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OYAL COURT



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The English Stage Company was founded in 1956, principally to present the work of new writers at the Royal Court Theatre. The English Stage Company acknowledges the financial assistance of the Arts Council.

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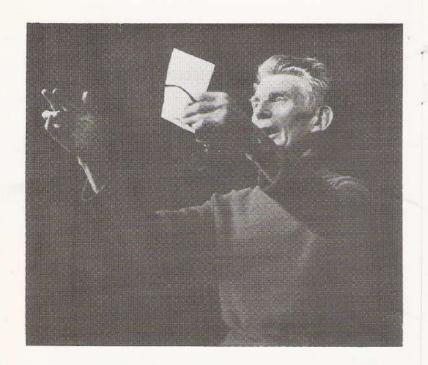
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SAMUEL BECKETT



SAMUEL BECKETT was born at Foxrock near Dublin on Good Friday, April 13th, 1906. Seventeen years later he was studying modern French and Italian literature at Trinity College Dublin, graduating with a first class degree in 1927. After working as a lecturer in Belfast, Paris and Dublin between 1928-31 his first works are produced.

WHOROSCOPE, a poem 1929
LE KID, first dramatic work, 1931
PROUST, literary criticism 1931
MORE KICKS THAN PRICKS, short stories, 1934
ECHO'S BONES AND OTHER PRECIPITATES Collection of verse, 1935
MURPHY, his first novel, 1938

During the war he joins the French resistance, but the group is betrayed to the Gestapo. Beckett escapes to the South of France and labours on a farm near Avignon till 1944. Writes 'Watt', last English novel. 'First Love' 1945. 'Mercier and Camier' 1946. In Paris between 1946 and 1950 he writes three novels and a play: 'Molloy', 'Molone Dies', 'The Unnamable', the play was 'Waiting for Godot'.

The publisher Jerome Lindon writes, "One day in 1950 a friend of mine, Robert Carlier, told me: "You should read the manuscript of an Irish writer who writes in French. He is called Samuel Beckett. Six publishers have already refused him. A few weeks later I noticed three manuscripts



Beckett, 1951

on my desk. They were 'Molloy', 'Malone Meurt' and 'L'Innommable'; from the first line the beauty of the text assaulted me. I could not believe it. From this day I knew that I was going to be a 'real' publisher''.

On the 5th of January 1953 'Waiting for Godot' is premiered in Paris. 'Nouvelles et Textes Pour Rien' 1955, 'Krapp's Last Tape' 1955 'Imagination Dead Imagine' 1956, 'Endgame', Actes Sans Paroles (mime play) and 'All That Fall' 1957, 'Embers' 1959, 'La Derniere Bande', Comment C'est (stories). 'Happy Days', 1961. 'Words and Music' 1962. 'Play', 'Cascando' 1963. 'Film' 1964, 'Come and Go' 1965. 'Eh Joe', BBC Television 1966. 'No's Knife' 1945-66.

In 1969 he is awarded the Nobel prize for literature 'Breath' is performed in Glasgow. 'Lessness' 1970. 'The Lost Ones' 1972, 'Not I' London 1973, 'That Time' and 'Footfalls' Royal Court Theatre, London 1976.



Beckett and Buster Keaton during the making of FILM, 1964

"Keaton had read the script and was not sure what could be done to fix it up. His general attitude was that we were all, Beckett included, nuts. But he needed the money, a handsome sum for less than three weeks work, and would do it. Yes, he remembered the Godot business, but he didn't understand that one either".

