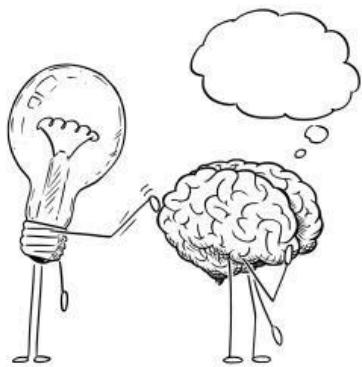


OPEN CLOZE

The Good Doctor



About the play

The Good Doctor is a collection of short, comedic scenes based on stories by Russian writer Anton Chekhov and adapted by American playwright Neil Simon. It was written and first performed in 1973. The 1970s were a time of experimentation in theatre —with playwrights exploring new forms, breaking the “fourth wall,” and mixing genres. Simon was inspired by Chekhov’s mix of humour and sadness, his focus on ordinary people, and the emotional subtlety of his writing.

In the play doesn’t follow a traditional plot, each vignette stands on its own, offering a humorous and often touching glimpse of human behaviour. Simon doesn’t just adapt Chekhov’s work —he frames the entire play as if the author himself were guiding us through his own stories. This “writer” character links the vignettes and reminds the audience that storytelling can be awkward, funny, and deeply human.

Simon’s adaptation maintains Chekhov’s themes —pride, embarrassment, absurdity, kindness —but presents them with a distinctly American, mid-20th-century comedic voice.

The result is a warm, witty tribute to a literary master, designed for modern audiences and accessible to those unfamiliar with Chekhov’s work. With its lively characters and timeless themes, the play is funny and thought-provoking, making it ideal for students of English. Through laughter, audiences are invited to reflect on love, pride, embarrassment, power, and vulnerability.



WORD FORMATION

The Good Doctor

Neil Simon was one of the most successful and _____ WIDE produced playwrights in American theatre history. Born in New York City, he grew up during the Great Depression and began his writing career working on comedy scripts for radio and television in the 1950s, including Your Show of Showswith Mel Brooks and Carl Reiner.His first major stage _____ SUCCEED came in 1961 with Come Blow Your Horn, but it was The Odd Couple(1965) that made him a household name. Over his career, Simon wrote more than 30 plays and nearly as many screenplays, many of which became film classics.

His work is known for its sharp dialogue, humour rooted in everyday situations, and _____ EMOTION honest characters.Simon's plays often focus on ordinary people facing _____ RELATE problems—broken relationships, money troubles, awkward social encounters —always with a mix of humour and heart.

His characters may be flawed, anxious, or _____ LUCK , but they are always human and _____ RECOGNIZE.By the time he wrote The Good Doctor in 1973, Simon was experimenting with form. Rather than an original plot, he chose to adapt the short stories of Anton Chekhov, bringing a Russian _____ LITERATURE voice to Broadway with a uniquely American sense of timing and warmth.Simon's legacy includes four Tony Awards, a Pulitzer Prize(Lost in Yonkers, 1991), and an _____ ENDURE influence on modern comedy and drama. His plays remain popular around the world for their accessibility, humour, and deep understanding of human nature.