



15 AUGUST, 2025 \$3.00

Blackwood Players Inc. presents...

THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR CORRUPTION SCANDAL



LOCAL DEVELOPER FACES BRIBERY PROBE

EXCLUSIVE: Respected local developer, Barry 'The Gov' Barrymore, has been linked to rumours of bribery and corruption. Under advice of our lawyers this newspaper acknowledges that Mr Barrymore remains innocent until proven guilty and he strenuously denies the allegations. However, on the local grapevine, there continues to be whispers of money changing hands between parties and questions around ethics in his business and personal dealings. "I continue to have this community at heart and challenge anyone with so called 'information' about any wrongdoing to say it to my face," Mr Barrymore said in a statement today.

BLACKWOOD MEMORIAL HALL

WRITTEN BY NIKOLAI GOGOL
ADAPTED BY TERRI BRABON OAM
DIRECTED BY GREG ELLIOTT

AUGUST 2025

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We acknowledge that this performance is taking place on the land of the Kaurna people, the traditional custodians of the Adelaide Plains. We acknowledge the deep history of storytelling on this land. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our audience.

We thank Catherine Hutchesson and the Waite Office staff, Caprice, Daniel, Peter and Peter for their assistance especially with printing and including our show in their What's On Around Waite publication.

Thanks also to Doug of Cellarbrations Blackwood, who has helped organise our drinks at the bar and donated a Magnum of wine for our raffle.

Thank you Janita Giles and the committee of the Blackwood Memorial Hall for their assistance in scheduling rehearsals and in maintaining and improving the hall.

Thank you to Georgia Stanley and Andy Packer from Slingsby for providing former set pieces and items to not only Blackwood Players but other theatre groups and schools. It was a wonderful act of generosity. We are grateful for their assistance.

We thank Anna and Mitcham Community News, David Jobling, and Brenton and Shiona from Coast FM for their support with publicity.

Thank you to the many volunteers who continue to share their time, talents and efforts with this group on stage and behind the scenes in the leadup to and during our shows. As a volunteer-run organisation, we rely on this support to keep doing what we do, as we have done since 1951. We value every one of you, and welcome any interested people along to get involved.

Thank you of course to our audience. Your support is everything. Enjoy the show!



BLACKWOOD PLAYERS' (NON CORRUPT) COMMITTEE

President: Greg Elliott

Vice President: Tim Gladdis

Secretary: Amber Faull / Mason Curtis

Treasurer: Mark Darrell

Marketing: Brooke DuBois

General Members: Ellie-May Lawson, Matthew Chant, Damien White, Geoff Hastwell, Shirley Mangin, Annie Gladdis.

If you'd like to join our committee or get involved as a volunteer on stage or off, get in touch! **blackwood.players@gmail.com**

CAST OF CHARACTERS

"THE GOV" BARRY BARRYMORE - Corrupt Property Developer: Damien White

AMY FIODORIVICH - Corrupt Mayor: Stephanie Russell

LUCINDA BINDER - Corrupt Town Planner: Meredith Krieg

ARTIE PHELAN - Corrupt Councillor: Geoff Hastwell

WARREN DOBBS - Corrupt CFO of Local Council: Damien Croft

LAUREN DOBBS - Wife of Warren, corrupt local business identity: Eleanor - May Lawson

ANNA BARRYMORE - Ambitious Socialite Wife of "The Gov": Rebecca Gardner

MARYA BARRYMORE - Spoilt and brainless daughter of Barry & Anna: Amber Faull

MISHKA - Self-serving servant of Barry & Anna: Kenya Styles

ALEX BRAGG - Spoilt silver spooner used to living off daddy: Marcus Catt

JOSIE - Prostitute from an even smaller town close by: Fabiola Calderon

STAGEHANDS (THE STORYTELLERS, THE NARRATORS, THE WATCH DOGS) -

Dhruva Nagaraj, Sara Azedagan, Annie Gladdis.