Alan Schneider

BECKETT ROYAL COURT



Fin De Partie, 1957 — Christine Tsingos and Georges Adet



Endgame, 1958 - George Devine and Jack MacGowran



Krapp's Last Tape, 1958 - Patrick Magee



Happy Days, 1962 - Peter Duguid and Brenda Bruce



Play, 1970 — Gillian Martell, Kenneth Cranham and Susan Williamson



Waiting for Godot, 1964 - Nicol Williamson



Not I and Krapp's Last Tape, 1973 - designs by Jocelyn Herbert



1957 FIN DE PARTIE presented by Roger Blin's Company from Paris ACTE SANS PAROLES

1958 ENDGAME and KRAPP'S LAST TAPE 1962 HAPPY DAYS

1964 WAITING FOR GODOT

1969 OH LES BEAUX JOURS presented by The Renaud Barrault Company

1970 BECKETT 3 at the Theatre Upstairs (COME AND GO/PLAY/CASCANDO)

1973 KRAPP'S LAST TAPE and NOT I

1975 NOT I (revival)

BIOGRAPHIES

PATRICK MAGEE was born in Armagh, Ireland and toured there with Anew MacMaster. He appeared in the world premiere of Samuel Beckett's KRAPP'S LAST TAPE at the Royal Court and subsequently in ENDGAME for the R.S.C. at the Aldwych. He has played McCann in THE BIRTHDAY PARTY (both on stage and in the film) and de Sade in Peter Brook's production of MARAT-SADE (stage and film). Other stage appearances include STAIRCASE and THE BATTLE OF SHRIVINGS. He has worked in films with Francis Ford Coppola, Joseph Losey and Stanley Kubrick and in many radio and television productions. Most recently he has been giving readings from the prose works of Samuel Beckett at American Universities.

STEPHEN REA trained at the Abbey Theatre School in Dublin and then joined the Abbey Company where he appeared in JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK, PLOUGH AND THE STARS, SHADOW OF THE GLEN among others, before coming to London. He was first seen at the Royal Court in CRETE AND SGT. PEPPER. Other appearances at the Court include FREEDOM OF THE CITY and (at the Theatre Upstairs) CAPTAIN OATES' LEFT SOCK, GEOGRAPHY OF A HORSE DREAMER and ACTION. Most recent stage appearances were in COMEDIANS in the West End and PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD for the National Theatre. His television work includes DAYS OF HOPE, FUGITIVE and EARLY STRUGGLES.

ROSE HILL made her operatic debut at Glyndebourne and then became principal soprano with Sadlers Wells Opera. She played Lucy Locket in THE BEGGAR'S OPERA for the English Opera Company, and later turned to revue, playing in many successful shows in the West End. She first appeared at the Royal Court in THE OLD ONES by Arnold Wesker, and more recently in OBJECTIONS TO SEX & VIOLENCE. Her latest theatre appearance was in THE LITTLE OLD LADY AND THE LAW at The Maximus Theatre. She has appeared in innumerable television programmes including DAD'S ARMY, THE DICK EMERY SHOW and STEPTOE AND SON.

LESLIE SARONY has appeared, from the age of 14, in concert party, revue, pantomime, variety, films and television. He created the famous Music Hall act known as THE TWO LESLIES and is the writer and composer of many famous songs including I LIFT UP MY FINGER AND I SAY 'TWEET', WHEEZY ANNA and JOLLITY FARM. He first appeared at the Royal Court in ECHOES FROM A CONCRETE CANYON and then went to Nottingham Playhouse and the Edinburgh Festival as Adam in Peter Gill's production of AS YOU LIKE IT. His most recent stage appearance was in ENTERTAINING MR SLOANE at Nottingham Playhouse.

DONALD McWHINNIE directed Beckett's first radio play ALL THAT FALL nearly twenty years ago and has been closely associated with Beckett's work ever since. He directed the original production of KRAPP'S LAST TAPE with Patrick Magee at the Royal Court in 1958, extensive excerpts from MOLLOY, MALONE DIES, THE UNNAMEABLE, FROM AN ABANDONED WORK also with Magee, and EMBERS with Jack MacGowran — all on radio, WAITING FOR GODOT on radio and television and ENDGAME with Magee and MacGowran at the Aldwych Theatre. He also directed the original productions of THE CARETAKER, ALFIE, RATTLE OF A SIMPLE MAN, among others and THE DUCHESS OF MALFI which was the first R.S.C. production at the Aldwych Theatre.

ANDREW SANDERS graduated from Manchester University in 1965. He has designed many productions for the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh including EVENTS WHILE GUARDING THE BOFORS GUN, THECLANDESTINE MARRIAGE (1967), OTHELLO LOVES LABOURS LOST (1968), THREE SISTERS (1969) and SCHWEYK IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR (1971). He worked with Jocelyn Herbert on SAVAGES at the Royal Court and PYGMALION in the West End, He has also designed for films including PRIVATE ROAD and NED KELLY. His most recent work includes FORZA DEL DESTINO in PARIS, THE WIDOWING OF MRS HOLROYD at Nottingham Playhouse and TREATS at the Royal Court.

