



DRAMA



Sean Barrett • David Burke
Terence Rigby • Nigel Anthony
Zachary Fox

Directed by John Tydeman

Samuel Beckett *Waiting for Godot*

NA240212D

UNABRIDGED

1	Act 1 Part 1	9:10
2	Act 1 Part 2	5:34
3	Act 1 Part 3	2:36
4	Act 1 Part 4	6:10
5	Act 1 Part 5	9:07
6	Act 1 Part 6	10:18
7	Act 1 Part 7	9:00
8	Act 1 Part 8	10:07
9	Act 1 Part 9	7:46
10	Act 2 Part 1	9:06
11	Act 2 Part 2	5:15
12	Act 2 Part 3	4:49
13	Act 2 Part 4	5:18
14	Act 2 Part 5	2:27
15	Act 2 Part 6	3:01
16	Act 2 Part 7	4:52
17	Act 2 Part 8	7:24
18	Act 2 Part 9	5:43
19	Act 2 Part 10	5:00

Total time: 2:02:43

CAST

Vladimir	Sean Barrett
Estragon	David Burke
Lucky/Narrator	Nigel Anthony
Pozzo	Terence Rigby
Boy	Zachary Fox

Directed by John Tydeman

Recorded and edited by Norman Goodman
Stage Management by Peter Novis
Recorded at RNIB Talking Book Studios

Waiting for Godot: the background

By John Calder

There is now no doubt that not only is *Waiting for Godot* the outstanding play of the twentieth century, but it is also Samuel Beckett's masterpiece. Although it achieved performance before any other of the thirty-four dramatic works in the Beckett canon, all of them brilliant and innovatively different from any other plays of their time, and all of them having an impact that makes audiences reconsider the world they inhabit and their attitude to it, it is still *Waiting for Godot* that holds the crown and best rewards continuous visits.

Twentieth century drama has, like all the arts, been incredibly rich, and one can not lightly put Beckett above the great expressionist theatre, from Shaw to Brecht, that aimed to educate as well as entertain; or the naturalist plays of Chekhov and his followers with their poignancy for a world that can never live up to its promise; or the strength of the attacks on a hypocritical society of Ibsen and his likes, and the great number of later playwrights of different schools who

followed them. There has been a theatre of great talent that has sought mainly to entertain during a difficult century and another that tried to expose what is wrong with the world in order to make us want to change and improve it. But no drama has been more basic than that of Samuel Beckett, which always returns to the great questions of human existence, asking why we are here and what our ultimate destiny is, both as individuals and as a species co-existing with other and inter-related species. *Waiting for Godot* is a play of great simplicity, but it has the power to affect audiences much as great religious messages and great historical sagas have done in the past. It is not surprising that the comparison that is most often made is with Shakespeare.

It is the rather deceptive simplicity of *Waiting for Godot* with its easy-to-recognise picture of ourselves going through life that caused the British critics to overwhelmingly dismiss it at its British première in 1955 at London's Arts Theatre Club in Peter Hall's production.

Only Harold Hobson, the eccentric but open-minded theatre critic of the Sunday Times, usually right when every other critic was wrong, saved the play from an early demise at the Arts. He went back to review it again and frequently, so that his colleagues ultimately did the same and changed their minds. It must be said that Hobson was also the only British critic who kept in close touch with the Parisian theatre of the day, and would have known of its great French success in 1953 when it ran for many months. But there are other reasons why the play should have had a special appeal for Harold Hobson,

His Christian Science mother had nursed him from polio as a child, and he had little difficulty in recognising the many religious references and associations in *Waiting for Godot*. It is no accident that audiences brought up as Christians, whether believers or not, if they have open minds, are especially attracted to the play. Beckett was brought up in a religious protestant household and sent to a school of the same faith. At university in Dublin he began to question the beliefs he had been taught, but without losing his awareness of the terrible suffering of all

those who underwent crucifixion or other martyrdoms, because he had an instinctive and empathetic awareness of, and feeling for, suffering. The pain in the world, not possible to avoid, if you are a caring and sensitive person who knows what is going on in the less privileged parts of our planet, was never far from his mind. But the pain is also there even where there is privilege, because of accident, illness or malice. Beckett's awareness of the most iconic image of Christianity, the crucifixion, was certainly strengthened by knowing that his birthday, on a Good Friday the thirteenth of April in 1906, was also the day of Christ's crucifixion. That birthday date crops up fluently in all his fiction, and his father's reaction to his birth is graphically described in his novella *Company*.

