

The Government Inspector

Written by Nikolai Gogol // Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher

Performed at the NorShor Theatre May 9-19, 2019

Director: Michael Kraklio received his B.A. in Special Studies: Performing Arts (with a minor in Opera Performance) from Marycrest College in Davenport, IA. He has performed on stage for over three decades in theatres all over the country. Along with performing Michael has designed sets and sound, is trained in Stage Management, and toured with children's theatre companies all over the midwestern states. He has performed professionally in New York, Cincinnati, Seattle, Minneapolis, Rapid City, and now Duluth. Michael served as Artistic Director for the Black Hills Community Theatre, as well as Education and Outreach Director for their children's and senior theatre companies. This is Michael's second show for the Duluth Playhouse wearing the director's hat, his first being last season's Lend Me A Tenor. Michael has stage managed and performed on stage for many productions with the Playhouse and is currently a member of the Acting Company.

AUDITION INFORMATION (All roles will be cast with Adults ages 18+)

WHEN: Sunday, January 20, 2:00-5:00. Sign up for a 5-minute time slot to read monologue (directions to sign up are below).

CALLBACKS: Also on Sunday January 20, between 5:00-8:00pm (Specific times TBA)

WHERE: NorShor Theatre Rehearsal Studios. 211 East Superior Street, 3rd floor (skywalk level)

*If you cannot make auditions, video auditions are also acceptable. Submit monologue and include picture and resume. Forward to seitz@duluthplayhouse.org

FOR THE AUDITION:

- Bring a picture and resume and fill out attached audition form
- Prepare a monologue (selections attached or perform one of your own, 1 minute or less)
- Scripts/vocal scores are available for checkout (\$5 deposit for 3 days) at the NorShor Theatre Box Office, 211 East Superior St.

HOW TO SIGN UP:

- 1) Click this link to see our SignUps for **Gov't Inspector**: <http://signup.com/go/tVAjNNA>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot you like.
- 3) Sign up! You will not need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com. SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone.
- 4) IF YOU NEED TO CANCEL – Please eliminate your name from the sign up so others may use the time.



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REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Rehearsals Begin: Sunday March 31, 2019. The first 2 weeks will be Sunday through Wednesday, due to over-lap with Sweeney Todd. Starting April 15 rehearsals will be conducted Monday-Friday 6pm-10pm. If actors are available during the day, some rehearsals may take place outside this schedule.

Note: Sunday May 5 will be a full day- Tech/Dress Rehearsal.

Performance Dates: May 9-19, 2019: Thursdays-Saturdays at 7:30pm & one Sunday matinee on May 19 at 2:00pm. Performances will be at the NorShor Theatre.

SYNOPSIS:

The Government Inspector was written by Nikolai Gogol back in the day. Really back: the 1830s.

This version that we're doing, though, was rewritten/translated/adapted by a gentleman named Jeffrey Hatcher about ten years ago. Though I do not claim to be an expert on Russia, I am aware that that nation has been in the news a lot lately! This play is Gogol's take on the Russian government under the Tsar (the monarch ruler of Russia until the communist revolution). This play paints government officials (the mayor, police officers, judges) as corrupt fools who don't know how to do anything except accept bribes and drink vodka. They are funny idiots. After the play's premiere, Gogol went into exile and left the country because everyone was very mad at him.

Anyway, the play (mostly) takes place in the home of Mayor Anton Antonovich, who lives there with his ridiculous wife, Anna Andreyevna, and his moody teenage daughter, Marya Antonova. At the beginning of the play, the mayor is surrounded by various leaders of the community—his first line is, "A government inspector is on his way from the capitol!" And suddenly the town has identified the inspector: some random guy staying at the hotel! What is their evidence? He is not from their town, and made small talk in the restaurant ("I see you like the pork.")... in reality, this is a suicidal would-be romantic idol named Hlestakov. He is going through his family money but works as a low-level clerk. He is broke, assisted only by his servant, Osip. Hlestakov is taken to the mayor's house, where he eats, takes bribes, becomes romantically entangled with the mayor's wife and daughter (on a bet), gets so drunk that he gives a gigantic speech, writes an improvised love song, and talks and talks and talks. In the second act, he is not redeemed, and the stupidity and corruption of the mayor and his cronies is exposed. and the government inspector really arrives. OR—he has been there the entire time! This play is ridiculous, and the adaptation is quite funny.

