

**WOODBURY HIGH SCHOOL ONE ACT PLAY AUDITION CONTRACT
"THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR" by NICOLAI GOGOL adapted by
JEFFREY HATCHER**

**This is an MSHSL activity which requires an activity fee of \$130.00.
(HARDSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE)**

**Auditions: Tuesday, December 6, Wednesday, December 7. Call backs will be on
Thursday, December 8. Audition times: 3:30-6:00 in the LECTURE HALL
Meet and Greet Friday, December 9 in the Royal Theatre.**

NAME _____ GRADE _____

CELL# _____ PARENT PHONE# _____

EMAIL _____

PARENT EMAIL _____

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A PARTICULAR ROLE? If so, which one.

WILL YOU TAKE ANY ROLE?

If Female, will you be willing to play a male?

You will be reading from the script. Sides are posted and on line.

**ATTACH A LIST OF PAST EXPERIENCE TO THIS APPLICATION. DO NOT WORRY IF YOU
HAVE NONE.**

**I SURRENDER ALL CREATIVE AND ARTISTIC JUDGEMENT TO THE
DIRECTOR AND WILL TAKE DIRECTION WHEN GIVEN IT. I WILL NOT
CUT OR DYE MY HAIR BEFORE FEBRUARY 12 WITHOUT PERMISSION OF
THE DIRECTOR.**

**I/WE HAVE LOOKED AT THE REHEARSAL SCHEDULE ON THE BACK OF
THIS PAGE, CIRCLED ALL CONFLICTS AND AGREE TO ATTEND ALL
REHEARSALS FOR WHICH I AM CALLED (BARRING SICKNESS). I AGREE
TO PAY THE ACTIVITY FEE (130.00) IN A TIMELY MANNER. I ALSO
AFFIRM THAT I AM ACADEMICALLY ELIGIBLE FOR EXTRA
CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.**

(STUDENT SIGNATURE)

(PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE)

**PLEASE BRING THIS APPLICATION COMPLETED WITH CONFLICTS
MARKED AND SIGNATURES, TO YOUR AUDITION.**

*Check your calendar and circle all dates you will be unable to attend rehearsal. *note we will be rehearsing on some Saturdays and over winter break. All rehearsals are from 3:30 to 5:30 during the week and 10:00 to 1:00 pm on Saturdays. Rehearsal space will be the auditorium unless otherwise noted.*

Friday, December 9 Meet and Greet
Monday, December 12
Tuesday, December 13
Wednesday, December 14
Thursday, December 15
Friday, December 16
Monday, December 19
Tuesday, December 20
Wednesday, December 21
Thursday, December 22

****HOLIDAY BREAK-ALL ACTORS EXPECTED TO BE OFF BOOK WHEN WE BEGIN AGAIN****

Tuesday, January 3
Wednesday, January 4
Thursday, January 5
Friday, January 6

*Saturday, January 7 **from 10AM to ONE PM*

Monday, January 9
Tuesday, January 10 MANDATORY
Wednesday, January 11 MANDATORY
Thursday, January 12 MANDATORY
Friday, January 13 MANDATORY

*Saturday, January 14***from 10AM to ONE PM*

Tuesday, January 17 MANDATORY
Wednesday, January 18 MANDATORY
Thursday, January 19 MANDATORY
Friday, January 20 MANDATORY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 DISTRICT ARTS FESTIVAL AND FIRST PERFORMANCE AT PARK HIGH SCHOOL. Meet at school at 5:30 to load up and head to Park. Performances begin at 7. We will have to car pool. No busses available.**

Monday, January 23
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24 or WEDNESDAY JANUARY 25. PRELIMINARY COMPETITION AT EAGAN HIGH SCHOOL. DEPART DURING SIXTH HOUR. HOME AT AROUND 9:30. WE WILL HAVE REHEARSALS THE FOLLOWING WEEK IF WE GO ON.
Wednesday, January 25
Thursday, January 26
Friday, January 27

Monday, January 30
Tuesday, January 31

HOLD FEBRUARY 1 FOR FINALS!! IF WE GO ON HOLD THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6 oFOR PICK UP REHEARSAL BEFORE STATE!! HOLD FEBRUARY 9/10 FOR STATE!!

