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Contact: <u>Steven Padla</u> / Director of Communications

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Yale Repertory Theatre presents Nikolai Gogol's The Inspector Newly Adapted and Directed by Yura Kordonsky March 7–29

Yale Repertory Theatre (James Bundy, Artistic Director; Florie Seery, Managing Director) will present Nikolai Gogol's *The Inspector*, newly adapted and directed by Yura Kordonsky, March 7–29, at Yale Repertory Theatre (1120 Chapel Street). Opening Night is Thursday, March 13, which is also press night.

The Inspector features music composed by Arseniy Gusev, scenic design by Silin Chen, costume design by KT Farmer, lighting by Masha Tsimring, sound by Minjae Kim 김민재,, hair and wig design by Matthew Armentrout, dramaturgy by Sophia Carey and Georgia Petersen, technical direction by Cian Jaspar Freeman, fight and intimacy direction by Kelsey Rainwater and Michael Rossmy, vocal and dialect coaching by Walton Wilson, casting by Calleri Jensen Davis, and stage management by Adam Taylor Foster.

The cast of *The Inspector* includes **Whitney Andrews**, **Edoardo Benzoni**, **Brandon E. Burton**, **Sam Douglas**, **Malik James**, **Annelise Lawson**, **Chinna Palmer**, **John Evans Reese**, **Grayson Richmond**, **Darius Sakui**, **Nomè SiDone**, and **Elizabeth Stahlmann**.

About *The Inspector*

An entire town is plunged into chaos as it frantically hides its grift and incompetence from the prying eyes of an undercover inspector. But the cons are about to get conned: the mysterious stranger accepting every bauble, coin, and advance thrown his way is not who he seems to be. Everyone is on the take—or the make—in this outrageously anarchic comedy of errors. Yura Kordonsky's adaptation of Gogol's timeless masterpiece, *The Inspector*, is both the moving

drama of a community desperate for a better life and a farce exposing the absurd lengths to which they go in its pursuit.

Production support is provided by the Binger Center for New Theatre.

Yale Rep's 2024–25 WILL POWER! education program will include two 10AM performances of *The Inspector* on March 25 and 26 for New Haven Public High School students. For more information about the program, please contact Senior Artistic Producer Amy Boratko at amy.boratko@yale.edu.

Ticket Information and Performance Calendar

Tickets are \$15, and \$35 (all previews), \$15 and \$50 (weeknights), and \$15 and \$65 (weekends and matinees). Student tickets are \$15 for all performances. Tickets are available online at yalerep.org, by calling (203) 432-1234, and in person at the Yale Rep Box Office (1120 Chapel Street).

Friday, March 7	8PM	Preview
Saturday, March 8	8PM	Preview, Post-Show Discussion
Monday, March 10	8PM	Preview, Post-Show Discussion
Tuesday, March 11	8PM	Preview
Wednesday, March 12	8PM	Preview
Thursday, March 13	8PM	Opening Night
Friday, March 14	8PM	
Saturday, March 15	2PM	
Saturday, March 15	8PM	
Tuesday, March 18	8PM	
Wednesday, March 19	2PM	Pre-performance Discussion
Wednesday, March 19	8PM	
Thursday, March 20	8PM	
Friday, March 21	8PM	
Saturday, March 22	2PM	Touch Tour, Audio Description, Talk Back
Saturday, March 22	8PM	ASL
Wednesday, March 26	8PM	Open Captioning in Spanish
Thursday, March 27	8PM	
Friday, March 28	8PM	Relaxed Performance
Saturday, March 29	2PM	Open Captioning
Saturday, March 29	8PM	

The Creative Team

Yura Kordonsky (Adaptor and Director) Born in Odessa, Ukraine, Yura received his M.F.A. degrees in acting and directing from the St. Petersburg State Academy of Theatre Arts, Russia, under the direction of Lev Dodin. He has taught, performed, and directed internationally since