ENDGAME

First performance in this Season 6 May 1976

HAMM CLOV NAGG NELL Patrick Magee Stephen Rea Leslie Sarony Rose Hill

There will be no interval

Directed by
Designed by
Lighting by
Assistant Director
Stage Manager
Deputy Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Poster and Programme
Photographs

Donald McWhinnie Andrew Sanders Jack Raby John Leonard Jane Tamlyn David Grindrod Jane Hawley Pip Paton-Walker John Haynes

We are grateful to John Calder Publishers Ltd. for permission to reproduce extracts from BECKETT AT 60.

BECKETT AT 60 and most other books by Samuel Beckett are available from the Royal Court Bookstall in the foyer.



Endgame in rehearsal

The Management reserves the right to refuse admission and to make any change in the cast necessitated by illness or other unavoidable causes. Patrons are reminded that smoking is not permitted in the auditorium. In accordance with the requirements of the Greater London Council, (i) The public may leave at the end of the performance or exhibition by all doors and such doors must at that time be open. (ii) All gangways, corridors, staircases and external passageways, intended for exit shall be kept entirely free "from obstruction whether permanent or temporary. (iii) Persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways intersecting the seating or in any of the other gangways, (iv) The safety curtain must be lowered and raised in the presence of each audience. No photographs to be taken or tape recordings to be made in the theatre.





Play in rehearsal

ANNA MASSEY first appeared at the Royal Court Theatre in SLAG by David Hare. Other stage appearances include THE ELDER STATESMAN, THE MIRACLE WORKER and THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE in which she took over from Vanessa Redgrave. Her most recent stage appearances have been in Shaw's HEARTBREAK HOUSE at the National Theatre and JINGO by Charles Wood at the Aldwych. Recent film appearances include Hitchcock's FRENZY and A DOLL'S HOUSE, (Scripted by Christophar Hamaton) Christopher Hampton).

PENELOPE WILTON first played at the Royal Court in WIDOWERS HOUSES which transferred from the Nottingham Playhouse. She has also appeared at the Court in THE PHILANTHROP-IST which transferred to the Mayfair Theatre and WEST OF SUEZ which transferred to the Cambridge. Recent stage appearances have which transferred to the Cambridge. Recent stage appearances have been in BLOOMSBURY at the Phoenix Theatre and MEASURE FOR MEASURE, ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL and THE NORMAN CONQUESTS all at the Greenwich Theatre. Television includes THE WIDOWING OF MRS HOLROYD, KING LEAR and SONG OF SONGS

RONALD PICKUP trained at RADA and after a brief spell at Leicester came to the Royal Court for JULIUS CAESAR and SHELLEY. He then joined the National Theatre Company where his work included Rosalind in the all-male AS YOU LIKE IT, DANTON'S DEATH, LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT, RICHARD II and SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL. His most recent stage appearance was in THE NORMAN CONQUESTS at the Apollo Theatre. Television appearances include MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, THE TEMPEST and FRAGON'S OPPONENT.

BILLIE WHITELAW first appeared at the Royal Court in Beckett's NOT I. She had previously appeared in Beckett's PLAY when she was a member of the National Theatre Company and his COME AND GO at the Royal Festival Hall, Other recent stage appearances have been AFTER HAGGARTY and ALPHABETICAL ances have been AFIER HAGGARTY and ALPHABETICAL ORDER. She appears frequently on television, has twice been voted Television Actress of the Year and won the Variety Club Best Actress Award. Her films include FRENZY, GUMSHOE and CHARLIE BUBBLES for which she won both the American Critics Prize and the British Film Academy Award.

JOCELYN HERBERT has been a key figure in the English Stage Company's 20 years at the Royal Court, Her previous Beckett designs include KRAPP'S LAST TAPE, PLAY, HAPPY DAYS and NOT I. Recent designs for the Royal Court have been WHAT THE BUTLER SAW and TEETH 'N SMILES. Her films include TOM JONES, ISADORA, IF ..., NED KELLY and O LUCKY MAN! She also recently designed sets and costumes for John Dexter's production of FORZA DEL DESTINO at the Paris Opera.