DIRECTOR'S NOTES

After the success of *Comic Potential* in May, we are proud to be bringing you this production of Gogol's *The Government Inspector*. It was Kerry Elliott who suggested we stage *Comic Potential* and she also suggested *The Government Inspector*. I went online and found reviews for a very successful production by Theatre iNQ in Townsville. Terri Brabon, artistic director of the company had written a new adaptation of the Gogol modern classic. I contacted Terri and asked if there was a copy of the script and would it be possible for us to stage it. Terri was very helpful and was working on a final copy. She emailed it to me when it was done. It was a great read and much of the play had been modernised to be set in Australia without being overly 'ockerish'.

I have chosen this play not merely because it is a very funny comedy and has some terrific characters in it, but also, in keeping with our goal of staging plays that are entertaining and that explore themes relevant to a modern society.

The Government Inspector depicts the nature of corruption and how it escalates if it is allowed to. I can recall that Barry O'Farrell, a former NSW premier, resigned because he had accepted a \$3,000 bottle of Penfolds

Grange and not declared it; the state Independent Commission Against Corruption found him to be guilty of a breach of duty.

Senior minister in Hawke's Labor Government, Mick Young, resigned because he brought into the country a stuffed Paddington bear without declaring it. The 2022 federal election was partly fought on the need for there to be a National Anti-Corruption Commission that would have considerable powers to stamp out corruption in the federal parliament. It has been established, but has it had an impact?

In America, Donald Trump is openly rejecting the rule of law and brazenly accepting gifts. Is this the way we are headed? I hope not. There are regular reports of politicians abusing their privilege and using government transport for private use. Land was bought for an airport with the government paying 10 times more than it was worth and dodgy water buy back schemes to the tune of \$80 million. There seems to be less concern by people in positions of power that they are behaving in a corrupt manner. The Fitzgerald Inquiry into corruption in the Queensland government and police in 1989 saw the resignation of Joh

DIRECTOR'S NOTES, CONTINUED

Bjelke-Pietersen, the jailing of three former ministers and the resignation of the Police Commissioner. Have we now become tolerant of corruption? Do we expect it? Do we feel there is nothing to be done about it?

In tonight's play we welcome Damien White back in the role of Barry Barrymore, the "Gov", a former property developer who now runs the town with one shonky deal after another. Rebecca Gardner is Anna, his wife, and Amber Faull is the not so bright daughter, Marya. We have new blood coming into the company: Fabiola Calderon is Chilean and plays Josie, the small town 'lady of the night'; Damien Croft is Warren Dobbs, the bent finance officer, and Kenya Styles is servant, Mischka. Good to see returning players Marcus Catt as conman Alex Bragg; Ellie-May Lawson as Warren's

corrupt wife, Lauren; and Meredith Krieg, Stephanie Russell, and Geoff Hastwell as dodgy dealers from the local council. We welcome also our three Stagehands: Sara Azadegan, Dhruva Nagaraj and Annie Gladdis, who was our *Comic Potential* stage manager, is this time bringing her energy on the stage.

I'm sure you will have a great night out and at Blackwood Players we will continue to bring you a diverse range of plays and experiences that will be entertaining, stimulating and thought-provoking.

I am grateful to Terri Brabon for allowing us to stage her play and I appreciate David Jobling's (Radio PBA FM) warm support for the direction we are heading in, in including modern Australian plays in our repertoire.



PRODUCTION TEAM

Directed by Greg Elliott

Choreography by Kerry Elliott

Technical Director Tim Gladdis

Stage Manager Mason Curtis

Piano accompaniment Anthea Trevelyan

Marketing/programme Brooke DuBois

Front of House Coordinator Shirley Mangin

IF YOU ENJOY OUR SHOW, PLEASE TELL YOUR PALS!

The best promotion we can hope for is word of mouth from our community. If you like the show, please encourage your friends to book tickets via Trybooking or this QR code.