1989. Directing credits include his original play Disappearance and House of Bernarda Alba (Maly Drama Theatre, St. Petersburg, Russia); Uncle Vanya, The Marriage, Crime and Punishment, Marble, Bury Me Under the Baseboard, and Zinc Boys (Bulandra Theatre, Bucharest, Romania); The Lower Depths, The Cherry Orchard (Hungarian Theatre, Cluj, Romania); The Encounter (UNESCO ITI congress, Manila, Philippines); Fatherlessness (Orkeny Szinhaz, Budapest); Last Day of Youth (National Theatre "Radu Stanca," Sibiu, Romania); The Seagull, Erendira (German National Theatre, Timisoara, Romania); The Heart of a Dog, Romeo and Juliet (National Theatre, Bucharest); Peer Gynt, Oedipus Rex, The Bald Soprano (Wesleyan University); A Diary of a Madman (West End Theatre, Gloucester, Massachusetts); and Canterbury Tales (Riverside Theater, New York), among others. International awards include Golden Light, Governor's Award, and Bravo Award for Best Production (Russia), Union of European Theatres' Award for Best Production (Italy), multiple UNITER Awards for Best Production and Best Director (Romania), and the Special Prize of the Romanian Ministry of Culture. In the U.S., he has taught at Wesleyan University, where he served as Professor and Chair of Theater Department, Columbia University, UC San Diego, George Washington University, Colgate University, and the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center. He currently serves as Associate Chair of Directing and Professor in the Practice of Directing at David Geffen School of Drama.

Arseniy Gusev (Composer) is a graduate of the Yale School of Music and currently a student at The Juilliard School. Arseniy has been pursuing a double career, as a composer and concert pianist. Since his orchestral debut at the age of 15, Gusev's compositions have been performed in such venues as Mariinsky Theater, Carnegie Hall, Konzerthaus Dortmund, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, Shanghai Philharmonic; they present a colorful variety of styles and genres, some of which are solo, collaborative, orchestral and chamber music, film and theater scores, electronic compositions, lofi, techno, ballet, and opera. Several of Gusev's works notably explore alternative and imaginative history, as well as its cultural oddities, such as Madrigals on Ancient Egyptian Poetry, Fragments from Wojciech Bobowsky's Diary, Mandrakes from the Garden of Rudolf II, among others.

Silin Chen (Scenic Designer) is a third-year M.F.A. candidate at David Geffen School of Drama, where she designed *Cactus Queen* and *Uncle Vanya*. She designs for stage and exhibitions. @de.silin | silindesign.com

KT Farmer they/them (Costume Designer) is a third-year M.F.A. candidate at David Geffen School of Drama, where their credits include *Hamlet: princesa de dinamarca*). Other costume design credits include *Intimate Apparel*, *Heart of a Dog*, and *Twelfth Night*. Assistant credits include productions at Synetic Theater, Yale Rep, the Geffen School, and VCU Raymond Hodges Theatre. KT has won multiple awards in the arts field, including the SETC Undergraduate Costume Design Award in first place (2021) and honorable mention (2022), Bobby Chandler Award for Theatre Technology (2022), and the Georgia Shorts Film Festival Best Animated Short Film in first place (2022). In addition, KT has worked as a freelance illustrator, painter, and theater craftsperson for more than a decade. KT received their B.F.A. in theater from Virginia

Commonwealth University, Richmond. Now more than ever, love and protect your community. I love you Mom and Mama. ktfarmer.com, @creatikt

Masha Tsimring (Lighting Designer) Off-Broadway: A Woman Among Women (Bushwick Starr), Six Characters (LCT3), Coach Coach (Clubbed Thumb), Staff Meal (Playwrights Horizons), Grief Hotel (Clubbed Thumb), Sad Boys in Harpy Land (Playwrights Horizons/Abrons Art Center), Self Portraits (Bushwick Starr), Montag (Soho Rep). Regional: Primary Trust (La Jolla Playhouse), English (Barrington Stage), Eternal Life, Part 1 (The Wilma), The Appointment (Lightning Rod Special), Vietgone (Guthrie), Tick Tick...Boom! (Portland Center Stage). Dance/Opera: Terce (Prototype), Me. You. We. They. (LA Dance Project/Paris Philarmonie), morning/mourning (Prototype/HERE), Deepe Darknesse (Lisa Fagan/Lena Engelstein/New York Live Arts), Unstill Life (LA Dance Project), The Hunt (Miller Theater), Rodelinda (Hudson Hall/Santa Fe Opera), Der Freischütz (Wolf Trap Opera). In addition to design, Masha's interests include working towards a more ethical model of making in the American theater. She is a proud member of USA829. mashald.com