Synopsis and Characters

When the locals in a small Russian hamlet learn that an undercover government inspector is coming for a surprise visit, an unfortunate case of mistaken identity sends the whole village spiraling into a world of panic and greed. Witty, smart and wildly satirical, this timely and spirited adaptation of Nikolai Gogol's classic play exposes the corruption of a provincial town with biting hilarity.

Casting 15 men or women and 5 techies(sound, lights, props, and crew)

MAYOR (Male)

JUDGE (Male)

PRINCIPAL(male or female)

HOSPITAL DIRECTOR (male or female)

DOCTOR (male)

BOBCHINSKY (male-can be played by female)

DOBCHINSKY (male-can be played by female)

POSTMASTER (male or female)

ANNA (Mayor's wife)

MARYA *Mayors daughter)

OSIP (Hlestokov servant-male)

HLESTAKOV (male)

WAITRESS (female)

GRUSHA (mayors maid-female)

IMPERIAL MESSENGER (male)

SIDE #1: (Judge, Mayor, Principal, Hospital Director, Doctor)

THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR

Act 1, Scene 1 (the study of the Mayors house in Russian provincial town. Year 1836)

The Judge, the Doctor, the Hospital Director and the School Principal are pacing nervously as the Mayor enters.

JUDGE, PRINCIPAL, HOSPITAL DIRECTOR
Mayor--- Mayor!-- Anton Antonovich—

MAYOR: No time for niceties, gentlemen, I have grave news!

A government inspector is on his way from the capital!

ALL OTHERS: (HUB BUB) WHAT?! A GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR?! HERE? NO!!

MAYOR: A government inspector, incognito, and with secret instructions.

JUDGE: An inspector from the capital?

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Coming to our town?

HOSPITAL DIRECTOR: And just when things were going so well!

JUDGE: Ahem, how did you come into possession of this information about an inspector?

MAYOR: I received a letter this morning from Hmikov, my brother in law. “Dear Anton Antonovich: Well, it’s been a quiet week in St. Petersburg...”(flips thru pages) Boring and tedious boring and tedious—Ah! “But what will interest you is this: An inspector has been sent to investigate various provinces with special emphasis on the towns in your district. Now I know that you are an honest public servant whose selfless sacrifice would humble a nun, but even the incorruptible have been known to cut corners when the world is round, so beware this inspector, as he may turn up at any moment in any guise. In other news, your sister has gained so much weight I’ve taken up the cello so I’ll have something smaller to hold on to...” Well you glean the import. And to think how smug I was whenever they lowered the boom on some other town, some other mayor.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: But why us, why now?

JUDGE: You know why. The country’s on the brink of war, and the government wants to find out if we’re prepared for an invasion.

MAYOR: Who would invade us? We’re in the middle of nowhere! Ride out of town in any direction, you won’t hit a border for years!

JUDGE: It would be too obvious to invade at the border. A really crafty enemy would invade in the middle.

MAYOR: The point isn’t *why* he’s coming, the point is he is coming and we’ve got to prepare! First the new hospital we got so much money to build, how many patients are there at present?

HOSPITAL DIRECTOR: None. The rooms are so small we can’t get the beds through the doors. Your cousin the contractor doesn’t seem to have understood the concept of “scale”.

MAYOR: Well, get a carpenter and build some beds *inside* the rooms!

HOSPITAL DIRECTOR: And what size patients shall we put in them? They are tiny rooms we’re discussing.

MAYOR: How tiny?

HOSPITAL DIRECTOR: Peshky the Dwarf might squeeze in. If he squats.

BOTH: Your excellency!---Mayor!

BOB: I have news!

DOB: No, I have news!

BOB: We agreed that it was my news!

DOB: We did not!

BOB: OOO, you lie!

DOB; I don't!

BOB: You do!

DOB: I do not!

BOB: You do and you know you do!

DOB: I do not do! It's you who do!

MAYOR: If one of you doesn't tell me what happened, I'll have you both arrested for being irritating!

BOB: All right! A—

DOB: *A government inspector is investigating our town.*

BOB: Hey!!!

MAYOR: We know that.

DOB: You do?

MAYOR: Where did *you* hear it from?

BOB: The postmaster.

POSTMASTER: Gossip is fun.