As an adult Samuel Beckett lived without a religious faith, but he certainly missed emotionally what his logical mind could not believe, and it is interesting to note that one cannot find throughout his entire canon of work a single character who is not a believer, although he may be a reluctant one, and, in some cases, the belief may take the form of hatred or blame for the mess God has made of the world. When

God is portrayed by Beckett, which he often is, either speaking with a forked tongue or, as he is usually seen by those with an unquestioning faith, he (God) sometimes is depicted as questioning his own conduct and regretting his mistakes. Beckett can therefore be viewed, as a secular theologian, constantly questioning the conventional tenets of Christianity.

While studying Italian literature at Trinity, Beckett developed a special interest in Dante, who became an influence on all his work. Dante is the first major writer to give us a detailed and frightening picture of life after death, and most vividly to portray Hell in *Inferno*. Milton was later to do the same and he too was a frequent influence to whom Beckett sometimes refers. When one looks at Beckett's later work which carries us forty years beyond the writing of *Waiting for Godot*, one suddenly realises that a preoccupation with Hell was with him all his life and that much of his writing was an attempt to define or describe a Hell of the mind in modern terms in which dream, coma and continuing post-life consciousness all play a part.

Philosophy was another of Beckett's

subjects at Trinity and he read both the religious and the secular philosophers there and throughout his life. Much theology, especially from the medieval period of scholasticism, is clearly nonsense, and when Beckett attacks it in his work he uses a devastating wit, and he amusingly parodies those who accept and never question even the most outrageous dogmas in both his novels and plays. This accounts for much of the fascination that clerics, many of whom have their own personal difficulties with what they have to preach, develop with Beckett's work. They recognise the references, discover their own doubts echoed, and find themselves asking new questions,

The purpose of religion is to explain our existence, and beyond that to offer some comfort in a world that is always frightening. It is there to reassure. Beckett, on the other hand, does not reassure. He makes us face the world as we see it in reality and his characters are simply looking at that world and relating it to what they are told by others that it is. In bringing together what we see, what we are, what we are told we should think, and contrasting it to what we *do* think, often without wanting to, Beckett

opens up a whole new world of reality,

Once we realise we are not looking at an idealised or flattering view of ourselves, as we would be portrayed by Oscar Wilde, Noel Coward or any of the other playwrights who glamourise us, even when they expose us as hypocrites or villains of some sort, we should have no difficulty with a Beckett play. Shakespeare was able to bring about the same moments of audience recognition of the true person within the facade we all present to the world, and that is the principal reason that Beckett is so often compared to Shakespeare.

Beckett's characters represent all of humanity and so do Shakespeare's, but they put their characters into different social classes for the most part, which is one reason why audiences took some time to adjust to always viewing tramps, the terminally ill or dying versions of themselves, whereas Shakespeare often portrayed kings, princes and the nobility, as human as everyone else, but belonging to a class familiar to the audience. The use of tragedy and comedy is similar with both authors, related in the first case mainly to destiny's role in shaping human events which must always end in death, while in the

second our obsessions are explored, the human follies that inspire laughter but are often the Beckettian *risus purus*, the laugh at unhappiness.

Both writers made use of the soliloquy in which a character talks directly to the audience, letting it into his mind and his thoughts. Sooner or later many members of the audience will remember those thoughts and relate them to their own. The very act of speaking directly to an audience breaks down the artificial barrier between stage and auditorium, gets rid of the invisible fourth wall, and thus creates a direct rapport between minds, heightening attention and enforcing concentration.

Before discussing *Waiting for Godot* in detail, it is useful to look at the origins of the play, not in order to talk about its universal relevance and meaning, but to establish the locale where it takes place. Beckett was in France in 1940, although as an Irishman he belonged to a neutral country and had no good reason to be involved in the war at all. But he had lived in Paris for a decade and wanted to be with his friends. When some of them set up a Resistance group during the German occupation he joined it. It was discovered and most of its members were

captured, tortured and killed. By a lucky chance Beckett was able to escape and he bicycled with his lady companion, whom he later married, to the south, ending in Roussillon in the Vaucluse, part of the Vichy area of France that was self-governing but in all ways subservient to the Germans.

