**The Good Doctor**

**By Neil Simon**

An unnamed writer (obviously meant to represent Chekhov himself) suffers from writer's block and his own artistic temperament as he narrates to the audience several of his stories:

"The Sneeze" - A government clerk over-apologizes and has a nervous breakdown after accidentally sneezing on a general during a night out at the opera.

"The Governess" - A mother attempts to cheat her children's governess out of her pay by making up offenses and damages for which the governess must "compensate" but then tells her it was a test to see if she would stand up for herself, she didn't.

"Surgery" - A sexton visits the dentist complaining of a toothache, but the dentist's zeal for his profession begins to frighten his patient.

"Too Late for Happiness" - An older man and woman contemplate making time for each other in song.

"The Seduction" - A renowned seducer of married women sets his sights on his best friend's wife, using his friend as an unwitting accomplice in the ploy.

"The Drowned Man" - An entrepreneurial tramp pretends to drown himself to make money, calling what he does "maritime entertainment".

"The Audition" - An actress who walked four days from Odessa to Moscow to audition for the Writer's next play uses most of her audition time to gush over the Writer.

"A Defenseless Creature" - A woman with a nervous disorder harasses an ill banker to extort money for her injured husband.

"The Arrangement" - In flashback, the Writer's father takes his shy 19-year-old son to a brothel to make him a man.

"A Quiet War" (optional scene) - Two retired military commanders meet in the park to debate what makes the perfect five-course lunch.