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CASTING & CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: (All roles will be cast with Adults 18+)

10 Male, 4 Female – Double and triple casting – Gender Impersonation

- **IVAN ALEXANDREYEVICH HLESTAKOV** (Male): Our hero. Not really, though, as he is a terrible person. He thinks of himself as a romantic poet. He carries a gun, but has no violent tendencies, and is something of a coward. He has no real friends. He has no social skills, has failed at everything he has attempted in his life. However, he kind of finds himself as the Government Inspector, and by the end of the play he is able to turn the situation around on everyone and make his escape.
- **OSIP**, his servant (Male): Osip is Hlestakov's only friend/companion, but Osip really doesn't seem to be too fond of their employer. Osip interrupts Hlestakov's suicide attempt and then tries to talk him back into giving it another shot. Osip moves into the mayor's house with Hlestakov and is the character who bets Hlestakov to pursue both Anna and Marya. Osip is eventually paired romantically with Grusha.
- **ANTON ANTONOVICH**, the mayor (Male): The Mayor is a glorious buffoon. He is prone to angry outbursts. He is a reasonable man pushed to extreme measures. He talks VERY quickly. He spends a portion of the play wearing a box as a hat. He is willing to sell out everyone and everything to live in comfort and luxury. He has terrible relationships with the women in his life
- **ANNA ANDREYEVNA**, his wife (Female): Anton's loving spouse, she is described at her entrance as vulgar and overdressed with lots of lace and bows and tassels. She thinks of herself as a woman of high society, but in reality, she is just obsessed with status—she's snobbish and more than a little dense. She also has a massive crush on Hlestakov.
- **MARYA ANTONOVNA**, their daughter (Female): Their sweet daughter. Well, sweet is probably the wrong word. I think Marya is kind of an audience surrogate, at least in the first act, because, though she is younger, she is much more intelligent than the rest of her family (and the town). Marya sees them for who they are. She wears black, she has an artistic temperament, but her one flaw is that she, too, is really into Hlestakov.
- **GRUSHA**, their maid/**WAITRESS/LOCKSMITH'S WIFE** (Female): Grusha is an impossibly old crone maid who gets a lot of great jokes (the initial stage direction describes her as a "grumpy gnome"). She has to serve these idiots, and she doesn't hold her true feelings back. And, yeah, it's revealed that she has her eye on Osip.
- **POSTERMASTER** (Male): Gossipy fellow who reads everyone's mail and doesn't seem to feel any guilt or shame about it. He loves to talk about everyone in the village, but he gets a tremendous amount wrong, and ultimately all of these events are kind of his fault.

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- **JUDGE/ABDULLIN** (Male)
- **SCHOOL PRINCIPAL/PENTELAEYEV** (Male)
- **HOSPITAL DIRECTOR/CHERNYAEYEV** (Male)
- **DOCTOR** (Male)
 - **School Director/Judge/Hospital Director/Doctor:** Though they don't have names, these parts are pretty large. These are the other corrupt functionaries in town. The school director is terrified of teachers, the judge enthusiastically accepts animals in exchange for a favorable legal outcome, the hospital director has a hospital so small it can only fit children. They wind out trying to offer Hlestakov outrageous bribes. The doctor is a little different, though, as he is a person from another land who doesn't speak the language, and whenever he is taught little phrases he uses them incorrectly.
- **DOBCHINSKY** (Male)
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 - These two characters look very much alike; they're often mistaken for each other. They're idiots who like to eat and talk. Bobchinsky's lifelong dream is that someone just says his name in the capital. Doesn't matter if anyone's listening, just to have his name whispered is exciting enough. These are very large roles, as they are in every single scene. (These roles are male, but ultimately the most important thing is that we can make the two actors look the same, with the help of "fat suits" and fake moustaches, etc.)
- **INKEEPER'S WIFE/SVETSUNOV**, police chief/**IMPERIAL MESSENGER** (Male)
- **CORPORAL'S WIDOW** (Female)
 - Well, that's just the beginning. There's the police force, a pregnant Inn Keeper's wife and her mother, who works beneath her as a waitress, a handful of merchants, etc.

The genders documented are not set in stone. There will be double and triple casting as notated above.

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MONOLOGUES

Really, you can pick any of these, regardless of gender designation. I just want to feel that you understand the style of the play (fast, crazed, silly) and I encourage you to make big (vocal and physical) choices. Most of the play is super-fast dialogue. Here, you can find some monologues. There are no monologues for many of the characters, but that doesn't matter. You don't need to memorize them, but they should be prepared. During your audition, you'll perform, we'll talk, I'll give you some direction, maybe, and then maybe I would like to hear it again.