Here Samuel Beckett and Suzanne Dechevaux sat out the war, sometimes taking part in Haquis activities. He wrote the novel *Watt* and earned enough to live by working on a local farm, for the most part picking grapes for a wine-grower called Bonelly. Another refugee in the same position was Henri Hayden, a Dutch Jewish painter of some reknown as a cubist. Every so often the two men had to hide in the woods because a German convoy went through the town or a patrol was searching for those who had reason to hide. This is the background situation of the play, two men having to pass the time until word came that it was safe to return. But of course there was always the danger of betrayal, which accounts for the feeling of menace, as well as the boredom of desultory conversation, wearing thin as the hours pass; all this is there in the play. But Beckett's brilliance in turning the

situation into a metaphor for life itself, while bringing in all the themes that can be related to the war, and by implication the political situation of that and any other time, with the ever-present temptation to give up in despair and at the same time the human need to keep on struggling and, when possible, to look for some ray of hope, is pure genius. The play in essence is universalised autobiography. But it encompasses within its two acts every major Beckett theme, his insights into the human condition and his thoughts about the future of the world and the human race, as well as the arguments we have developed to make ourselves continue living day by day a little longer.

I shall try to enumerate some of those themes because they make up one great writer's view of the world. All his work is simply a vehicle for putting that view over to those who go to see his plays or read his novels and poetry, all of which echo the same thoughts. Birth is of course an accident and not a happy one. It would have been better to die as a wasted sperm or unfertilised egg and never to have been born at all, because then one would never have suffered as we all must suffer, above all never have

been aware of an existence that we value so much and are so afraid of losing. Life is in any case very short and passes in a flash. The shortness of life is a constant Beckett theme and in the second act it is the climax of Pozzo's departing speech when he says, 'we are born astride of a grave.' Vladimir, in his great soliloquy a few moments later, ponders the words and adds 'Down in the hole, lingeringly, the gravedigger puts on the forceps.' The concept of the moment of birth and death being the same moment occurs many times in Beckett's work.

Christ and God are called on frequently throughout the play, first in the thoughts of Vladimir, who ponders on the crucifixion and why the Evangelists do not appear to agree about the two thieves crucified with Jesus and later when Estragon calls on God to save him. He also says that all his life he has compared himself to Christ. Estragon is the Henri Hayden figure in the play whereas Vladimir, the other and more intellectual of the two is obviously close to the character of Beckett himself. Their dialogue, which ranges from complaints about their predicament, trapped on a lonely road, waiting for a farmer called Godot, who has vaguely promised them

a job, to turn up, to theological and other speculation, is probably very like what was exchanged in real life by Beckett and Hayden. But it has been given the dimension of great poetic drama, much of it lying in the fancies that go through their minds,

One such fancy is that they can hear voices in the air and in the winds, the voices of all the dead departed, whose bodies might well be lying in 'the charnel house' under their feet. How often do we think about the history that has taken place under the ground we walk upon, build upon, spend our lives upon? It is indeed a charnel house! The dead voices, as the two tramps imagine they hear them, are talking about their lives, each voice going over that life again and again, unaware that others are doing the same. This isolation of the mind speaking to itself, which may have its origin in dream or nightmare, constantly recurs in Beckett's writing, both in the novels and the plays. It is the situation of the narrator in *The Unnamable* (also recorded by Naxos) and of the three characters in *Play*, one of Beckett's most poignant stage works, which depicts a post-life situation. The idea that the dead live on, constantly remembering their

lives, may well have its origin in Dante, but it is a constant Beckett theme.

Certain images play a large part in *Waiting for Godot*, the major one being the solitary tree, one of the two visible things seen on stage, the other being a stone large enough to sit on. The tree represents the cross of the crucifixion, and the sight of it constantly brings that event to Vladimir's mind. But it could possibly also be a means to escape through suicide and that speculation rises frequently. The tree also points to the sky, and by inference, to Heaven, and there is a touch of Japanese symbolism in this because Vladimir, who undoubtedly has a spiritual side to him, has a close relationship to the tree, whereas Estragon, who frequently sits on the stone to rest or sleep, is attached to that, which is to say to the earth. It is Estragon who is always thinking of his stomach and looking for food, whereas Vladimir loses himself in the world of ideas. In his stage directions, and even more in the notebooks kept by his assistant Walter Asmys, during the famous Berlin production that Beckett was asked to direct by the Schiller Theatre, Beckett constantly indicates circles to guide the movements of actors and these come

directly from the nine circles of Hell in Dante's *Inferno*. Such stage directions are of course in no way obvious to the audience, but Beckett's plays, although simple in their meaning, also contain literary depths that offer endless fascination to those interested enough to look deeper.

