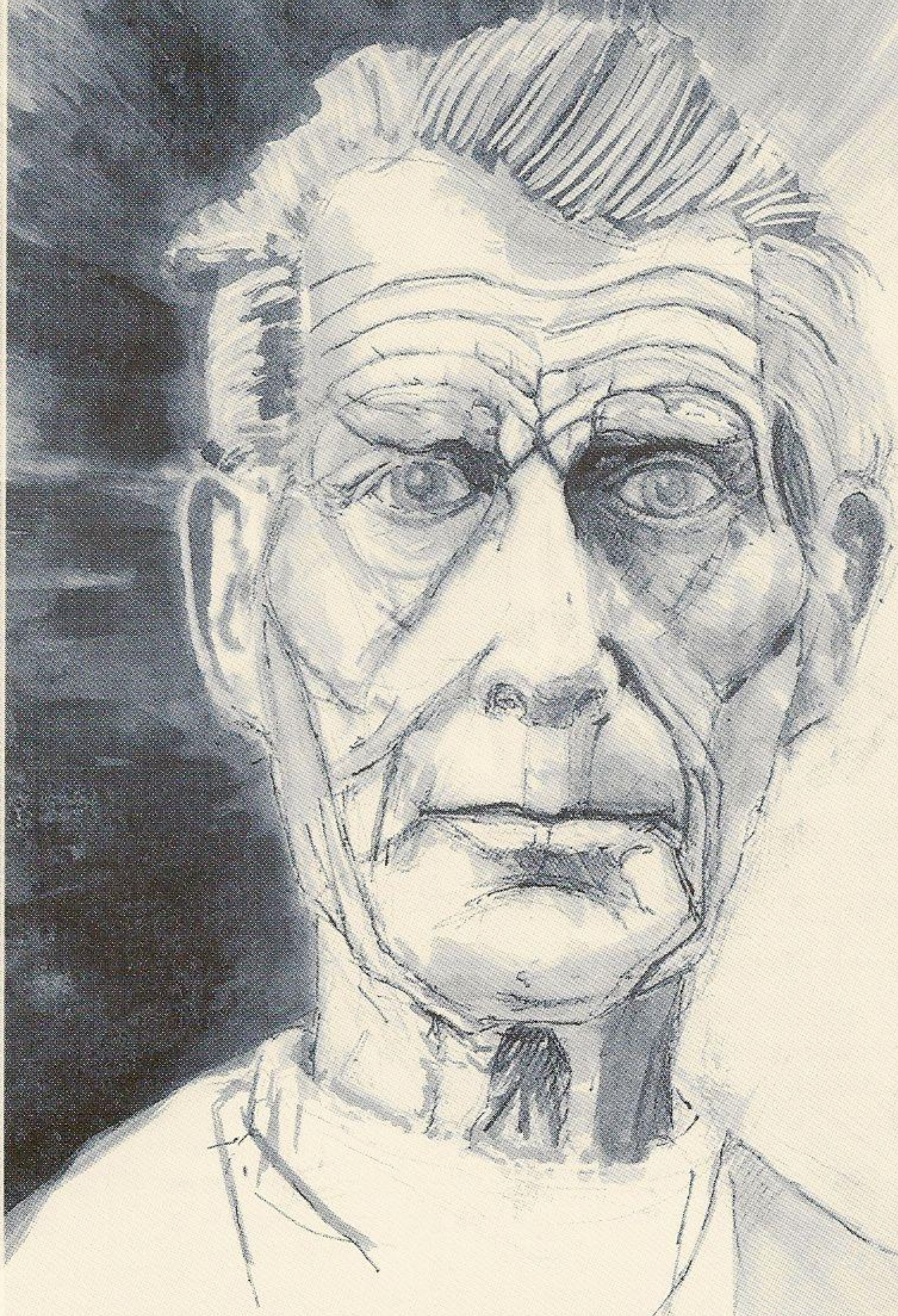


Four short plays

by Samuel Beckett



Drawing of Samuel Beckett by Alex Marker

IMAGES THAT WILL HAUNT YOU
FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE



Not I, A Piece of Monologue
Ohio Impromptu, Footfalls

PROGRAMME NOTES

SAMUEL BECKETT (1906-1989)

One of the difficulties with Beckett's drama, whether you're reading it, seeing it performed or actually performing it, is finding an appropriate way to respond to his imagery and view of the world. If you approach a Beckett play in the way you would a "normal" play, you won't get very far. One area of difficulty for us in modern Western society is a tendency to react to Art in a wholly intellectual way - we want to know what it *means* and an art like Beckett's (which consists largely of visual and verbal poetry) defies this approach. Maybe the best way to appreciate the plays you're seeing this evening is to just open yourself emotionally to the experience without letting questions like "what?" and "why?" get in the way.