PROLOGUE

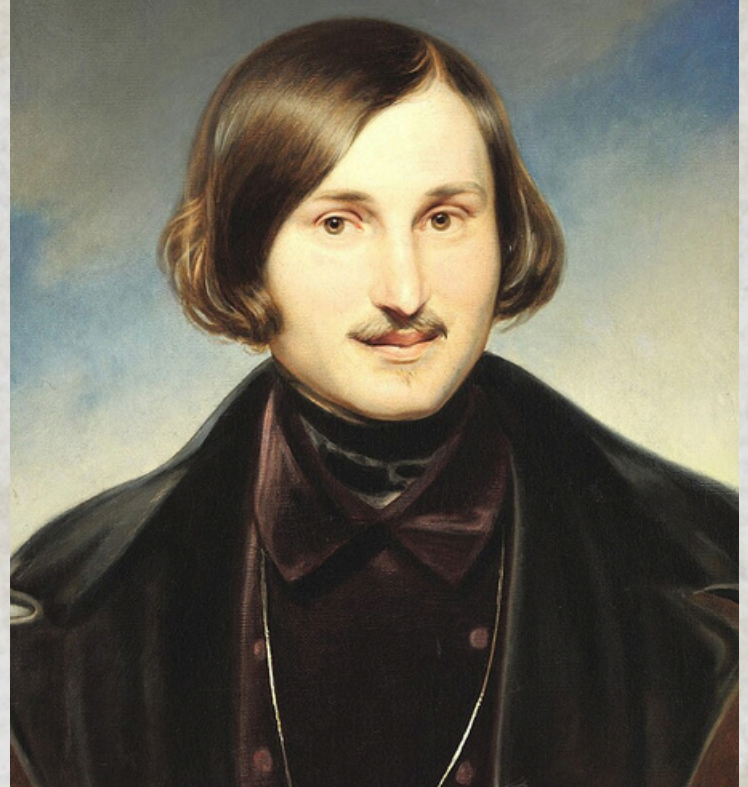
WRITTEN BY TERRI BRABON FOR THIS ADAPTATION OF NIKOLAI GOGOL'S THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR

Born in 1809, Nikolai Gogol wasn't very popular amongst his school chums. He was regularly bullied and referred to as "a mysterious dwarf". Wikipedia describes him as possessing "a dark and secretive disposition, marked by painful self-consciousness and boundless ambition." Not quite sure how Wikipedia knows that insightful slice of information but as it's on the internet, we all know it must be true.

Nevertheless, little Nikolai would grow to become one of the biggest influences on Russian and world literature. His novels and short stories would be adapted into films, and operas and he would even have his face depicted on a postage stamp. So. . . suck on that, school chums.

The story goes like this – in 1836, at the age of 27, Gogol decided to try his hand at writing a comedy for the stage. He turned to his friend, the famed writer Alexander Pushkin – and said "Alex, I'm going to write a comedy. You give me a plot and I'll knock it out in two months, and it'll be the funniest thing you have ever heard." And that is precisely what came to pass.

And now, here in the Village of Towns, in an act of unmitigated arrogance, our writer set herself a similar task; she would take that original work of literary genius and adapt it into a re-imagined context in the same time period of two months.



**Nikolai Gogol by F. Moller, 1840,
Tretyakov Gallery. Source: Wiki Commons**

Unfortunately for you, it will be that version that you will be seeing tonight. It will most certainly not be as good and will most definitely not be the funniest thing you have ever heard, but what we can guarantee, is that it won't be in Russian.

Disclaimer: The characters, persons and events depicted in this play are entirely fictional. Any similarity or resemblance to persons, living or dead, or company, business (or any local government official), is unintentional and entirely coincidental. Entirely.

OUR CAST



Damien White has been active on the Adelaide stage for 25 years as an actor and director. After starting with Unseen Theatre Company he has worked with many others including the Daw Park Players, Galleon, Therry, The Rep and the Raw Shakespeare Company.