The two tramps know that they will not be alive very much longer and constantly think of killing themselves. But they are also afraid of death and constantly put such thoughts of suicide behind them when any excuse for a change of subject comes up. But, and Beckett says this many times in his work, we are more afraid of being forgotten than we are of dying. He has recognised that one of our deepest anxieties, that having come into the world and gone through a life that for almost everyone offers much pain, worry and suffering and little that is pleasurable, we must not only die and disappear for ever, but be forgotten. In a short time there will be no record or any memory of our lives. Our fear of total anonymity is greater than our fear of death. Many other writers have said this, but Beckett, in portraying characters at the bottom of the social spectrum of humanity, of whom in

particular it is very obviously true, has given that universal fear greater force. We all desperately want to be remembered. Otherwise what is the point, not only of having lived, but of having accomplished anything during that lifetime? Nothing has been said so far about the other two main characters in *Waiting for Godot*. They too can be related to the wartime years in Roussillon, but less directly. Pozzo is a rich landowner or says he is, a blustering self-important bully, who is taking his servant, a kind of slave who obviously was once a professor or philosopher, to market to sell him because he is now old and useless. He stops in the first act to converse with the two tramps, partly because it is now his lunchtime and partly because he wants to show off. When we realise that Beckett spent nearly four years under German occupation, it is not hard to identify Pozzo with the German occupying forces and Lucky, the slave, with the occupied French, virtual slaves in their own land. Not too much must be made of this, because Beckett has universalised those wartime years into a metaphor for human life itself, and we are all aware how much the powerful like to enjoy

their power and how miserable they can make those they dominate. By the end of the first act it is normal to dislike Pozzo as a ridiculous overbearing figure, perhaps not quite all he seems, but we change our view of him when he returns in the second. He has not succeeded in selling Lucky, but the whole situation between them has changed. Pozzo has gone blind and is now totally dependent on his servant to guide him home and for his every need. He has however not fallen to pieces, but developed a stoic courage to bear his lot and carry on in any way he can, even having developed a certain dignity that we begin to admire. His final speech as he exits is an angry philosophical one, accepting that the unexpected can always happen in life, and tragedy strike out of the blue. Beckett does not create cardboard characters for us to like or dislike! He shows us believable people who can be changed by experience, and we can see ourselves in them and understand ourselves and our lives better as a result.

Waiting for Godot, as with a Shakespeare play, is highly poetic without being pretentiously so, replete with great dramatic moments, philosophical soliloquys and, as is so

often said of *Hamlet* that it in many ways resembles, with easily remembered quotations. The most puzzling speech, until one begins to learn what it is about, is Lucky's 'think', a speech which he is ordered to deliver by Pozzo to entertain the two tramps. Although it sounds like gibberish, it is not. Lucky is obviously a demented intellectual, his mind in tatters, remembering fragments of past learning, working himself into a frenzy as words come back and with them the thoughts behind them. It is a monologue in three parts, not too easily understood.

The beginning, which starts slowly, is theological. It asks why, as in Calvinist doctrine, God loves some and damns others, recognising the injustice in that doctrine and making allusions to long-forgotten theologians and some literary references. The second part is probably based on Nietzsche and Shaw as much as on Darwin. It is a statement about human evolution and of how we can expect mankind to become more intelligent, live longer and become healthier because of better diet, body-development through sport, medicine and science, a fairly common conception that does not take into account the depth of human folly to prevent such

improvement in the human condition. The third, is the Beckettian long-term view; the world will grow cold as it moves further from the sun, but other factors long before that may end all earthly life, so that in the end a few skulls may lie around on barren ground on the earth's surface in the great cold to come.