Beckett's "meaning" often lies in the *form* of the work as much as in the *content*. For instance, NOT I is *about* a human being whose disorientation from life expresses itself in a stream of words spewed out at tremendous speed. If you can't follow everything that's being said, try and listen to the sounds that are being made, take in the visual image and be aware of the emotional effect this has on you.

It seems to me that Samuel Beckett's work is often perceived to be highly intellectual and you, therefore, have to be something of an academic to understand or appreciate it. While the rigour of Beckett's intellect can't be denied, this is, in a way, the opposite of the truth. I believe Beckett was a highly compassionate and understanding man and his works should be responded to on an emotional level - one human being (you, the spectator) connecting with other human beings (Beckett's "characters") who are suffering from the same basic human predicaments.

Having said that, I hope that this programme of short plays stimulates and inspires you on all levels.

Simon Thomas

NOT I was written in early 1972 and received its first performance in New York later that year, with Jessica Tandy as Mouth. Billie Whitelaw performed the British premiere at the Royal Court, London in 1973.

A PIECE OF MONOLOGUE was written for the actor David Warrilow in 1979 and was performed by him in New York the same year.

OHIO IMPROMPTU was written at the request of Ohio State University and was performed by them in 1981.

Beckett wrote *FOOTFALLS* for Billie Whitelaw and she first performed it at the Royal Court, London in 1976.

FOUR SHORT PLAYS

by Samuel Beckett

First performance of this production - Saturday 5th February 2000

NOT I

Mouth
Auditor

Sibéal McGuinne
Ken Ratcliffe

(Running time: 15 minutes followed by a short break - please remain seated)

A PIECE OF MONOLOGUE

Speaker Norman Wilkinson

(Running time: 17 minutes)

— I N T E R V A L —

OHIO IMPROMPTU

Reader
Listener

Ken Ratcliffe
Norman Wilkinson

(Running time: 10 minutes followed by a short break - please remain seated)

FOOTFALLS

May
Mother

Anne Neville
Janet Egan

(Running time: 30 minutes)

Plays directed by
Designed by
Lighting & sound designed by
Stage Manager
Lighting Operator
Wardrobe
Make-up
Rehearsal prompt
A.S.M.s

Simon Thomas
John Horwood
Steve Hames
Geraldine Hawkins
Katy Gallantry
Emma Harman
Stephanie Petar
Dorothy Wood
Steve Ashby
Dane Buckley
Patrick Kerrigan
Edel Lukeman
David Moseley

Thanks to

Prasannavira of The London Buddhist Centre, Antony Bridges, Adrian Asher,
Eric Lister, Christ the Saviour Church, St. Benedict's Abbey



Not I, A Piece of Monologue, Ohio Impromptu, Footfalls

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

19th - 26th February

DEAD FUNNY by Terry Johnson

IN THE PLAYHOUSE - Free to Members

An hilarious comedy about life, love, sex, impotence, the English sense of humour and dead comedians. Eleanor wants what Richard won't give her. Richard wants to be left in peace. Benny would rather rest in peace, but for tonight, at least, his fans won't let him.

26th February - 4th March

THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE by Bertolt Brecht

translated by James & Tania Stern, with W. H. Auden

IN THE STUDIO

When the rebel Princes kill the Governor his abandoned son is adopted by the servant Grusha. However when the Governor's wife catches up with Grusha she goes to court to get her baby back. This Tug-of-Love drama is presented by The Questor's Young People's Group.

11th - 18th March

THE MATCHMAKER by Thornton Wilder

IN THE PLAYHOUSE

Swift moving farce set in Yonkers/New York in the early 1880's that tells the story of a rich old merchant who decides it's time to get married and to that end employs a matchmaker setting all concerned on course for a hilarious climax of complication.

Sponsored by Merchant & Co. Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors.

1st - 8th April

THE CONSTANT WIFE by W. Somerset Maugham

IN THE PLAYHOUSE - Free to Members

Constance's husband is cheating on her with her best friend. Everyone wants to tell her but does she want to know? And if she does know how can she get her own back without spoiling her comfortable life? A comedy that isn't resolved until the last line.

Sunday 2nd April

Ian Liston for **THE HISS AND BOO COMPANY** presents

THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE

IN THE PLAYHOUSE

Devised & Directed by Christopher Luscombe & Malcolm McKee.

Following a sell-out season at The Barbican and a critically acclaimed West End run, this "irrepressible musical production" (Daily Express), originally staged by The RSC, is coming to The Questors. This joyous words-and-music celebration of the delights of the bard gathers together some of the finest comic material inspired by Shakespeare. With contributions from the cream of writing and performing talent this collective masterpiece is certain to enthrall, entrance and ENTERTAIN!

A hugely enjoyable show.... Absolute Bliss.... A delightful comic cocktail.

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