DOB: So you *all* know about the inspector from St. Petersburg?

ALL OTHERS: Yes! -- Of course we do!—

BOB: And the secret instructions and the incognito?

ALL OTHERS: Yes!—We know!

DOB: And that he's at the inn even as we speak. (*Beat. Nobody moves*)

MAYOR: Repeat that.

BOB: What?

MAYOR: Repeat that or I'll kill you.

DOB: The government inspector—

MAYOR: Did he *act* like an inspector?

BOB: *Did he.*

DOB: After he and Vlass speak, the fellow passes our table, he says "*I see you like the pork.*"

POSTMASTER: I could tell that seeing you walk down the street.

BOB: So we nod.

DOB: We say---

DOB AND BOB: "Yes, yes, we *do* like the pork"

BOB: What what's he do?

DOB: *He writes it down. (they look at Postmaster)*

POSTMASTER: All right, I wouldn't write it down.

MAYOR: What room is he in?

DOB: The little one above the stable.

HOSPITAL DIRECTOR: What are you going to do?

MAYOR: Form a delegation. It's time we met this government inspector.

Side #3 (Hlestokov, waitress, Osip, Mayor, Dobchinsky))

HLESTAKOV: Osip, I'm sorry to leave you like this. You've been my only friend, you know.

OSIP: I am not your friend. I'm your servant.

H: Well you've behaved like a friend.

OSIP: You've misunderstood the signals.

(in comes the waitress)

H: Well, your diminutive stature is as fortuitous as your sudden entrance, as I am quite hungry.

WAITRESS: My master already told you: "You don't pay the bill, you can't eat the food". You owe two hundred roubles for room, meals and liquor, and that doesn't count the bullet holes.

H: Have I not explained that I am awaiting a large check from my rich father to erase all my debts?

WAITRESS: Master, says this is the last time. *(she exits)*

H: Tell your master I'm grateful. And tell him I'm sorry I slapped him in front of the staff. I shouldn't have done that. I should've slapped him in private. Osip, go down to the stable and wheedle a coach. Promise its driver he'll be paid the minute we reach the city.

OSIP: Right. *(he begins to exit and runs into the Mayor and Dob)*

MAYOR: IVAN ALEXANDREYEVICH HLESTOKOV! *(to Osip)* Is your master in?

OSIP: Er.. well

MAYOR: Get out of the way! *(he enters the room with Dob)* Sir.

H: Sir.

DOB: Sir.

H: Sir.

DOB: Sir *(with lisp)* My friend couldn't come.

H: Would you like to sit? *(Dob nods yes goes to sit)*

MAYOR: We prefer to stand.

H: I insist.

MAYOR: We'll sit. *(the mayor immediately sit on H trunk. Dob has no chair, so he squats in place, then slowly shuffles back until he's perched on a tiny edge of the trunk.)* I am Anton Antonovich Skvoznic Dumakhanovsky. Mayor here.

DOB: Ahem.

MAYOR: And this is Pyotr Ivanovich Dobchinsky one of our local landowners.

DOB: We like pork.

H: I'm sure you do. (aside) They're trying to put me off my guard by employing non-sequiturs. I must use blusher and bluff.

MAYOR: My spies tell me you're from the capital.

H: I am, yes. From the capital, verily.

MAYOR: Traveling about?

H: From town to town.

MAYOR: Seeing sights?

H: Here and there.

MAYOR: And you've been in our town a whole week?

Side #4(Anna, Grusha,Marya, Osip, Bobchinsky, Dobchinsky)

ANNA: Grusha! What are you doing?

GRUSHA: Putting out the spittoon.

ANNA: Grusha, our guest is a gentlemen from the capital, very sophisticated, very cultured. Put out the crystal spittoon. (*Marya enters in a bright colored dress*)

MARYA: Better?

ANNA: Much.

MARYA: I still prefer black. (*enter Dob and Bob*)

DOB: Anna Andreyevna!

BOB: Greetings, Anna Andreyevna! You're looking very lovely today, Marya Antonovna.

MARYA: Go away.

BOB: All right.

ANNA: So, tell us, what's he like, this man from St. Petersburg.

DOB: Oh very cultured, very sophisticated. (*enter Grusha with Osip*)

GRUSHA: This one says he works for the fella who's coming to stay.