The play has many comic incidents, but no real comic speeches. But it is still the comedy that many people remember, as when Vladimir and Estragon try to pass the time with words or play games to do the same, or start to tell a joke that is never finished or laugh cruelly at some misfortune, such as Vladimir's prostate trouble that makes him run off the stage to urinate every so often, a comic diversion for Estragon. What audiences tend to remember most are the moments of tenderness, as when Vladimir covers Estragon with his coat to let him sleep better or when they draw together in the face of a common danger. Vladimir's great speech at the end of Act II has been compared to Hamlet's, on which it is probably based. It is a speech about the point of living, suggesting that God may well be watching, but passively, and not intervening to help in a moment of desperate human despair. The point is

clear; only man can do that for himself!

The play is full of magical moments. One of them occurs in the second act when, Pozzo having arrived, trips and collapses on the ground, Vladimir suddenly sees himself in a position to do a charitable act and 'represent worthily for once the foul brood to which a cruel fate consigned us'. It is in fact a statement of Beckett's basic ethical message, that in spite of our unpleasant and selfish natures, and our attraction to cruelty, which is a part of the human make-up that we are reluctant to acknowledge, we are still capable on occasion of holding out a helping hand to someone worse off than ourselves, and that we should do so. Good companionship and a willingness to share the burdens of life are advocated by example; it is the only real comfort that human beings can offer each other,

The other basic element in *Godot* that pervades the play is the ever-present, but always dubious, presence of hope. It may have no foundation in reality, but we apparently cannot live without it. Hope is symbolised at the end of each act by the appearance of a boy, always with the same message, that Mr Godot cannot come tonight, but surely tomorrow.

There is a suggestion that the boy has appeared many times, and sometimes it is his brother and not himself who came the last time. But the tendency, in spite of all experience, is to believe him, and hope that Godot will eventually appear and offer a job and with it a relief from the hunger, cold and deprivation which has for so long been the life of the two tramps.

But the appearance of the boy also has another purpose; each time he claims not to have seen Vladimir before, although perhaps his brother did. What upsets Vladimir most is not being remembered, a signal that his one-time presence in the world, will soon be totally forgotten, even by a boy who might, because of his age, be expected, to remember for a long time. Throughout Beckett's work boys are always associated, with the future and the memory that might be preserved.

Waiting for Godot contains many quotations from other sources, starting with the first words spoken by Estragon: 'Nothing to be done'. Although he is referring to his difficulty in taking off his boots, it is also a statement about the whole human condition and it is taken up as such by Vladimir. The quotation comes

from Arnold Geulincx, a Belgian follower of Descartes, who Beckett read at Trinity. Geulincx's principal philosophical message is that God is so far away that there is no good reason for him to even know we exist, and that therefore we should lead our lives with appropriate humility. There are many quotations in the play, one at least from *Hamlet* and one from a Shelley poem, but these are not really relevant, only interesting to those who have pleasure in finding them. It is the play itself that matters, both as a metaphor for the life we all lead, with its hopes and disappointments, but also its possibilities to make things a little easier for others through compassion and by effort. It also tells us something about facing reality and not wish-dreams with courage and a stoical recognition of our mortality.

Our time, since Beckett died in 1989, has been dominated by a global consumer industry that tries to fill our minds with fashion, trivia and short term escapes from reality. That this does not satisfy many people, especially those who like to use the intelligence they were born with, is evident in many ways, and especially in the behaviour of those who over-indulge in substances that destroy our minds. Beckett may offer a bleak

outlook on the world, but it is a realistic one, based on what we are and not on what we think we are or would like to be. In his ability to make us face truth he gives us the courage to live better lives and confront our problems with understanding. But he is also a great artist who gives us original concepts and new ways of thinking, a perfectionist who uses words with great clarity and beauty, so that he can be enjoyed on many levels, including the deepest. It is a rare gift to be able to give courage to others, but many have learned that he can do it. Once one enters the Beckett world one is in it for life: ultimately it makes one not only a better member of society, but a more complete and caring human being.

Waiting for Godot: a performance history

By Nicolas Soames

Despite the novelty of the means and the message, it didn't take long for the word of *Godot* to spread. Suzanne Descheveaux took the play to Roger Blin, an actor/director with interest in new work, in 1949. An abridged radio version appeared before it was finally seen on the stage of the Théâtre Babylone on 3rd January 1953.

Blin's first-choice cast was Charlie Chaplin as Vladimir, Buster Keaton as Estragon and Charles Laughton as Pozzo, but the unlikelihood of persuading them to appear in a small avant-garde theatre in Paris meant that he settled for a less stellar cast: Lucien Raimbourg as Vladimir, Pierre Latour as Estragon, Blin himself as Pozzo and Jean Martin as Lucky.

