

Staging Beckett and Contemporary Theatre and Performance Cultures

Minghella Building,
University of Reading

9th-11th April 2015

Thursday 9th April

10.00 -11.00 Registration & coffee

11.00 - 11.30 Welcome and opening address

11.30 - 13.30 **Panel 1: Performance and the Archive**

Chair: David Tucker (University of Chester)

David Houston Jones (University of Exeter), Performing the Archive in Samuel Beckett

Sinead Mooney (De Montfort University), 'Centre and Circumference': Traces of Provincial *Godots* in the Theatrical Archive, 1955-1970

Racquel Merino (University of the Basque Country), Beckett and Spanish stage censorship (1955-1976)

Kene Igweonu (Canterbury Christ Church University), Talawa's *Waiting for Godot*

13.30 - 14.30 Lunch (served each day in the foyer of the Minghella Building)

14.30 - 16.30 **Panel 2: The Performing Body**

Chair: Bernadette Cronin (University College, Cork)

Hannah Simpson (Boston University), "Is there anything you ever write for an actor that isn't physically painful?": The Actor's Physical Suffering in the Beckettian Production.

Andrew Head (University of Hull), Beckett's Implied Actor: Debts, Legacies and a Contemporary Performance Culture.

Niamh Bowe (University of Reading), Ethics in Contemporary Performance: *Not I*, *Footfalls* and *Rockaby* at the Royal Court Theatre, 2014.

Andrew Lennon (University of Birmingham), Beckett and Darkness: The drive to and the flight from ...

16.30-17.00 Coffee

17.00 - 18.00 **Keynote 1: Phillip Zarrilli, Embodied consciousness in the actor's practice: reflections from "inside" Beckett's texts in performance**

18.00 - 19.30 **Wine reception and launch of the exhibition 'Waiting for Godot: 60 years on' and the Staging Beckett database**

Friday 10th April

8.30 - 9.00 Registration & coffee

9.00 – 11.00 **Panel 3: Sonic Legacies & Radiophonic Echoes**

Chair: Graham Saunders

Pim Verhulst (University of Antwerp), Beckett's 'Adaphatroce': Rethinking Theatre through Radio.

Paul Stewart (University of Nicosia), Adapting *Lessness*: Lessons from Radio and Stage

Lisa Fitzgerald (NUI Galway), Radio Waves: Pan Pan, the BBC and Performing the Radiophonic Body

Catherine Laws (University of York), The Legacy of Beckett in Music Theatre

11.00 – 11.15 Coffee

11.15-12.45 **Panel 4: Word and Gesture**

Chair: TBC

Jack Belloli (University of Cambridge), Beckett, Forced Entertainment and the Grace of Audience Gesture

Burç İdem Dinçel (Trinity College Dublin), "The motion alone is not enough": Hearing Beckett's Footfalls in Suzuki's Grammar of the Feet'

David Tucker (University of Chester), 'Smile off': Textuality in Beckett's Stage Directions

12.45-1.30 Lunch
Exhibition open 12 – 2pm

1.30 - 14.30 **Keynote 2: Derval Tubridy, Practice, Performance and the Figural Body**

14.30 - 14.45 Coffee

14.45 - 16.45 **Panel 5: Irish Theatre and Performance Cultures**

Chair: Trish McTighe

David Clare (NUI, Galway), The Gate Theatre's Beckett Festivals: Tensions between the Local and the Global

Siobhan O'Gorman (Trinity College, Dublin), Beckett out of Focus: *Happy Days* and *Waiting for Godot* at Dublin's Focus Theatre

Rodney Sharkey (Weill Cornell Medical College, Qatar), "The Dark Back Streets:" Beckett in the City

16.45 - 17.00 Coffee

17.00 - 18.00 **Keynote 3: S. E. Gontarski, Samuel Beckett in Performance: The Questions We Ask**

18.00 - 19.00 Wine reception and launch of Jim Knowlson's Festschrift

20.00 Conference dinner at Loch Fyne, The Maltings Bear Wharf, Fobney St, Reading

Saturday 11th April

9.00-9.30 Registration

9.30-11.00 **Panel 6: Staging Beckett in International Theatre Cultures**

Chair: Matthew McFrederick

Anita Rákóczy (Eötvös Loránd University of Sciences & Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary), *Earth That Shakes. Earth That Covers. Godot and Happy Days, 2014: Two Beckett Premières in Katona József Theatre, Budapest*

Luzmaria Sanchez (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana / Lerma (Mexico), *Beckett in Mexico*

Stefano Rosignoli (University of London), *Oh les beaux jours: Venice Premiere and Reception in Italy*

11.00-11.15 Coffee

11.15- 1.15: **Panel 7: Adaptation, Performance & Intermediality**

Chair: TBC

Sozita Goudouna (Royal Holloway, University of London), Beckett's Intermedial Breath: Defying The Boundaries Between Staging and Displaying

Nicolas Johnson (Trinity College, Dublin), "The Neatness of Identifications": Transgressing Beckett's Genres in Ireland and Northern Ireland, 2000-2015

James Little (Trinity College, Dublin), The Politics of Performance at 14 Henrietta Street: Beckett and Anú Productions

Roman Fohr (University of Amiens), Life Flashing in a Work of Art

1.15 – 2.00

Lunch

Exhibition open 12 – 2pm

2.00 - 3.00

Keynote 4: Ronald Pickup in conversation

3.00 - 3.30

Coffee

3.15 - 17.15

Samuel Beckett Laboratory Workshop: Samuel Beckett and Experimental Cultures: a performance workshop on *The Unnamable & Not I*

Co-facilitators: Jonathan Heron & Nicholas Johnson

Please note that places for the workshop are limited and available on a first registered basis only

3.30 – 17.30

Making Performance Histories: Staging Beckett & Beyond

This is an interactive session utilizing the 'Waiting for Godot at 60' exhibition materials in order to critically reflect on how such archival materials help to generate performance histories. The session will provide an opportunity to engage with issues which are important within Beckett Studies and in theatre and performance studies more generally such as the processes of documenting performance, the ways in which we remember (and forget) performance, the elements of performance that the archive fails to record, the problematics of generating narrative from archival remnants, and the relationship between the archive and the institution.

17.30 – 18.30

Closing remarks and repair to Park House on the University of Reading campus