Minjae Kim 김민재 he/him (Sound Designer) is a Korean-Canadian theater artist and a third-year M.F.A. candidate at David Geffen School of Drama. He discovered his passion for theater design as an undergraduate at Princeton University before coming to Yale to specialize in sound. He is excited to mark the culmination of his time here by collaborating with friends and peers on The Inspector. Recent select sound and/or composition credits include Metamorphoses, rent free, Cleansed (the Geffen School); Ghost Quartet (Princeton Summer Theater), The Match Girl (Cellunova), Mary Stuart—A New Translation (Princeton); and The Hello Girls (McCarter). He hopes to continue exploring his artistry as a designer, director, playwright, and performer. mondayminjae.com

Matthew Armentrout (Hair Designer) previously worked at Yale Rep on *The Far Country*, Escaped Alone, Wish You Were Here, The Brightest Thing in the World, Edward Albee's Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Today is My Birthday, and Manahatta. Broadway: Birthday Candles, Paradise Square, Flying Over Sunset, and Bernhardt/Hamlet. Off-Broadway: Merrily We Roll Along (Roundabout), Othello (Shakespeare in the Park). Regional: Bliss (The 5th Avenue Theatre), Jitney (National Tour), Paradise Square (Berkeley Repertory Theatre).

Cian Jaspar Freeman *they/he* (Technical Director) is a third-year student pursuing their M.F.A. in technical design and production at David Geffen School of Drama, where his credits include serving as Technical Director for the 2024 Carlotta Festival, an Assistant Technical Director for *Ghosts*, as well as *The Salvagers* and *falcon girls* at Yale Rep. Prior to Yale, Cian worked as the Assistant Technical Director at the McGlothlin Center for the Arts, while pursuing their B.F.A. in theatrical design and production from Emory & Henry University. Cian is incredibly grateful for everyone who has had the patience to help guide him through this process.

Sophia Carey *she/her* (Production Dramaturg) is a third-year M.F.A. candidate in dramaturgy and dramatic criticism at David Geffen School of Drama, where she was the production

dramaturg on *Metamorphoses*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Running Play* by Ida Cuttler, and *Measure for Measure*, which she co-adapted. Yale Cabaret credits include *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Pride of Doves*, *Tobie*, and *Annunciation*, which she wrote. In 2021 she was named a Beinecke Scholar. Her writing engages art that draws from epic and mythological sources to center women's voices and explore contemporary questions about gender, childhood, and magic. She is originally from Seattle and holds a B.A. in English from the University of Washington.

Georgia Petersen (Production Dramaturg) is a second-year M.F.A. candidate in dramaturgy and dramatic criticism at David Geffen School of Drama and a managing editor at *Theater* magazine, Yale's journal of theater and performance. Her dramaturgy and scholarship use queerness and transness as methods of inquiry and criticism. She holds a B.F.A. in acting with a minor in creative writing from New York University.