OSIP: Where's the guest room?

GRUSHA: I told him we don't have a guest room.

ANNA: Of course we do!

GRUSHA: No, we don't.....

ANNA: Yes! We do!! (*winking at her*) The guest room that looks just like the room my husband and I sleep in!

GRUSHA: You got a twitch in your eye.

ANNA: (*to Osip*) Grusha will have the footman take them up.

GRUSHA: What footman?

ANNA: The footman who looks like you when nobody's looking! (*to Osip*) My good man, I'm not asking you to tell tales out of school, but your master, he's really up in terms of status, isn't he?

OSIP: He would be loath to admit just how high his status is.

Side #5(Osip, Hlestokov, Marya, Anna)

H: I think they think I'm someone else. What did I say to them last night? That wine³! I must have told them I was some official bigwig. It's a good thing I've been taking notes this trip. Could make a nice little story to tell Tryapitchkin. He likes items like this for that column he writes in the newspaper. I better get this on paper while it's still fresh. (enter Osip with luggage)

OSIP: What are you doing?

H: Writing down my thoughts.

OSIP: That shouldn't take long.

H: Why have you brought the bags?

OSIP: The coach leaves in twenty minutes. We're going to Saratov.

H: Oh, no. I like it here. People give me things and smile when they see me.

OSIP: And when they find out you're not who they think you are?

H: Why would they find out?

OSIP: Because they're not as stupid as they look.

H: Meaning?

OSIP: Meaning, they're stupid but not as stupid as they look.

H: But I've to it down to a science now! I was able to reduce the time it took to get their money from three minutes down to twenty-six seconds! I could teach!

OSIP: Master-

H: One more night. The Mayor's daughter keeps throwing me contemptuous sneers, and you know what that means..

OSIP: She has contempt for you? Let me be specific: no woman in this house who's the Mayor's wife or daughter will give you a toss.

H: Alright.

OSIP: (seeing the money) How much have you got there?

H: Oh, no, this is two thousand rubles,. I can start over, make good my debts, repay my father. No more gambling wastrel who loses everything in one cut of the cards.

OSIP: Double or nothing.

H: Done!

OSIP: And you gotta show me proof by the time we leave..

H: You'll have it in hand! Now I shall finish off this letter to Tryapitchkin and—
(finishes writing and gives to Osip who then exits running into Marya)

H: Sorry, I hope my servant didn't startle you. Were you on your way somewhere or just passing through.

MARYA: I live here.

H: Ah yes. You know, whenever I'm in your presence I sense a splash of excitement, a splash of expectation, a soupcon of fear and trembling. But tremble not. I just might hold the key to your qualms.

MARYA: Trust me, you don't have my qualm key.

H: Oh, come. Tell me you like me a little.

MARYA: Let me put it this way: If you didn't exist, I wouldn't make you up.

(side #5 continued)

H: There must be something I can say, something I can do! *(she ignores him)* Ah!
(he starts a poem)

"Marya, Oh, Marya I pray I can carry ya over the threshold of love!

Her eyes sparkle bright as a glittering star.

She'll turn any head from a serf to a Tsar!

For you I would even give up my cigar!

For I love you Darling Marya!

If I had my balalaika I'd show how much I like ya! For I love you Darling... Mah-reeee-ahhh!!!!"*(This attracts her and she throws herself on him)*

What do I get if I rhyme Skvoznik Dumakhanovsky?

MARYA: I love you! I've loved you since that moment last night when you turned red the white then green! Say you love me too!

H: I love you! I love everything about you! I, I love that sash around your waist. I'd like to be that sash, to hug and to hold you. And if you lost weight and I slipped a few inches, well that's what a sash is for, isn't it? *(She gives him the sash and enters Anna)*

ANNA: What is the meaning of this!

MARYA: We're engaged!

H: What???

MARYA: 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've always said you wanted for me and surely you mean what you say, Mama.

ANNA: *(very cool)* Daughter, please remove yourself to the parlor while I chat with your *inamorato*.

MARYA: *Au revoir, mom Jean! (She exits)*

ANNA: Sit. *(H. sits on command)* So. Alone at last.

H: Well, not really. I'm here.