It became something of a cult hit from the start, running for more than 100 performances. Jean Anouilh and Armand Salacrou were among its supporters (unlike established playwrights in the UK after its London première).

Waiting for Godot toured Europe but it was not until 1955 that it reached

London – and then slipped in almost by default to the stage of the Arts Theatre under the direction of Peter Hall. It appeared against the backdrop of well-crafted English fare by figures such as Noël Coward and Terence Rattigan, and, famously, was well-reviewed initially only by Harold Hobson (*The Sunday Times*) and Kenneth Tynan (*The Observer*). The cast for this first English production was Paul Daneman as Vladimir, Peter Woodthorpe as Estragon, Peter Bull as Pozzo and Timothy Bateson as Lucky.

History dealt most of the English critics a bloody nose, but they reflected much of the confusion and uncertainty that afflicted the first audiences. There were loud yawns and snores from the auditorium, though there was some more positive support at the end. A typical review came from Bernard Levin who, describing it as 'a really remarkable piece of twaddle', continued: '...remarkable not for its content which is nil, but for the fact that with it he has managed to take for a simultaneous ride both the

professional lowbrows and the professional highbrows.'

But new dramatic gates had been opened, through which would walk Harold Pinter, Joe Orton, Edward Bond and many others. *Waiting for Godot* provoked conflicting reactions from the theatrical community on all sides. Actors, such as Alec McCowen, who was later to appear as Vladimir himself, disliked it; and the concept of two tramps waiting for something or someone became general currency in a way that new theatre rarely achieves.

By January 1956 it was in America – though in a truly bizarre fashion. Bert Lahr (he of The Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Oz*) played Estragon – for knockabout laughs – and another comedian, Tom Ewell, played Vladimir.

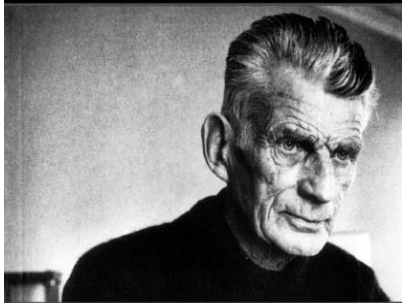
In 1957, Peter O'Toole, pre-*Laurence of Arabia*, played Vladimir and Peter Jeffrey Estragon in a bold Bristol Old Vic production in 1957. In the same year, there was a production before 1400 inmates of San Quentin prison performed by the San Francisco Actors' Workshop who chose it above Miller's *The Crucible*. It was an unexpected success – the prisoners identified completely with the protagonists waiting indeterminably.

By the next decade, the reputation of the play was assured. It was clear that it was a milestone and travelled across the globe despite some rearguard actions by authorities to censor passages (the UK's Lord Chamberlain ordered some word changes, to Beckett's disgust), control it (South Africa, though it was eventually produced by an all-black company), or ban it outright (China).

Perhaps most significant was the way the play served different communities in varying circumstances. Its abstract nature reflected different issues of the time back to those who saw it – for some it was about racial issues, for others about prison, or existentialism or spiritual attitudes. Similarly, actors could slip into the clothes of Vladimir or Estragon and make of them wholly different personalities. Max Wall, Donal McCann, Ben Kingsley, Alan Howard, Rik Mayall, Milo O'Shea, Julian Glover and Greg Hicks are among those who have appeared in it.

More latterly, John Calder, Beckett's publisher, established The Godot Company to tour it in small venues across the UK with a pool of actors and met with enthusiastic audiences wherever it went. Five decades after its first performance, the Godot effect has not diminished.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF SAMUEL BECKETT



JOHN CALDER

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Jonathan Croall

THE COMING OF GODOT

A Short History of a Masterpiece

Foreword by Peter Hall



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Sean Barrett started acting as a boy on BBC children's television in the days before colour, when it went out live. He grew up through *Z Cars*, *Armchair Theatre*, *Minder* and *Father Ted*. His theatre credits include *Peter Pan* at the old Scala Theatre and Noël Coward's *Suite in 3 Keys* in the West End. Films include *War & Peace*, *Dunkirk* and *A Cry from the Streets*. He was a member of the BBC Radio Drama Company. He also features in *Molloy*, *Malone Dies*, *The Unnamable*, *The Voice of the Buddha* and *Canterbury Tales III* for Naxos AudioBooks.



