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Critics Become the Accused in *The Real Inspector Hound* at TAM

Monmouth, Maine – Season 46 continues at TAM with Tom Stoppard’s whodunit satire, *The Real Inspector Hound* opening at Theater at Monmouth Friday, July 30 at 7:30 p.m. A parody of the Agatha Christie-style parlor mystery, *The Real Inspector Hound* explores the thin line between the audience and the stage, as Stoppard fractures reality and life imitates art. Of the 1968 production *The Guardian* wrote, “Stoppard’s *The Real Inspector Hound* is a witty and delicious parody of the fog bound whodunit.”

“*The Real Inspector Hound* embodies all that we now associate with Stoppardian theater,” said director Matthew Arbour, who returns to TAM after directing *Tartuffe* in 2012. “[It has] a mix of seriousness with farce, a relish for all kinds of word-play, a passion for elegant dramatic structures, and a breathtaking balancing act at the intersection of ‘reality’ and ‘fiction,’” Arbour said.

Feuding theatre critics Birdboot and Moon, a fusty philanderer and a pompous second stringer, are swept into the whodunit they are reviewing. As mists rise about isolated Muldoon Manor, Moon and Birdboot become dangerously implicated in the lethal activities of an escaped madman. This madcap romp spoofs third-rate thrillers and pretentious critics in a relentless dash to answer the question, “Where is Higgs?”

The Real Inspector Hound features Mark S. Cartier as Moon; Bill Van Horn as Birdboot; Janis Stevens as Mrs. Drudge; Jordan Coughtry as Simon Gascoyne; Anna Doyle as Felicity Cunningham; Nisi Sturgis as Cynthia Muldoon; Michael Dix Thomas as Major Magnus Muldoon; Andy Blaustein as Inspector Hound, and Alan Estes as Dead Body. Set design by Dan Bilodeau, costumes by Grier Coleman, lights by Stephen Jones, and sound by Rew Tippin.

Performance Calendar: PREVIEW 7/30 at 7:30 p.m.; OPENING 7/31 at 7:30 p.m.; additional performance dates 8/4, 8/8, 8/14, 8/20 at 7:30 p.m.; 8/1, 8/9, 8/21 at 1:00 p.m.; 8/16 at 7:00 p.m. with post-show talk-back. Ticket prices range from \$10-\$30, Opening Nights are Educator Nights. Educators receive 20% off with photo ID; \$10 Under 30 Rush Tickets are available for every performance. Discounts available for groups of 10 or more. For calendar and reservations, please contact the TAM Box Office at 207.933.9999 or visit www.theateratmonmouth.org.

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Theater at Monmouth, founded in 1970, was named the Shakespearean Theater of Maine by the State Legislature in 1975. The theatre’s mission is to present innovative approaches to Shakespeare and other classic plays through professional productions that enrich the lives of people throughout Maine. Since its founding, TAM has produced expertly crafted, engaging productions in its three-month Summer Repertory Season entertaining audiences from 36 states and through Education Tours annually reaching more than 15,000 students statewide.

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