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Please Note

- Food and drink must not be brought into the theatre.
- The use of cameras or recording devices is strictly prohibited.
- Smoking is not permitted in the Noel Fine Arts Center.
- In the case of an emergency, ushers will assist audience members at each exit.

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The UWSP Department of Theatre and Dance is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre and the National Association of Schools of Dance.

2009-2010 Theatre & Dance
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BA/BS Drama Program Coordinator

Joan Karlen
Professor of Dance
Dance Program Coordinator

John Strassburg
Dance Program Accompanist

Christopher Pheiffer
Scene Shop Manager
Associate Lecturer

Notes from the Director

WHO IS THE INSPECTOR GENERAL?

Khlestakov, a copy clerk from St. Petersburg on his way to his father's house because he has no money, is mistaken for a government inspector from the capital by the provincial gentry of a town in southern Russia. The drunken administrators of the town are thoroughly rotten, hopelessly corrupt, and stand to lose everything if the inspector "sends back a report" to Petersburg. The townspeople use all manner of bribery to win Khlestakov to their side.

Khlestakov is a fool, but he is not so dense as to fail to recognize the good fortune dropped in his lap. By the time he leaves the unnamed town, he is a wealthy man. In typical Gogolian fashion, however, our simpering hero will most likely lose all of his money in card-playing and vodka-shotting the minute he arrives home.

Gogol's Khlestakov is the prototype of the *poshlost'* character in Russian literature. The word means various things to a Russian, but its meaning is difficult to translate into English in a succinct way. Vladimir Nabokov defined *poshlost'* as "not only obviously trashy but mainly falsely important, the falsely beautiful, the falsely clever, the falsely attractive" and that it may also mean "corny trash, vulgar clichés, philistinism, imitations of imitations, bogus profundities, crude, moronic and dishonest."

Czar Nicholas I, an autocratic and generally ruthless tyrant, attended the opening night of *Inspector General* in 1836. Oddly, it was his appreciation of the play that saved it (and Gogol) from obscurity. No play has seen as many productions on Russian stages as *Inspector General*.

A keen observer of character, Gogol peoples the play with every prototype known to the Russian people—the ruthless mayor, the corrupt judge, the foolish superintendent, the rat-fink director of charities, the hypocritical merchant, the conniving serf, the preening socialite, the vapid nobody, the stingy landowner, and the inept government official.

About the Playwright

Gogol (accent on the first syllable) was born in 1809 in Ukraine but wrote in Russian. His first major literary success, *Evenings on A Farm Near Dikanka* (1831) humorously and movingly recalls a provincial way of life that had been long abandoned by the inhabitants of the glittering salons of Petersburg. Decades before Chekhov's three sisters longed for Moscow, Gogol's petty provincials and down-on-their-luck nobodies dreamed of a life in Petersburg along the Neva River bathed in the weirdly unsettling "White Nights" when the summer sun never sets. Gogol was hailed in Russia as the best thing since Pushkin, Russia's most beloved poet then and now, and the only writer the arrogant Gogol considered his equal.

Gogol excelled in all forms of prose fiction. He is perhaps best remembered for his full-length novel, *Dead Souls* (1842). A macabre satire of biting wit and enormous scope, *Dead Souls* follows the smarmy Chichikov as he travels in his troika from town to town buying the names of dead serfs for whom the landowners are still taxed by the imperial government. Gogol's masterpiece is the equal of the finest works of such giants of 19th century Russian literature as Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, and Turgenev.

Gogol's influence extended beyond the world of Russian letters. His impact on the Slavic people's vision of themselves is enormous and cannot be overstated. His *Taras Bulba* (1835), the great short novel about Ukrainian Cossacks, is still stirring up nationalist feelings among Ukrainians, Russians, and Poles via a film version released in 2009 and directed by a Russian. This most recent screenplay uses a revision of the original story Gogol was forced to complete in 1842. This latter reworking suppressed what the 19th century censors deemed anti-Russian and "too Ukrainian."