Walton Wilson he/him (Vocal and Dialect Coach) is a member of the Acting faculty at David Geffen School of Drama at Yale. He was trained and designated as a voice teacher by Kristin Linklater and was later trained and certified as an associate teacher by Catherine Fitzmaurice. His ongoing studies include working with voice teachers such as Richard Armstrong, Andrea Haring, Meredith Monk, Natsuko Ohama, Patsy Rodenburg, and members of the Roy Hart Theatre. As a voice and dialect coach, his New York credits include *The Violet Hour* and *Golden* Child on Broadway as well as the world premiere productions of The Laramie Project, The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later; and Endangered Species. Regional credits include serving as a voice and dialect coach on productions at Actors Theatre of Louisville, American Repertory Theater, Berkshire Theatre Group, Dorset Theatre Festival, Double Edge Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, McCarter Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, Swine Palace Theatre, and Williamstown Theatre Festival. At Yale Rep, he has served as voice and dialect coach for Edward Albee's Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, peerless, Accidental Death of an Anarchist, In a Year with 13 Moons, A Doctor in Spite of Himself, Autumn Sonata, Battle of Black and Dogs, Notes from Underground, Boleros for the Disenchanted, The Evildoers, The Unmentionables, The Cherry Orchard, The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow, The Black Monk, Medea/Macbeth/Cinderella, Betty's Summer Vacation, The Birds, and Richard III.

Kelsey Rainwater (Fight and Intimacy Director) is an intimacy coach, fight director, and actress based out of the ancestral lands of the Quinnipiac people. Kelsey's work was recently seen in the premiere of Sally & Tom at the Guthrie. Some of her other credits include In the Southern Breeze at Rattlestick, The Public Theater's Measure for Measure and White Noise by Suzan-Lori Parks, directed by Oskar Eustis; Blues for an Alabama Sky with the Keen Company; Bess Wohl's film, Baby Ruby; falcon girls, Wish You Were Here, A Raisin in the Sun (canceled due to COVID-19), Edward Albee's Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles, and the ripple, the wave that carried me home at Yale Rep. She is a Lecturer in acting at David Geffen School of Drama, co-teaches stage combat and intimacy, and is a Resident Fight and Intimacy Director for Yale Rep.

Michael Rossmy (Fight and Intimacy Director) is a Resident Fight and Intimacy Director for Yale Rep, a lecturer in acting at David Geffen School of Drama, and Stage Combat and Intimacy

Advisor for Yale College. Broadway credits include *A Tale of Two Cities, Cymbeline*, and *Superior Donuts*. Regional theater credits include The Public Theater, Roundabout, The Atlantic, Primary Stages, Westport Country Playhouse, Goodspeed Musicals, Paper Mill Playhouse, Asolo Rep, The Old Globe, TheaterWorks Hartford, Princeton University, The Acting Company, Soho Rep, the Geffen Playhouse, Long Wharf Theatre, McCarter Theatre, Kansas City Rep, People's Light & Theatre, and others. He was nominated for a 2017 Drama Desk Award for The Public's production of *Troilus and Cressida* and is a 2024 Barrymore Award nominee for *Bonez* at People's Light. Upcoming: the Broadway premiere of Branden Jacobs-Jenkins's *Purpose* directed by Phylicia Rashad.

Calleri Jensen Davis (Casting Director) is a creative casting partnership among James Calleri, Erica Jensen, and Paul Davis of over 20 years. They began their collaboration with Yale Rep in 2023 with *Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles* and the ripple, the wave that carried me home. Broadway credits: The Piano Lesson, Topdog/Underdog, for colored girls..., Thoughts of a Colored Man, Burn This, Fool for Love, The Elephant Man, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, Of Mice and Men, Venus in Fur, A Raisin in the Sun, 33 Variations. Television: Love Life, Queens, Dickinson, and The Path, to name a few. callerijensendavis.com

Adam Taylor Foster (Stage Manager) is a third-year M.F.A. candidate at David Geffen School of Drama, where credits include *Marys Seacole*, *How to Live on Earth*, *HELLYOUTALMBOUT*, and *Measure for Measure*. Other select credits: *Escaped Alone* (Yale Rep); *Three Sisters*, *Dindin*, *Buried Child*, *The Ballad of Bobby Botswain*, *Liv at Sea* (Harbor Stage Company); *Romeo and Juliet*, *Pride and Prejudice* (UMass Boston). Thank you to Megan for marrying me.

