*

In the Studio, 16th - 30th June

A darkly menacing comedy about a reclusive man in a shabby seaside boarding house who is terrorised by two sinister visitors.

This critically acclaimed play is a classic of modern British theatre.

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