Gogol was a masterful writer of the short story. *Nevsky Prospect*, *Diary of A Madman*, *The Nose*, and *The Overcoat* are practically perfect examples of the genre and read well in English translation. Long before Apollinaire coined “surrealism” as an aesthetic term, the St. Petersburg Gogol described in his short stories was a surrealistic city teeming with petty officials maneuvering for rank amid the bizarrely beautiful pastel-painted baroque and rococo structures. The freezing Russian winters often motivate his tales and such characters as the Chaplinesque Akaky Akakievich are, like Gogol himself, eventually driven to madness.

In the theatre, Gogol’s reputation is reaffirmed again and again by means of the stage worthiness and urgent relevancy of his *Inspector General*. Few dramas in any language written in the first half of the 19th century are revived today, but *Inspector General* has never left the stage. This is the highest praise a drama can merit.



~ Jeffrey Stephens



Notes from the Costume Designer

I love this show! Years and years ago I designed *The Inspector General* as a student class project in graduate school. I loved all the quirky characters that give a costume designer so much creative latitude.

When actually designing the show for production, it is quite a different story when faced with specific actors' body types, a real college costume shop where stitchers are still learning their craft, and a very short time to get it all done! You may recognize dresses from *Into the Woods* and *The Country Wife* on stage. All these beautiful dresses were modified and trimmed to fit our show. They aren't perfect, but as I find myself saying again and again, "These characters are 19th century country bumpkins and their clothes aren't perfect."

The real challenge in this show is to be sure that the characters' bad taste in clothing is a reflection of *their* taste and not the costume designer's.

~Susan Sherwin

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Department of Theatre & Dance

Presents

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

A Play in 5 Acts

By Nikolai Gogol

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Acting Version by John Anderson



