

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR “THE INSPECTOR GENERAL”

1. How does the film’s adaptation of Gogol’s play differ from the original?
2. How does the film’s setting—a fictional Eastern European village under Napoleon’s influence—contribute to the satire of corruption?
3. In what ways does the mistaken identity of Georgi as the Inspector General drive the comedic and dramatic events?
4. How does Georgi’s innocence and naiveté both help and hinder him?
5. How does Yakov evolve throughout the film? Is he ultimately a villain, a foil, or something else?
6. How does Danny Kaye’s physical comedy, wordplay, and singing style contribute to the film’s charm?
7. How does the film use satire to critique political and social corruption?
8. In what ways does the musical element enhance the satire and humor?
9. Why do you think The Inspector General received mixed reviews despite its popularity with fans?
10. If you were to adapt this story today, how might you update the setting or characters to make it relevant?