

After the horrors of WWII, some playwrights began writing about the senselessness, purposelessness, and existential angst of the human condition. The phrase, "The Theatre of the Absurd" was coined in a 1960 essay by critic Martin Esslin (and his book of essays published a year later).

Absurd, in this context, means, "out of harmony." Drawing from the Existentialists, Dadaists, Surrealists, and others, dramatists of the absurd depict worlds where senselessness and lack of purpose in life are explored using ridiculous dialogue and apparently purposeless action. Reacting to traditional dramatic conventions like realism, naturalism, and cause/effect structure, the Absurdist create characters that futilely attempt to make sense out of the irrational; they run around in an endless void seeking substance; they try to bring order to perpetual chaos; and they seek patterns in unpredictability.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Stage Company One-Acts: *Terminal Terror*, by Kitty Burns
and *Murder at the Grey's Hound Mansion*, by Maxine Holmgren March 22, 23

Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* April 19, 20,
*21, 24, 26, 27.

RWU Dance Theatre in Concert May 2, 3, 4, *5

RWU Instrumental Ensemble and Chorus May 6

Performance Times: 7:30 P.M. (*2:00 P.M.)

For more information about the RWU Theatre Program, the London Study Abroad Program, and the Barn Summer Playhouse please visit our website:

rwu.edu/go/theatre

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Plays from The Theatre of the Absurd

Picnic on the Battlefield

By Fernando Arrabal, English translation by Barbara Wright

Zapo, a soldier Jack Beasley
Monsieur Tépan, the soldier's father Greyson Simons
Madame Tépan, the soldier's mother Audrey Belanger
Zépo, an enemy soldier Korbin Johnson
First Stretcher Bearer Grace Kortchmar
Second Stretcher Bearer Nicole Kowalewski

Rough for Radio II

A play for the radio by Samuel Beckett

Animator Jack Beasley
Stenographer Irina Benttinen
Fox Alec Corrado
Dick Grace Kortchmar

Picnic on the Battlefield and *Rough for Radio II* are presented by arrangement with Concord
Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. (www.concordtheatricals.com)

Endgame in No-Man's Land

By Google Bard (now Gemini)

Diddo Grace Kortchmar
Gogo Nicole Kowalewski
Pozzo Alec Corrado
Lucky Irina Benttinen

Prompt: Write an absurdist play about war in the style of Samuel Beckett

Running time approximately 60 minutes. No interval.

Edward Albee's

The Sandbox

The Young Man Jack Beasley
Mommy Sophia Thomas
Daddy Alec Corrado
Grandma Madison Collins
The Musician Korbin Johnson

The Sandbox is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the
Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT & RUNNING CREW

Stage Manager **Ry Goodell**
Assistant Stage Manager **Anthony Merenda**
Light Board Operator Jesse Canapp
Front of House Dayne Thorbahn, Brianna Taylor,
Lindsey McDonald
Warm-Up Specialists Marisa Cestone, Evelyn Brunsting, Madison Collins

PRODUCTION STAFF & CREW

Director Robin Stone
Lighting Designer Audrey Visscher
Costume Designer Matthew Oxley
Sound Designer Robin Stone
Technical Director Jay Forcello
Scenery and Lighting Technicians Arika Vogel, Glynn Smith, Anthony
Merenda, Hannah Driscoll-Carignan, Lindsey McDonald, Cassidy Smith,
Noah Mootafian, Ry Goodell
Poster Ry Goodell

SPECIAL THANKS

Mel, Lucille, Eleanor, and Woodrow Stone

**Please silence phones and refrain from photography, any re-
cording, and using electronic devices. Thank you.**