Directed by
Jeffrey Stephens*



Costume Designer
Susan Sherwin*

Sound Designer
Michael Trudeau

Lighting Designer
David LaRose

Stage Manager
Brianna Collins

Properties Designer
Katy Beth Austin

Scenic Designer
Hilary Landowski

Dance Choreographer
Rebecca Lewandowski

*Denotes Faculty/Staff

The Inspector General

Cast

**Anton Antonovich,
The Mayor**
Adam Ceschin

**Anna Andreyevna,
Mayors' Wife**
Emily McCarthy

Marya, their Daughter
Andrea Boehlke

**Khlestakov,
An official from Petersburg**
Dan Olson

Osip, his servant
Alexander Taylor Mace

Judge Lyapkin-Tyapkin
Patrick O'Donnell

Postmaster Ivan Kuzmich
Matthew Briggs

**Superintendent of Schools
Khlopovna**
Amie Root

Director of Charities Zemlyanika
Nathan Fitzwater-Butchart

Pyotor Ivanovich Dobchinsky
Ryan Hussey

Pyotor Ivanovich Bobchinsky
Drew Willers

**Mishka,
The Mayor's Servant & Gendarme**
Alex Sabin

**The Corporal's Widow &
Waitress at the Inn**
Johanna Jackson

Abdulin, a Wine Merchant
Kyle Martin

Abdulin's Wife & Wealthy Widow
Lauren Kacere

Police Captain Stepan Ilich
Peter Hargarten

The Locksmith's Wife
Kayla Provisor

Rastakovsky
Andrew McCann

**Lyulyukov,
A Cossack**
Jon Churchwell

Citizen Korobkin
Zachary Spooner

Korobkin's Wife
Kathryn VanderVelden

Youngest Merchant
Emma Kennedy

Young Merchant
Brynn Sicard

Mother Merchant
Grace Wales

Babushka Merchant
Amber Wuttke

Time: the 1830's
Setting: A Town in the South of the Russian Empire

Act I
The Mayor's Home

Act II
An Inn

Act III
The Mayor's Home

12- Minute Intermission

Act IV
The Mayor's Home

Act V
The Mayor's Home

Acknowledgements

Laurie Schmeling
Jennifer Wilson
Matthew Crider
Catherine Ladd
Lizzy Joanis

Production Staff

Assistant Stage Manager.....Edward Lupella, Kim Shankland
Assistant Lighting Designer.....Melissa Aldridge, Nicole Card
Assistant Costume Designer.....Cece Hill
Scenic Charge.....Kaitlin Younger
Properties Technician.....Mercer Aplin
Deck Run Crew.....Micah Chermak, Cassie Jenson
Emily Nowak, Jaime Nunn, Rex Raasch
Costume Run Crew.....Emily Christanson, Allie Day
Devin Handel, Danielle LeSage, Kym Nolden
Valerie Rodrigues, Liz Swingle, Megan Weinaug
Costume Shop Manager.....Wendy Dolan*
Costume Shop Cutter/Draper.....Barbara Cirno*
Scene Shop Manager.....Christopher Pheiffer*
Costume Shop Assistants.....Scott Frost, Dan Olson
Libby Stadstad, Sara Tan, Meggan Utech, Amber Wuttke
Scene Shop Assistants.....Mercer Aplin, Andrew Broomell
Kyle Coyer, Nathan Fitzwater-Butchart
Cliff Hannon, Nick Reising, Michael Trudeau
Christopher Walls, Jennifer Wilson
Scene & Costume Shop Crew.....Theatre & Dance
Practicum Students
Administrative Department Associate.....Ruth Daniels*
Theatre & Dance Office Assistants.....Jesse Schmitz-Boyd
David LaRose, Elizabeth McMonagle
Box Office Supervisor.....Chris Seefeldt*
House Managers.....Thomas Bevan, Ben Kern, Mike Kliss
Alexander Taylor Mace, Kyle Ulrich
Public Relations Assistants.....Theatre & Dance
Practicum Students

*Denotes Faculty/Staff

Meet the Company

Aldridge, Melissa (*Assistant Lighting Designer*) Sophomore, Biology Major from Mosinee, WI.

Aplin, Mercer (*Properties Technician*) Junior, BFA Design Technology Major from Madison, WI. Recipient of the UWSP Theatre & Dance Scholarship in Design Technology and Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Regional Award for Design Excellence in Sound Design.

Austin, Katy Beth (*Properties Designer*) Senior, BFA Design Technology Major from Portage, WI. Recipient of the James Vorland Technical Theatre Scholarship.

Bevan, Thomas (*House Manager*) Senior, BFA Musical Theatre Major from Waconia, MN. Recipient of the Backstage Musical Theatre Scholarship, Anne Gilfrey Schierl Outstanding Freshman in Musical Theatre and the Theatre Arts Incoming Freshman Scholarship.

Boehlke, Andrea (*Marya*) Junior, BFA Acting Major from Random Lake, WI.

Briggs, Matthew (*Ivan Kuzmich*) Junior, BFA Acting Major from Cottage Grove, MN.

Card, Nicole (*Assistant Lighting Designer*) Freshman, BFA Design Technology Major from Appleton, WI. Recipient of the UWSP Theatre & Dance Scholarship in Design Technology.

Ceschin, Adam (*Mayor*) Senior, BFA Musical Theatre Major from Kenosha, WI. Recipient of the Sentry Scholarship.

Churchwell, Jon (*Lyulyukov*) Sophomore, BFA Acting Major from Milton, WI. Recipient of the Sentry Academic Leadership Scholarship.

Collins, Brianna (*Stage Manager*) Junior, BFA Design Technology Major and Psychology Minor from Blue Mounds, WI.

Fitzwater-Butchart, Nathan (*Director of Charities Zemlyanika*) Sophomore, BFA Acting Major from Milwaukee, WI.

Hargarten, Peter (*Stepan Ilich*) Freshman, BFA Acting Major from Appleton, WI.

Hill, Cece (*Assistant Costume Designer*) Freshman, BFA Design Technology Major from Mequon, WI.

