



Questors, Ealing's Theatre



SARTRE

by Effie Samara

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**World Premiere performance at The Questors Theatre
Saturday 1st August 2015 – 7.45 pm**

CAST

in order of appearance:

LENA ZONINA	Jananne Rahman
ILLYA EHRENBURG	Mike Langridge
JEAN PAUL SARTRE	Paul Collins
SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR	Caroline Bleakley
ROBERT GALLIMARD	Nigel Lawrence
NELSON ALGREN	Iain Reid

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director and Designer	Mike Langridge
Assistant Director	Caroline Bleakley
Stage Manager	Sue Collins
Lighting Designer	Andrew Whadcoat
Costume Designer	Nichola Thomas
Assisted by	Susan Millhouse
Sound Designer	Paul Wilson
Properties	Sue Collins
Lighting Operator	Carole Swan
Sound Operator	Cecily Johnson
Get In Crew	Pamela Redrup, Mark Redrup, Iain Stirling, Ian Black, Laurie Swan, Juliet Vaughan Turner, Michelle Weaver and Members of the cast

The play runs for 2hrs 20 minutes with a 15 min interval

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SARTRE – SCENES

Act 1 **May 1962 to August 1962**

- Scene 1 The KGB Headquarters – Moscow
- Scene 2 Jean Paul Sartre’s apartment in Paris.
- Scene 3 Simone De Beauvoir’s apartment in Paris
- Scene 4 Jean Paul Sartre’s apartment in Paris
- Scene 5 Moscow and Paris
- Scene 6- Sheremetyevo Airport - Moscow– June 26th 1962
- Scene 7 Newark Airport - New York – June 26th 1962
- Scene 8 Moscow and Paris
- Scene 9 World Peace Congress - Moscow July 16th 1962
- Scene 10 The KGB Headquarters – Moscow
- Scene 11 Moscow and Paris
- Scene 12 The Peking Hotel - Moscow
- Scene 13 Jean Paul Sartre’s apartment in Paris

Act 2 **1964**

- Scene 1 Jean Paul Sartre’s apartment in Paris
- Scene 2 Simone De Beauvoir’s apartment in Paris
- Scene 3 Lena Zonina’s apartment - Moscow
- Scene 4 Jean Paul Sartre’s apartment in Paris
- Scene 5 Jean Paul Sartre’s apartment in Paris – the following morning
- Scene 6 Jean Paul Sartre’s apartment in Paris – Later the same day
- Scene 7 The Sorbonne Amphitheatre
- Scene 8 Jean Paul Sartre’s apartment in Paris

1979

- Scene 9 Jean Paul Sartre’s apartment in Paris

SARTRE

Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre were one of the most famous literary couples of the twentieth century. Their relationship was legendary and was a model of openness and honesty. Sartre was revered during his lifetime as a philosopher, playwright, novelist, political activist, and intellectual, but since de Beauvoir's death in 1986, her literary reputation has threatened to overshadow Sartre's. Her book *The Second Sex* is one of the most important and influential books of the twentieth century. This play deals with Sartre and De Beauvoir's emotional and tempestuous relationship in their later years from 1962 to a final scene set in 1979. During this period they are forced to question their open arrangement when outside relationships threaten to destroy the stability of their life together. As the play opens the KGB in Moscow are plotting to influence the Marxist sympathiser Sartre to promote communist ideals in the West...

I first read this play when it popped into my inbox to read as an entry for the Paul Darby prize. As you may remember this competition was for One Act plays and I soon became aware that I was reading a very well written full length highly engaging Two Act play. Sadly we had to disqualify *Sartre* purely on grounds of its length. In spite of this it was felt that this should not be the end of our association with this exciting piece of new writing and its author Effie Samara. We contacted Effie and suggested that we take this further and stage a reading of the play in the most complete way we could to give her a chance to see it performed. I have never directed a completely new work before and I have found the process exciting and challenging. With twenty two scenes and a multi-locational drama the task was to tell the story in the simplest and most effective way whilst preserving the narrative. Although principally set in Sartre's apartment the other locations spin off that setting to appear separate but remain connected in some way. Effie Samara has been incredibly helpful bringing her wealth of knowledge to the rehearsals and we are grateful to her for allowing us to perform this powerful and moving play.

Mike Langridge

Effie Samara read Law at Reading and Creative Writing at Cambridge. Her first play *Baby* was performed at the Hope Theatre in March 2015 and received critical acclaim. She is currently under commission to develop *2025, Fragments of a Prophecy*, a new play about the politics of separation in Europe. Effie is also currently working on a doctoral thesis at Glasgow University about Anti-Authoritarian politics in British feminist playwriting.