PLAY AND OTHER PLAYS

PLAY

First performance in this season 20 May 1976

FIRST WOMAN SECOND WOMAN MAN Light operated by

Directed by

Anna Massey Penelope Wilton Ronald Pickup Duncan M. Scott

Donald McWhinnie

Interval of 15 minutes

THAT TIME

First performed at the Royal Court on 20 May 1976

FACE AND VOICE Directed by

Pause

Patrick Magee Donald McWhinnie

FOOTFALLS

First performed at the Royal Court on 20 May 1976

MAY MOTHER'S VOICE

Directed by

Billie Whitelaw Rose Hill Samuel Beckett

Designed by Jocelyn Herbert

Lighting by Jack Raby

Assistant Directors Michael Joyce John Leonard

Stage Manager Robert Hendry

Deputy Stage Manager Michael Passmore

Assistant Stage Manager P. B. Morison

Poster and programme Pip Paton-Walker

Photographs John Haynes



Footfalls in rehearsal

QUOTES...



Jack MacGowran as Clov in Endoame

Close collaboration with Samuel Beckett has made the performance of his works an experience which is both rewarding and illuminating. His own relationship with actors and directors, scenic designers and lighting men is first solidly established clearly by Mr Beckett himself, so that when it comes to rehearsing text and movement, there is marked understanding.

His feeling for precision in inflection, rhythm and movement seems almost severe, but not for a moment does he restrict the imagination or inventive feeling of others, except where it is outside the framework of what is being interpreted. He creates a freedom in working which actors do not often enjoy in the theatre today, and this freedom is always the bedfellow of true discipline. His visual sense is so harmonious, that he cannot readily accept second best in acting, design, lighting or direction. In these matters he is extremely specific, as the balance of all the elements that result in the final product is a delicate but positive one.

Jack MacGowran

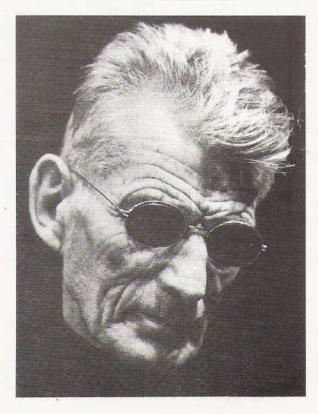
Jackie asks "Sam, how do I say to Hamm, 'If I knew the combination of the safe, I'd kill you'?"He answers quietly, "Just think that if you knew the combination of the safe you would kill him".

Phillipe Staib, Theatrical producer responsible for the 1964 production of Endgame in Paris. He was always there, terribly present and yet he speaks very little, never makes confidences, never allows himself to be taken by surprise; he only reveals himself through his writings.

Madeleine Renaud



Madeleine Renauct as Winnie in Oh! Les Beaux Jours



THEATRE UPSTAIRS

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The Company Gillian Barge Linda Goddard Paul Kember Will Knightley Tony Mathews Philip McGough David Rintoul

Directed by William Gaskill & Max Stafford-Clark

Designed by Hayden Griffin

Lighting by Rory Dempster



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NOVELS

Murphy (1938)
Watt (1945)
First Love (1945)
Mercier and Camier (1946)
Molloy (1951)
Malone Dies (1951)
The Unnamable (1953)
How It Is (1961)

PLAYS

Come and Go (1967)

CRITICISM

Proust & Three Dialogues with George Duthuit (1931, 1949)

SHORT STORIES AND PROSE

More Pricks than Kicks (1934)
Texts for Nothing (1947-52)
Imagination Dead Imagine
(1966)
No's Knife (1945-66)
Lessness (1970)
The Lost Ones (1972)

POEMS

Poems in English (1930-49)
An Anthology of Mexican
Poetry (translations) (1959)
Zone (translation from
Apollinaire) (1950)



The current issue of GAMBIT (Volume 7 Number 28) is largely devoted to Samuel Beckett's work in the theatre.

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The English Stage Society is the supporters' group of the English Stage Company. It exists to create a stronger link between the Royal Court and its audience and to help the Royal Court continue discovering, encouraging and developing the work of British playwrights.

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