David Burke played Kent in the widely praised production by Richard Eyre at the Royal National Theatre. Among his many other theatrical credits was the extended London run of Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen*. He has also appeared in *Richard III* and *Coriolanus* for the Almeida Theatre at the Gainsborough Studios and on tour in Japan and the USA. He has been seen in numerous film and television productions. He also plays the part of Kent in *King Lear* and Gonzalo in *The Tempest* for Naxos AudioBooks.



Terence Rigby has played *Pozzo* twice on stage. He was in Peter Hall's 1998 production and then repeated the role in Hall's 50th anniversary production at the Theatre Royal Bath in 2005. He has also played Davies in Harold Pinter's *The Caretaker* at the Old Vic in Bristol – he has a close association with Pinter having appeared in US premières of *The Homecoming* and *No Man's Land*, both directed by Peter Hall. His television appearances include *Softly Softly*, *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, and *Born to Run* with Billie Whitelaw. His films include *Elizabeth*, *Dogs of War* and *Tomorrow Never Dies*.



Nigel Anthony is one of Britain's leading voice actors with wide experience of reading for audiobooks and on radio. His extensive work for BBC Radio has won him two awards. Audiobook credits include *The Lady of the Camellias*, *The Alexandria Quartet*, *Robinson Crusoe* and *The Life of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart* for Naxos AudioBooks. He has also read the part of Sir Reginald de Courcy in *Lady Susan* for Naxos AudioBooks.

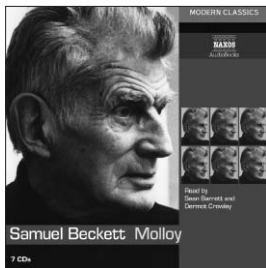


Zachary Fox comes from Cornwall. He studies at the Sylvia Young Theatre School in London. Though 14 he has had extensive theatre, TV, radio and film experience. He played Ralph in Richard E Grant's *Wah Wah*, the young Casanova in the TV production, and Weston in *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, also for television. He was Louis in the UK tour of the musical *The King and I*, and Fleance in *Macbeth* for the RSC.

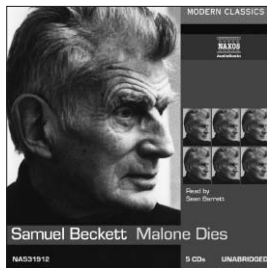


John Tydeman played a key role in BBC Radio Drama for nearly four decades, as producer, Assistant Head and then Head of Radio Drama. During that time he directed most of the major plays in the classical repertory, from Greek drama to Shakespeare, Chekhov and Shaw. He was also active in contemporary theatre, directing works by Osborne, Stoppard, Albee, Pinter and many others. Directing for television and the stage has been a regular feature throughout his busy career. He has worked with Paul Scofield on many occasions, including radio productions of *Macbeth* and *Othello* and has directed *The Tempest* for Naxos AudioBooks.

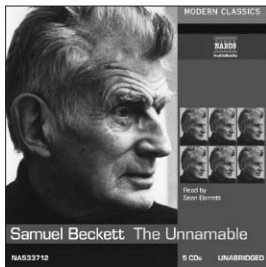
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Samuel Beckett directs a performance of *Waiting for Godot* at the Berlin Schiller-Theatre on 25.2.1965 with Stefan Wigger (page 22) and Horst Bollmann.



Samuel Beckett

Waiting for Godot

There is now no doubt that not only is *Waiting for Godot* the outstanding play of the 20th century, but it is also Samuel Beckett's masterpiece. Yet it is both a popular text to be studied at school and an enigma. The scene is a country road. There is a solitary tree. It is evening. Two tramp-like figures, Vladimir and Estragon, exchange words. Pull off boots. Munch a root vegetable. Two other curious characters enter. And a boy. Time passes. It is all strange yet familiar. *Waiting for Godot* casts its spell as powerfully in this audiobook recording as it does on stage.

CAST

Vladimir	Sean Barrett
Estragon	David Burke
Lucky/Narrator	Nigel Anthony
Pozzo	Terence Rigby
Boy	Zachary Fox

Directed by John Tydeman
Sound design by Norman Goodman
Produced by Nicolas Soames

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