



# ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST

## A Breakdown of the Characters in The Play

Debbie McAndrew prepared these character breakdowns for the actors before the first read-through

*Who they are and where do they come from?*



### **Il Matto**

The Maniac: the role Fo created for himself. He is the licensed fool, the clown – the truth telling idiot. The madman who escapes the circumscription of authority because he is mad. He has no past life, other than invention and disguise; no name; no real identity. He carries centuries of theatrical tradition and consequently has a quality which is eternal, almost immortal.



### **Commissario Sportivo**

Pisani: a satirical representation of *Commissario Luigi Calabresi*, the chief interrogating officer present at the death of Giuseppe Pinelli. Italian audiences would have been familiar with a photo of him wearing a polo-neck sweater and a sports jacket. Fo describes his attire in detail in the original, and makes references to the region of Calabria – an obvious pun on his name. He was known by the nickname '*Commissario definestra*' and the letter quoted in the play by Feletti is based on one printed in an anarchist weekly. In the original play Fo nicknames Pisani '*Finestra-cavalcioni*' – literally, window-straddler.



### **Il Questore**

The DCI: Actually *Il Capo Questore*, Chief of Police in Milan (so a bit higher than a DCI, and usually translated as Superintendent). At the time of Pinelli's death this was Marcello Guida.



### **Maria Feletti**

Maria Feletti: based on Camilla Cederna, a journalist of the left-wing weekly, *L'Espresso*, who wrote the book '*Pinelli, una finestra sulla strage*' – Pinelli, a window on the massacre. Described by one senior police officer as '*La rompiscatole*' – the pain.



### **Commissario Bertozzo**

D.I. Bertozzo. Of no particular origin. Just another corrupt copper.



### **Agentes (1 and 2)**

Constables: pawn, punch-bag and general dogsbody.