HLESTAKOV 1: *(Here, he talks to an angry waitress to whom he owes a lot of money)* Have I not explained that I am awaiting a large check from my rich father to erase all my debts? *(To the audience)* I must hold my temper and keep to my newfound humility. *(To her)* Peasant. Tell your master he must realize that, regardless the circumstances, a man must eat. Tell him that sustenance freely given is an act of charity that shineth its goodness on the giver as much as on he for whometh it is givedeth. Tell him that maybe a stinking little swine like him can go without food for days, but I can't feed off my fat like a hog in heat!

HLESTAKOV 2: *(He is drunk, boasting about his imaginary wealth)* Yes, the strain is beginning to show. The pressures, the demands. The dinners, the teas, the opera openings and sculpture lunches. I once held a ball in my house--it's a big ballroom, well, it's a big house, actually the ballroom is bigger than the house but that's because the architect was a good dancer--we had a seven hundred-pound watermelon. Seven hundred pounds! And most of it is water, just a tiny bit of it is melon. After we ate it I made the rind into a bathtub. My prince and count friends say I'm too extravagant, but it's the only way I can find light and beauty to balance the demands of...the department. That's what we call it, you know, "The Department." We can never call it by its full name, it'd take too long and be too scary. "The Department of--" *(He makes a scary face and lunges at the others)* BROOOO-HAHAHAHAHA-HAHAHA!!!! Or "The Department of--" *(He leaps around like a demented ninja)* HEE-YA! HEE-YA! HEP! HEP! OH NO YOU DON'T!"

MAYOR: *(He has been promised a non-existent position with Hlestakov and is taking the opportunity to tell everyone off.)* People! Townsfolk! Please! I know you've come to congratulate my daughter on our great, good fortune, and the right and proper thing would be to stand here and tell you it isn't me who deserves this honor, that it's actually all of you, the people of our town who have made this possible. But I'm not that kind of person! I know each and every one of you cheese-eating, mouth breathing bastards have tried to do me in with my new son-in-law from the minute he came into town, and I just want you to stew and think and worry and remember and know that while I'm in Petersburg at the palace kissing the Tsar, all the while I'll be planning how I'm going to see each and every one of you snivelling little rats jailed and ruined and sent to Siberia until there's not a trace of you left in the mud and rubble!

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BOBCHINSKY: *(He is begging Hlestakov to do him a favor. He is serious, shy, and really stupid.)* I too have a small request. When you return to the capital, and you're at one of your soirees with Master Pushkin or the Tsar, could you, if you think it's proper, if it crosses your mind, could you say, "Y'know, I was in such and such a town not long ago, and in that town lives a man named Pytor Ivanovich Bobchinsky." That's it. Just say my name. Out loud, in the capital. It doesn't have to be the whole name, it doesn't even have to be in your home, it could be in an alley late at night when no one's around. Here. I've written it down if you forget how to say it.

MARYA: *(This is a compilation of lines after Hlestakov sings her a song and convinces her [quite suddenly] to love him)* I love you! I've loved you since last night when you turned red then white then green! Say you love me too! *(Noise off)* It's mama! As soon as you can, get out of here! I'll meet you down the lane at the fountain near the church behind the chapel wall! From there we'll make our escape! *(Mama enters)* We're engaged! Engaged! He loves me, Mama. He wants me to go with him to Petersburg and it's all very sudden but it's what you always said you wanted for me and surely you always mean what you say, Mama.

ANNA ANDREYEVNA: *(This is a compilation of a lot of speeches she has at her entrance in act one)* Anton! ANTON! You made us miss everything! Primping in front of your mirror! When will you learn, real beauty is natural. Anyway, I am attired to meet the government inspector! So, is he an officer? Who's his family? How much money does he have? You may not have noticed, but your daughter is a girl in need of a husband, and I won't have her marrying some local idiot with a big forehead. No offense, Pyotr Ivanovich. Marya, go upstairs! Change into something fetching and snug that shows a bit of skin! I promised to love, honor and obey your father and look what it got me, a town where people eat soup with their hands. NOW GO!

Playhouse Audition Form

Please bring this **completed form** with you to the audition along with a **resume & current photo or headshot**. Please print clearly!

Name:	
Home Address:	City, State, Zip:
Primary Phone #:	Other Phone #:
Email:	

Is there a particular role in the show you are most interested in? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, which one(s)? _____

Will you accept another part if not offered any listed above? Yes _____ No _____

If you do not get a part, would you be interested in working on tech crew or backstage?
Yes _____ No _____

Do you have **ANY** conflicts with the rehearsal/ performance schedule? Yes _____ No _____

Please list ALL conflicts below (be as specific as possible to dates, times). Additional conflicts after being cast may not be accepted.