

Maybe-Theatre Company

presents

# The Real Inspector Hound

by Tom Stoppard

Scena Kameralna,  
Sopot,  
ul. Bohaterow  
Monte Cassino 55/57

Directed by Penny Shefton  
Designed by Karola Chrol  
Produced by Tadeusz Z. Wolanski

**Wednesday 5th May**  
9.00 & 11.30 (schools)

**Thursday 6th May**  
**Friday 7th May**  
19.00

**Saturday 8th May**  
**Sunday 9th May**  
17.00 & 19.00

**Tuesday 11th May**  
18.00

**Wednesday 12th May**  
9.00 & 11.30 (schools) & 19.00

**Thursday 13th May**  
19.00

# MAYBE THEATRE COMPANY

presents

## THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND

An Entertainment

by

**TOM STOPPARD**

Directed by Penny Shefton

Designed by Karola Chroł

Produced by Tadeusz Z. Wolański

Scena Kameralna, Sopot, ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino  
55/57

First performance of this production: 5th May, 2004

### MEDIA PATRONS

\* [www.trójmiasto.pl](http://www.trójmiasto.pl) \*

\* [www.wirtualny.gdańsk.pl](http://www.wirtualny.gdańsk.pl) \*

### SPONSORED BY

\*Distinction Language Centre \* English Unlimited\*

\*Oxford University Press \* BC Studium \* Pol-Anglo\*

### CAST

Moon  
Birdboot  
Mrs Drudge  
Simon  
Felicity  
Cynthia  
Magnus  
Inspector Hound  
Anybody

Qba Głombiowski  
Zbyszek Wienar  
Adam Stawarz  
Kuba Bartnicki  
Alicja Jankowska  
Izabela Bieszk  
Konrad Daniel  
Tadeusz Z. Wolański  
Piotrós Obuchowski

### Production Team

Directed by  
Set & poster designed by  
Sound Works  
Co-ordination  
Stage Manager  
Lights & Sound

Penny Shefton  
Karola Chroł  
Paweł Lewandowski  
Ewa Pujdak  
Piotr Lewandowski  
Paweł Lewandowski &  
Paweł Napieralski  
Ewa Pujdak, Anna Stencel  
Maybe Theatre Co. members  
Tadeusz Z. Wolański

Publicity  
Front of House  
Produced by

### For Scena Kameralna, Sopot

Stage  
Lights  
FOH

Krzysztof Bąk  
Cezary Wybraniec  
Jola Zawadzka

### Ingredients for a cliché thriller

- 1) A Radio, switched on conveniently, to tell the audience that a suspicious character is on the loose.
- 2) A Corpse, clearly visible to the audience though not to the cast
- 3) A Cleaning lady who quakes with fear and talks about the coming storm.
- 4) A handsome stranger who appears from nowhere and dazzles the ladies
- 5) A young debutante ready to flirt but not be rejected
- 6) A beautiful, stylish, wealthy widow, who is the focus of attention.
- 7) An older single man with a past, perhaps a soldier who is not what he seems.
- 8) An Inspector, ready to solve the crime, but first he has to find it.
- 9) Location: a country house in the middle of nowhere, often hidden in fog.

### *WHO IS WHO IN THIS WHODUNNIT...*

#### The Theatre Critics

**Higgs:** The main theatre critic for the paper Moon works for. He is not here tonight. Or is he?

**Moon:** The second string, Higgs's deputy. He is standing in for Higgs tonight. He normally covers the rubbish while Higgs visits the better theatres.

**Birdboot:** The main theatre critic for a rival paper. Quite a lady's man, who enjoys taking young, up and coming, unknown actresses from the provinces out to dinner (and more?). He likes chocolates.

**Myrtle:** Mrs Birdboot, a woman who simply does not like theatre. Instead she prefers cocoa and nylon slippers. She does not approve of her husband's interest in young actresses.

**Puckeridge:** The third string. (A stand-in's stand-in; Moon's deputy). Nobody knows what he is like as a critic – there's always been Higgs and Moon to write the reviews.

### At Muldoon Manor

**Muldoon Manor:** a lovely country house built in the Queen Anne Style. Surrounded by dangerous swamps, it is strangely inaccessible. However, there are ways of getting to it, though there are no roads leading from it. High water and fog often cut it off from the outside world.

**Mrs Drudge - The help:** She does not live at the Manor but cycles over, when the weather allows, to help out. She likes talking about the weather especially the fog, and appears when you least want her.

**Simon Gascoyne:** A youngish, good-looking, charming stranger full of youth and vigour. Known to both Felicity & Lady Cynthia. He recently moved into the neighbourhood. He seems to be good at playing cards.