The Cast

Whitney Andrews she/her (The Director of Public Health) is a Haitian American actor and is making her Yale Rep debut! Off-Broadway: Sex Variants of 1941 (Skirball). Television: Manifest, Wu Tang: An American Saga, Happy!, Gotham. M.F.A., David Geffen School of Drama at Yale. @whitneyjanell

Edoardo Benzoni (Piotr Bobchinsky) is a third-year M.F.A. acting candidate at David Geffen School of Drama, where he has been seen in *Uncle Vanya*, *The Care and Keeping of You Pages 76–77*, *How to Live on Earth*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other credits include *The Far Country* (Yale Rep, understudy); *Pride and Prejudice* and *Cannabis Passover* (Chautauqua Theater Company). He received his bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Brandon E. Burton (The Mayor) is excited to return to Yale! Last summer, Brandon was back in New Haven to do *King Lear* at the International Festival of Arts & Ideas under the direction of Karin Coonrod. You can catch Brandon this summer in Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival's production of *A Raisin in the Sun*. Brandon wants to thank Mom, Dad, Nichole, Stephanie, Alicia, Evan, and George. 277 for Life. Other theater credits include *Death of a Salesman* (Broadway), *Fences* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival), *The Folks at Home* (Baltimore Center Stage), *Merry*

Wives (Public Theater). Yale Rep: A Raisin in the Sun (Bobo, canceled due to COVID). Film/Television: Cram (Amazon/Tubi), Evil (CBS). M.F.A., David Geffen School of Drama.

Samuel Douglas (Ivan Khlestakov) New York: *Wipeout* (MTC). Regional: *Leopoldstadt* (Huntington Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company); *The Comedy of Errors* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); *Arlington, The Betrayal Project* (Yale Cabaret); *Uncle Vanya*, Macbeth (David Geffen School of Drama). M.F.A., David Geffen School of Drama (Oliver Thorndike Award); B.A., Northwestern University. @samwdouglas

Malik James (Piotr Dobchinsky) is excited to be making his return to the Yale Rep stage, where he was previously seen in *Choir Boy*. He is a recent M.F.A. graduate of David Geffen School of Drama, where he was seen in *Ruzante*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Alley*, among others. Malik also holds a B.F.A. in acting from Texas State University. He would like to thank everyone involved in this production and his friends and family for their unwavering support. He dedicates this performance to his late Aunt Janice. maliktjames.com

Annelise Lawson (The Postmaster) is a bi-coastal actress and director. Recent credits include Masha in *Three Sisters* (Two River Theater); Anna in *Babes in the Wood* (Signature Theatre, world premiere); *The Last Act* (Israeli Stage, world premiere); *V3 Sisters* (International Festival of Arts & Ideas); *Arcadia* (Yale Rep); *Midsummer* (Edinburgh Fringe, The Araca Project); *The Oresteia, Our Lady of 121st Street, The Troublesome Reign of King John* (David Geffen School of Drama); *Middletown, A Map of Virtue* (Yale Summer Cabaret); *The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe* (First Folio). Film: *The Familiars DnD* (Twitch and YouTube Live) and *Close-Up* (NY Indie Theater Film Festival Winner). Voiceover: *Hiding in Plain Sight* (Ken Burns). Directing: *How to Live on Earth* (the Geffen School); *The Climate Change Project* (Whitman College); *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Assistant Director, Yale Rep). She holds an M.F.A. in acting from David Geffen School of Drama and certificates in acting from the Moscow Art Theatre School, the British American Drama Academy, and iO.

Chinna Palmer (Marya) is a third-year M.F.A. candidate at David Geffen School of Drama. Her credits include *Measure for Measure*, *Our Town* (Shakespeare Theatre Company); *Behind the Sheet* (St. Louis Black Rep); and *Fairview* (Woolly Mammoth Theatre). Her hope as an artist is that everything she does is rooted in Love, driven with Purpose, in search of Truth. @chinna.palmer

