

BlueShore Financial  
CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



# CAPILANO UNIVERSITY

Visual Story for the Relaxed Performance  
November 15<sup>th</sup> at 2pm

This visual story is designed for visitors to the Relaxed Performance of *The Government Inspector*. It contains information and images to help prepare you for your visit.

Ce récit visuel est conçu pour les visiteurs du spectacle décontracté de l'Inspecteur du gouvernement. Il contient des informations et des images pour vous aider à préparer votre visite.



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***The BlueShore Financial Centre for the Performing Arts at Capilano University. Also known as BlueShore at CapU***

***Le Centre financier BlueShore pour les arts de la scène de l'Université Capilano. Également connu sous le nom de BlueShore at CapU.***

- The play is being performed at the BlueShore at CapU. Here are two photos of the outside of the theatre so you know what it looks like
- La pièce est jouée au BlueShore de CapU. Voici deux photos de l'extérieur du théâtre pour vous donner une idée de son aspect :



- When you come into the building there is a café with several tables, a concession and a box office (where you can pick up your tickets). It may be busy as there will be a lot of other people coming to see the play.
- À votre arrivée, vous trouverez un café avec plusieurs tables, un stand de restauration et une billetterie (où vous pourrez retirer vos billets). Il est possible qu'il y ait beaucoup de monde, car de nombreuses personnes viendront voir la pièce.

It will look like this picture (Cela ressemblera à cette image)



- This is the auditorium where the play is performed. The audience (that's you) sit down to watch the play. It will be full of people and quite noisy.
- Voici l'auditorium où la pièce est jouée. Le public (c'est-à-dire vous) s'assoit pour regarder la pièce. La salle sera pleine et assez bruyante.

This is a picture of the auditorium (Voici une photo de l'auditorium):



- The stage is where the actors perform the play.
- La scène est l'endroit où les acteurs jouent la pièce.

Here is a picture of the stage (Voici une photo de la scène)



### **How long is the play? (Combien de temps dure la pièce ?)**

The play is a little less than 2 hours long including an intermission after the first 55 minutes. The second act is an hour & 3 minutes . You will still be able to leave the theatre if you need to.

La pièce dure un peu moins de deux heures, entracte compris après les 55 premières minutes. Le deuxième acte dure une heure et trois minutes. Vous pourrez toujours quitter la salle si besoin.

## Chill-Out Area (Espace détente)

If you want to have a break during the play you can go to a chill-out area. You can ask an usher to show you where it is.

Si vous souhaitez faire une pause pendant la représentation, vous pouvez vous rendre dans un espace détente. Demandez à un placeur de vous indiquer où il se trouve.

Here is a picture of a chill out area.

Voici une photo d'un espace détente.



This is usually a board room and will look a little different on performance day.

Feel free to bring a sensory kit for use in the theatre and/or the chill out area.

Il s'agit généralement d'une salle de réunion, dont l'aspect sera légèrement différent le jour de la représentation. N'hésitez pas à apporter un kit sensoriel à utiliser au théâtre et/ou dans l'espace détente.

## **Ushers and Front of House Staff**

### **Les huissiers et le personnel d'accueil**

Ushers are people who check your Tickets for the theatre. If you need help or have a question you can ask them. Here is a picture of a Front of House Manager. →



Les ouvreurs sont les personnes qui vérifient vos billets pour le théâtre. Si vous avez besoin d'aide ou si vous avez une question, n'hésitez pas à les contacter. Voici une photo d'un chef d'accueil.

**During the Relaxed performance we will have interpreters.**

Interpreters are located on the right side in front of the stage, near where you enter. They are there to provide ASL (American sign language) for those who are deaf or hard of hearing. This is a picture of our interpreters:

Les interprètes se trouvent à droite, devant la scène, près de l'entrée. Ils sont là pour parler en ASL (langue des signes américaine) aux personnes sourdes ou malentendantes. Voici une photo de nos interprètes



## **Pre Show Session**

At the start of the show the actors will come on stage for 5 minutes to talk about what will happen in the show. They will be wearing their costumes.

## **What is the play about?**

In a small town in Russia corrupt officials panic when they learn an undercover government inspector is coming to investigate the town. Believing a penniless and drunk assistant clerk, Maksim Blowhardovitch, to be the inspector, they shower him with gifts and bribe him to cover up their illegal wrongdoing. When Blowhardovitch's serf (slave) Yuri finds out what's going on he takes the opportunity to get his freedom. With the help of the inn keeper and a "friendless" widow, they expose the corrupt authority and buy Yuri's freedom. In the end Blowhardovitch flees town, just before the real inspector arrives, leaving the town in disarray.

## **The characters in the play**

Below are descriptions of the characters. Some actors play more than one character, so that they look different, they change the way they move and talk and they change their costume (a costume is the name for the clothes actors wear onstage).

