

MEDIA RELEASE

Soulpepper delights with farcical duo: Black Comedy & The Real Inspector Hound

Toronto, ON – August 18, 2008 – Soulpepper will present two of the most popular one-act farces of 20th century English theatre: *Black Comedy* by Peter Shaffer and *The Real Inspector Hound* by Tom Stoppard.

Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound*, set in a theatre, is a delicious skewering of critics and the genre of murder mysteries. Two critics are drawn into the world of a play that sends up a Mousetrap-style mystery, taking on roles that fuse their fictional lives in the thriller with their real lives as critics. Stoppard writes, "It was never a play about drama critics. If one wishes to say that it is a play about something more than that, then it's about the dangers of wish fulfillment."

In *Black Comedy* by Peter Shaffer, the madness begins when the lights go out; except in this play the actors see the darkness and you see the light. Theatre critic Michael Billington from London's *The Guardian* wrote that Shaffer's device is "one of the most inventive and sustained theatrical jokes of the century." Shaffer later wrote, "*Black Comedy* is almost all gesture. You could almost put plate glass between the audience and stage and still something comic would emerge."

Directed by Jim Warren, *Black Comedy* and *The Real Inspector Hound* feature Caroline Cave, Oliver Dennis, C. David Johnson, Corrine Koslo, Mike Shara, Michael Simpson, Sarah Wilson and Soulpepper founding member William Webster.

Previewing August 20, 2008, *Black Comedy* and *The Real Inspector Hound* opens August 26 and runs until September 20 at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts, located at 55 Mill Street, Building 49 in the Distillery Historic District. Tickets are available by calling the Young Centre box office at 416.866.8666 or by visiting soulpepper.ca.

Black Comedy and *The Real Inspector Hound* are sponsored by MacDougall, MacDougall & MacTier Inc.

Soulpepper Theatre Company is an artist-founded, classical repertory theatre company with a three-tiered mandate: to present the world's greatest stories in vital Canadian interpretations; to provide classical training to a new generation of theatre artists; and to provide access and mentorship programs for young people using theatre as the vehicle.

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