Rebecca Gardner has been involved in drama since school and performed many times with Unfinished Business; Full Company in Roxby Downs. Previous roles at Blackwood Players include neat-freak Florence Unger in *The Odd Couple*; Mrs Cattermole, *The Private Secretary*; and the title character in Dracula and most recently Prim in *Comic Potential*. She has also worked with Stirling Players and Noarlunga Theatre Company. Recently, she was in *Moonlight and Magnolias* (Adelaide Repertory Theatre) and *A Hard God* (St Judes). Rebecca hopes you enjoy watching this production of *The Government Inspector* as much as she has enjoyed performing it.



Amber Faull is a 23 year old non-binary performer and this is their third production with Blackwood Players. Amber loves to dabble in both theatre and drag and is always on the look out for new adventures and opportunities.



Marcus Catt is a passionate and dedicated actor whose journey into theatre began in early 2023 at Type Talent Academy, where he made his debut in *Your Second Self*. A Flinders University Bachelor of Creative Arts (Film & TV) graduate, he moved from screen to stage after joining Blackwood Players in *Peter Pan – A Pantomime* as a Lost Boy. Marcus then took a bold creative leap and produced his own amateur theatre show, *The Sprite With No Name*, showcasing his initiative and storytelling passion, and acted in the cheeky comedy *Nana's Naughty Knickers*. Whether on stage or behind the scenes, Marcus brings energy, enthusiasm, and a commitment to honing his craft.



Fabiola Calderon's creative journey began in Chile, where she was born before moving to Australia at 13. After many years in Sydney, she made Adelaide her home five years ago. A passionate maker and artist with a love for costume design, jewellery-making and painting, she brings her creativity into everything she does. Since joining the Blackwood Players in June, Fabiola has embraced the stage with enthusiasm. *The Government Inspector* marks her debut performance.



Kenya Styles has had a love for performance since she was very young, with a particular interest in musical theatre. She has performed in many different musicals through Adelaide Theatre Academy and Pelican Productions since the age of nine. Highlights include playing the part of Patty in *School of Rock* at the Thebarton Theatre (2021) and winning Most Outstanding Performance at the 2023 Junior Theatre Festival in Newcastle. Kenya is looking forward to her first production with Blackwood Players - she hopes to bring lots of laughter to the audience.



Stephanie Russell is relatively new to all things theatre, but she is super enthusiastic and loves the opportunity to act her authentic mad self. Her most recent appearance was in the Blackwood Players production of *Comic Potential*.



Geoff Hastwell has been a member of Blackwood Players since 1980, directing *Teahouse of the August Moon* that year. Since then he's done a variety of tasks, on and off stage. He's very pleased to observe new energy and direction in the Players, and delighted to be one of the Gov's 'ratpack', Councillor Artie Phelan.



An avid drama student and actor from a young age through to her adult life, Meredith always loved everything about theatre and performance art - with a soft spot in particular for musicals. However, various life events meant that theatre and acting had to take a back seat in her life. After over 15 years away from the stage, Meredith has recently thrown herself back into acting, performing in such shows as *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery (Murder at Checkmate Manor)*, and *The Wind in the Willows*. "I love the freedom to explore and express emotion that acting allows, and the strong sense of camaraderie that develops when you put on a show," Meredith says.



Dhruva Nagaraj, a Year 10 student from Adelaide, loves acting, filmmaking, piano, and music. He enjoys swimming, soccer, chess, and Rubik's cubes. This is his third show with Blackwood Players, and he hopes to study while pursuing acting and music.



Sara Azadegan is a professional dabbler, having dipped her toes in TV, film and theatre acting in her youth. Somewhat out of character for her, then, she's up to her neck in it, having recently taken employment in local government to live and breathe the world of the characters being presented tonight. (Refer elsewhere in programme for similarity disclaimer).



Annie Gladdis is well known in Blackwood Players circles having been part of the group for many years, in onstage and off stage roles such as acting, stage management and as a committee member, following in the footsteps of her father, Life Member Tim Gladdis. Upon her return from living in Japan, Blackwood Players were happy to welcome Annie back onto the committee and into the role of Stage Manager for *Comic Potential* earlier this year. Annie is doing a wonderful job narrating and commenting upon the action in her role as one of the Stagehands in *The Government Inspector*.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT




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