Meet the Company (continued)

- Hussey, Ryan** (*Pyotor Ivanovich Dobchinsky*) Freshman, BFA Acting Major from Appleton, WI. Recipient of the UWSP Theatre & Dance Incoming Freshman Scholarship in Acting.
- Jackson, Johanna** (*The Corporal's Widow & Waitress at Inn*) Freshman, BFA Musical Theatre Major from Greeley, CO.
- Kacere, Lauren** (*Abdulin's Wife & Wealthy Widow*) Sophomore, BFA Acting Major from Johnston, IA. Recipient of the UWSP Theatre & Dance Scholarship in Acting.
- Kennedy, Emma** (*Youngest Merchant*) Sophomore, BFA Acting Major from Waunakee, WI.
- Kern, Ben** (*House Manager*) Junior, BFA Design Technology Major from Kaukauna, WI. Recipient of the Isabella Prize in Student Directing, Anne Gilfrey Schierl Fine Arts Award in Design Technology.
- Kliss, Michael** (*House Manager*) Freshman, BFA Acting Major from Rhinelander, WI.
- Landowski, Hilary** (*Scenic Designer*) Senior, BFA Design Technology Major from Plover, WI. Two time Recipient of the Crosby Scholarship in Technical Theatre.
- LaRose, David** (*Lighting Designer*) Junior, BFA Design Technology Major from Plover, WI. Recipient of the Anne Gilfrey Schierl Fine Arts Award in Design Technology, Crosby Scholarship in Technical Theatre, the Isabelle Stelmohoske London Scholarship and Kennedy Center American College Regional Theatre Festival Society of Property Artists and Managers Outstanding Achievement in Properties Design.
- Lewandowski, Rebecca** (*Dance Choreographer*) Senior, BA Dance Major and Nutrition Minor from Stevens Point, WI. Recipient of the Kathryn Bukolt Dance Scholarship.
- Lupella, Edward** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Senior, BA Drama and BA Music Major in Voice from Burlington, WI.
- Mace, Alexander Taylor** (*Osip*) Senior, BFA Acting Major from Shawano, WI.
- Martin, Kyle** (*Abdulin*) Freshman, BFA Musical Theatre Major from Hartford, WI.
- McCann, Andrew** (*Rastakovsky*) Sophomore, from Oconomowoc, WI.

Meet the Company (continued)

McCarthy, Emily (*Anna Andreyevna*) Senior, BFA Acting Major from Madison, WI.

O'Donnell, Patrick (*Judge Lyapkin-Tyapkin*) Senior, BFA Acting Major from DePere, WI. Recipient of the Anne Gilfrey Schierl Fine Arts Award in Acting and the James Mueller Scholarship.

Olson, Dan (*Khlestakov*) Junior, BFA Acting Major from Ripon, WI.

Provisor, Kayla (*Locksmith's Wife*) Senior, BFA Acting Major from Stevens Point, WI.

Root, Amie (*Superintendent of Schools Khlopovna*) Senior, BA Drama Major and Psychology Minor from Shakopee, MN.

Sabin, Alex (*Mishka & Gendarme*) Sophomore, BFA Acting Major from DePere, WI.

Sicard, Brynn (*Young Merchant*) Sophomore, BFA Acting Major from Neenah, WI.

Spooner, Zachary (*Citizen Korobkin*) Junior, BA Drama Major from Conrath, WI. Recipient of the UWSP Theatre & Dance Scholarship in Drama.

Trudeau, Michael (*Sound Designer*) Junior, BFA Design Technology Major and Psychology Minor from West Bend, WI.

Ulrich, Kyle (*House Manager*) Senior, BA Drama Major from Rudolph, WI.

VanderVelden, Kathryn (*Korobkin's Wife*) Freshman, BFA Acting Major from Random Lake, WI.

Wales, Grace (*Mother Merchant*) Sophomore, BFA Musical Theatre Major from Elkhorn, WI. Recipient of the Neale Alumni Honors Freshman Scholarship.

Willers, Drew (*Pyotor Ivanovich Bobchinsky*) Sophomore, BFA Acting Major from La Crescent, MN.

Wuttke, Amber (*Babushka Merchant*) Senior, BA Drama Major from Elkhorn, WI. Recipient of the Baruch Bridgeman Award for Outstanding Achievement as a Player, Peet-Faust Drama Scholarship, Toy Box Scholarship and Vorland Family Fund Technical Theatre Intern .

Younger, Kaitlin (*Scenic Charge*) Junior, BFA Design Technology Major and Business Minor from Menasha, WI.

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