John Evans Reese (The School Superintendent) is so grateful to return to Yale and the Rep. Off-Broadway: A Taste of Honey (Pearl Theatre Company, directed by Austin Pendleton), Way to Heaven (Repertorio Español, The New York Times Critics' Pick). Regional: Lord of the Flies (Barrington Stage Company), An Inspector Calls (Pioneer Theatre Company), This is Our Youth (Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre), The History Boys (Palm Beach Dramaworks), Shakespeare's R&J (Cygnet Theatre), The Way of the World (Franklin Stage). Select Yale credits: Cock (Yale Cabaret, co-directed by Yura Kordonsky and Alex Keegan); In His Hands; The Last Days of Judas Iscariot; Shoot Her, Shooter; shakespeare's as u like it (the Geffen School). John voices all characters in the new cartoon Nepo Babies created by Margaret E. Douglas and Stephanie Osin

Cohen. He is the recipient of the Oliver Thorndike Acting Prize and a Jerome L. Greene Fellow. He is a proud member of the Actors Center Company. Training: David Geffen School of Drama, UNCSA. @johnevansreese

Grayson Richmond (The Doctor) is making a Yale Rep debut and is a third-year M.F.A. candidate at David Geffen School of Drama. Acting: *The Care and Keeping of You Pages 76–77, The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window, Hamlet: Princesa de Dinamarca, Grand Concourse, How to Live on Earth* (Geffen School); *Apologiae 4 & 5, The Betrayal Project, Hot & Cold Showers* (Yale Cabaret); *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Costa Mesa Playhouse). Directing: *The Aughts* (Yale Cabaret). B.F.A. in screen acting, Chapman University. Thanks to the production team, the School, and especially Mom, Dad, Aria, Tamilla, Grace, James, Walton, Yura, Jeremy, Karoline, and Zak.

Darius Sakui (The Judge) *he/him* is extremely thankful to be a part of this talented cast and crew! He wants to thank his teachers, his friends, his family, and especially his mother for their love and support throughout the years! He is a second-year actor at David Geffen School of Drama, where he was seen in *Metamorphoses*.

Nomè SiDone (Osip) Regional: *Richard II, The Heart of Robin, The Sea Maid Music, The Taming of the Shrew* (Hudson Valley Shakespeare). University: *Macbeth, Hedda Gabler, Love's Labour's Lost, Udo* (David Geffen School of Drama). M.F.A., David Geffen School of Drama; B.F.A., UNC School of the Arts/UNCSA). A proud immigrant from Lagos, Nigeria, Nomè is an actor/writer residing in NYC.

Elizabeth Stahlmann (Anna) is proud to make her Yale Rep debut. She most recently led the world premiere of Tectonic Theater Project's *Here There Are Blueberries* directed by Moisés Kauffman at New York Theatre Workshop, Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C., and La Jolla Playhouse. Other theater credits include *Slave Play* (Mark Taper Forum, understudy for Broadway), *Grounded* directed by Liz Diamond (Westport Country Playhouse), and productions with The Alley Theatre, The Acting Company, The Guthrie Theater, Compagnia de' Colombari, KrymovLab NYC . Television and film credits include *City on a Hill, The Equalizer, Law & Order: SVU*, and *The Snare* (in production). B.F.A., University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater; M.F.A., David Geffen School of Drama.

About Yale Repertory Theatre

Yale Repertory Theatre, the internationally celebrated professional theatre in residence at David Geffen School of Drama, has championed new work since 1966, producing well over 100 premieres—including two Pulitzer Prize winners and four other nominated finalists—by emerging and established playwrights. Seventeen Yale Rep productions have advanced to Broadway, garnering more than 40 Tony Award nominations and ten Tony Awards. Yale Rep is also the recipient of the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. Established in 2008, Yale's Binger Center for New Theatre has distinguished itself as one of the nation's most robust and innovative new play programs. To date, the Binger Center has supported the work of more

than 70 commissioned artists and underwritten the world premieres and subsequent productions of nearly 40 new plays and musicals at Yale Rep and theaters across the country—including this season's *falcon girls* by Hilary Bettis; Nikolai Gogol's *The Inspector*, newly adapted by Yura Kordonsky; and *Notes on Killing Seven Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Board Members* by Mara Veléz Meléndez.

Yale Repertory Theatre is supported by CT Humanities, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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