### **Grusha Griftgraftnikov**

Town commissar, like a town mayor. Rules the town as a corrupt tyrant. She steals from the poor, takes bribes and insists on

donations for her birthday; and it's always her birthday. Anything to line her own pockets. Enjoys flattery, material wealth, and status.

### **Gordie Griftgraftnikov**

Husband to Grusha and doting father to Galina. Always sick. Expects wealth and power from his wife and likes to be coddled. Is actively being conned by the doctor; whom Gordie trusts with his life paying him an absurd amount of money for the newest "cure".

### **Galina Griftgraftnikov**

Daughter of commissar and Gordie. Spoiled, materialistic, and obsessed with getting married and moving to St. Petersburg. Will do ANYTHING to be the centre of attention.

### **Maksim Blowhardovitch**

A copy clerk of no special rank or importance from St. Petersburg, who's been on a holiday paid for by his father when he gets mistaken as a Government Inspector. Egotistical and steals as much money as he can from the town. Likes gambling and food.

### **Yuri Onestin**

Maksim's self (slave). Is a smart man tied down by his status as a serf. Would do anything to get his freedom and be a peasant. Smarter than most of the people in the play and uses this to earn his freedom.

### **Terenty Toadynev**

Police Captain of the town. Obsessed with Grusha; would jump off a cliff if she asked him. Uses brute force and isn't very smart.

### **Sakha Smacknikov**

Police Constable. Delights in meting out punishment and loves the power she holds over the peasant. Loves violence. Subordinate to Captain Toadynev.

### **Susha Snoopyevky**

Postmaster and letter carrier. Reads everyone's mail without asking and steals money from letters. Delights in gossip.

### **Dr. Bublely Blighterbotch**

Director of Hospital and Personal Doctor to Gordie. Comes up with fake "cures" and insists on payment first from Gordie. Steals a lot of money from the hospital. Has no compassion for the poor or sick or real medical knowledge

### **Professor Petya Pinheadowitz**

Director of Education and headmaster of the local school. Makes sure his students never ask questions or experience any real learning. Preoccupied with the idea of science. More interested in being seen as an intellectual than actually learning anything.

### **Anna Busybodsky**

Town landowner. Between an aristocrat (rich person) and the

peasants. Busy body; gossip. Lives vicariously through others and loves gossip, exaggerates the truth to make better gossip.

### **Ivana Busyrobsky**

Best “friend” of Busybodsky. They are always seen together and meddle in the town's affairs. Loves gossip

### **Oksana Volkov**

Innkeeper. A peasant who has managed to get ahead a little bit with her own business. Tries her best to get by in life while helping those less fortunate around her. Sarcastic and clever. Best cook in town.

### **Milan**

Town cloth merchant. Constantly getting ripped off by Grusha. Is forced to make dresses for the Griftgraftnikovs.

### **Olga Needleskaya**

Widow who can't keep her mouth shut about Griftgraftnikov's corruption and is punished for it.

### **Alyosha Loafnikov**

Waiter at Oksana's Inn. Lazy. Does the bare minimum of work. Loves sleep and food. Hates work.

## **Peasant 1 & 2**

Lowest ranked in the town. Poor. They love vodka and looking for potatoes.

## **Patients 1, 2, & 3**

The sick patients in the town hospital. Haven't seen the sun in years. Are most likely sicker than they were when they arrived at the hospital. Constantly punished and beaten.

## **Students 1, 2, & 3**

Illiterate students of the local school. Most have learned absolutely nothing. One is very smart; but no one listens to them.

## **Driver**

(voice only - does not appear on stage) The voice of the coach driver who comes to take Maskim at the end of the play.

***Spoiler Alert!*** The notes below are provided for those who would benefit from being prepared for some of the more dramatic or scary elements of the Performance.

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During the performance some characters will come in through the audience from the back in the first and final scene of the show.

## Content Warning

This play includes some heavy themes and scenes that might be distressing for some viewers, including:

- **Death and Grief:** Olga is a widow; her husband shipped off to die in Siberia before the beginning of the play. There is also fake and implied death.
- **Poverty and Struggle:** You'll see characters facing serious financial challenges and the harsh realities of social inequality. The social hierarchy in the play is based on feudalism. Characters like Yuri are essentially slaves; being owned by other characters.
- **Physical Abuse/Violence:** Expect some intense moments featuring physical confrontations. Many lower class characters are beaten and abused by those of a higher rank. There is also a significant amount of comedic violence.
- **Real & Faked Illness:** Galina will do anything to become the centre of attention, this includes faking seizures, illness, etc. Gordie is constantly physically ill, varies scene to scene. As well as the patients who have a variety of illnesses.

Although this play is a farce and comedy, many jokes lean on dark material. Viewer discretion is advised.