**Felicity Cunningham:** An ambitious young woman from the provinces on stage, while off stage a newcomer, full of promise and going straight to the top. Known to both Simon and Birdboot. If rejected, she believes a woman's revenge can be nastier than hell. She plays tennis and bridge at the Manor regularly.

**Lady Cynthia Muldoon:** A beautiful woman in her 30s, who arrived at Muldoon Manor as a young bride 10 years ago only to be left by her husband when he went for a walk and was never seen again. Still in love with Albert, she likes being held by other men until she tells them to STOP! She plays tennis & bridge in an evening dress, and often has her mouth open.

**Major Magnus Muldoon:** The crippled half-brother of Lord Albert Muldoon who unexpectedly arrived from Canada just the other day. He plays bridge, likes oiling his gun and would like to take Cynthia for a ride in the rose garden. After all, Cynthia is a damned attractive woman. He does not seem to get on well with Simon or Birdboot.

**Inspector Hound:** The policeman masterminding the operation to catch the escaped madman who is believed to be heading towards Muldoon Manor. Determined to do his duty, even in the fog. Owns a foghorn & a pair of boots. He turns up at Muldoon Manor without an invitation to deal with the trouble. 'Be prepared' as the Force's motto has it.

**Lord Albert Muldoon:** Last seen ten years ago before he went out alone for a walk along the cliffs. He had no children.

**Tom Stoppard** born in Zlin, Czechoslovakia in 1937. Came to Britain in 1946 via Singapore and India. After leaving school, he started work as a journalist and spent some time as a theatre critic writing under his own name and the pseudonym William Boot. 1966 brought instant fame with *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead*. Since then he has written for stage, radio and film, winning international acclaim. He is regarded as the most intellectual dramatist of our time writing in English; his work is full of cultural and intellectual scholarship & wordplay, which often alienates audiences. Yet, Stoppard himself has said 'I don't write plays for discussion', adding in another comment 'I've never felt ... that art is important.' Strange for a writer who from his first success, through works such as *Arcadia*, *The Invention of Love* and *Jumpers*, delights in 'establishing different planes of action and then negates every level as equally unreal. His work is a series of looking-glass adventures..' (Irving Wardle - noted theatre critic). But his mirrors reflect nothing but themselves; so there is in fact no starting point.

Hound (1968) then, can be seen both as a parody of critical jargon & the arrogance that often accompanies the world of theatre criticism, or a quiet warning that any of us can suddenly be unexpectedly and unwillingly thrown into a world of chaos - outsiders drawn into a story they do not fully understand and have little control over.

Stoppard has said of Hound that it is about 'nothing grander than itself'.

#### Glossary

<b>A Whodunnit:</b>	A play, film or story dealing with the detection of a crime. A style made famous by Agatha Christie, whose whodunnit "The Mousetrap" has been captivating audiences in London for over 50 years.
<b>The Real McCoy:</b>	An informal way of expressing that something is genuine & not fake. e.g. <i>We thought the Seiko watch was a fake but it turned out to be the real McCoy.</i>
<b>Bridge:</b>	A card game for four players playing in pairs. The aim is to get the highest value of cards - trumps, and win tricks. PONTOON bridge, the type of game played at Muldoon Manor (and nowhere else).
<b>A Theatre Critic:</b>	A person who evaluates a performance, and then whose work is published as a REVIEW. Critics sit in the auditorium with the audience.
<b>Voila:</b>	A French word meaning - that's it!
<b>Eclat:</b>	A French word meaning - brilliance, distinction
<b>Elan:</b>	A French word meaning - energy, enthusiasm, spirit
<b>Titillate:</b>	Gossip

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

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**The Committee and all the members of  
MAYBE THEATRE COMPANY,**  
too numerous to mention, for their help and support

# MAYBE THEATRE COMPANY

MTC was formed by students, mostly but not exclusively of English Philology, who officially registered the company in 1992. The aim of the group is the presentation of English language theatre in Gdańsk, Poland and abroad.

“The Real Inspector Hound” is Maybe Theatre Company’s 67<sup>th</sup> premiere. So far we have appeared on 40 stages in 9 cities in Poland as well as in Bratislava (Slovakia) and Newcastle (England).

## Forthcoming attractions:

·**WCHODZIMY**, a comedy in Polish & English about a Polish family entering the European Union.

Written & directed by Magda Komorowska

Produced by Tadeusz Z Wolański

**Teatr Miniatura, ul. Grunwaldzka 16, Gdańsk-Wrzeszcz.**

**Friday 28, Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 May**

**Friday 4 June, Saturday 5 & Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

If you wish to become a member of MTC and take part in our productions, contact: Tadeusz Z. Wolański, Maybe Theatre Company, Institute of English, University of Gdańsk.

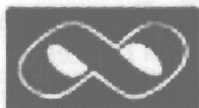
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or look us up on the MTC home page: [www.mtc.z.pl](http://www.mtc.z.pl)

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