

THE BALLAARAT NATIONAL THEATRE

PRESENTS



Waiting for Godot

25th JUNE - 2nd JULY, 1971

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION . . .

"DANGEROUS CORNER"

J. B. PRIESTLEY

Director: ANDREA KNIGHT

Friday, 10th September to Saturday, 18th September

Auditions to be called 3rd week in June

MEMBERS NIGHT

— 14th JULY —

MOST OF THE ORIGINAL CAST WILL READ FOR YOU

"ROMANOFF AND JULIET"

This was an excellent production originally done for us by John Stapp

● AN EXCELLENT NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENT ●

Ring your calendar now. Members, Free; Friends, 20c.

Supper for all — and P.E.C. effort

"WAITING FOR GODOT"

S. BECKETT

Many, oh so many people say, "Well what is it all about?" You have to know something about Beckett to begin to understand. But we feel it is too "true an epitaph" to most of us, as we run life's journey. Do we just fill in time; are we always waiting for something, without doing too much about trying to help ourselves, rather than wallow in "what might have been" and righteous self-pity.

"WAITING FOR GODOT"

Let's take a deep breath and then say it. As a dramatist Samuel Beckett can be, and frequently is, a "crashing bore." His world-renowned play "Waiting for Godot" has been called a master-piece so frequently and repeatedly that any one daring to present this play seems to find that it comes "gift-wrapped" in its exulted reputation. In the canon of dramatic literature, "GODOT" is an original stunt, a clever game, but no masterpiece. It speaks to the inner spirit of an age that is anti-heroic, narcissistic, self-pitying, and prone to believe that man's journey through life is a pointless shuttle from nothing to nowhere. When this view of man ends, then the vogue for Beckett will end, and the view will alter, for man has never gone through an extended period of history with a dim, stunted opinion of himself and his destiny. During failures of nerve, men are simply catching their breath for the next best onslaught on it or fate or whatever you may choose.

Beckett is an extremely fine and sensitive writer who has distilled his own private anguish into prose poetry. His novels will I think prove durable. In drama, he is the apostle of anti-theatre. Theatre is concrete, Beckett tries to make it abstract. Theatre is visceral, Beckett is cerebral. Drama is the imitation of action, Beckett dotes on stasis, anti-action. "Less is more," Mies van der Rohe said, and even the architects are beginning to doubt it. In the theatre less is less — and less, and less. The Age of Cool is a blight to the theatre. Drama was born to be large, vivid and more intense than life. Beckett tells us that life is drab, attenuated prelude to death. The vaudeville japes of the two tramps Didi and Gogo in Godot are supposedly the ways in which we all kill time before time kills us.

One comment about Beckett is that he is a defrauded priest, a God-intoxicated man who has joined some celestial A.A. If God did exist, Beckett would have to uninvent him so that he could carry on his distinctly Irish ritual, the wake. All of Beckett's plays are wakes for God. His desperate cosmic longings are deeply felt; but prolonged mourning like anything else does grow tedious. That is why Beckett is best in small doses, but we in Ballarat have not had many doses of Beckett. Will this full-length downpour leave you in a state of nihilistic depression, will it make you think, will it hurt you to philosophize with us for a little? Will man's parlous state on this spinning earth be recognized in the portrayal given to you at the National Theatre — will Lucky bring to mind the superb miming of Marceau. "Waiting for Godot" is Beckett's tomb — need it necessarily be ours? Have you found out?

presents

At The Little Theatre,
Camp Street

25th June - 2nd July

Waiting for Godot

By S. BECKETT

Producer: JOY SMITH

• SYNOPSIS OF SCENES •

ACT I :

A Country Road.
A Tree.
Time : Evening.

ACT II :

Next Day.
Same Time.
Same Place.

• CAST •

(In order of appearance)

ESTRAGON JOHN ROSS
VLADIMIR IAN BUERCKNER
LUCKY NORMAN ATHERSMITH
POZZO DAVID COOK
A BOY DENIS JOHANSEN

There will be one fifteen minute interval during which coffee will be served in the foyer at 10c.

Theatre members please note that the Tuesday night performance of each Play is concluded with supper in the foyer when Social Hostess, Brenda Dowling makes everyone welcome and introduces the Producer and Cast of play to members and theatre friends.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Stage Managers	CARMEL ALLEN, MARIA BACSAK
Set Design	PETER NETHERCOTE
Set Construction	PETER NETHERCOTE, HELEN NETHERCOTE
Make-up	MEMBERS OF CAST
Lighting	DOUG. McNISH, NEVILLE WARD
Sound arranged by	G. HASSÉTT, ALBERT DULFER
Properties	PETER DOOLEY
Curtain	RICHARD SMITH
Prompts	JAN. BUERCKNER, YVONNE TIPPETT
Publicity	DOUG. SARAH, JOY SMITH
Front of House	MARY MACLEOD AND HELPERS
Coffee Stall	MARJORIE DREW AND HELPERS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Gratefully acknowledge assistance given by:—

BALLARAT GRAMMAR SCHOOL }
 BALLARAT LIGHT OPERA COMPANY } LOAN OF LIGHTS

MARY MACLEOD

C.A.E., Mr. H. BAIGENT LOAN OF ELECTRONIC LIGHTING BOARD

GENERAL INFORMATION

CURTAIN: 8.15 p.m. each performance.

BOOKING: The Frank Ford Booking Centre, H.B.A. Arcade. Booking opens 10 days prior to first night. Telephone bookings should be collected before 7.45 p.m. at theatre.

GROUP BOOKINGS: Open a week before Public Bookings. Parties of 10 or more 80c per seat.

ADMISSION PRICES: Adults, \$1 all nights; Students, Members, Pensioners, 60c week nights. SATURDAYS— No concessions at all.

THEATRE MEMBERSHIP: Adult Subscription, \$2.50 p.a.; Students, \$1 p.a.; Family Subscription, \$4 p.a.

FOYER EXHIBITION

Copper Enamelling :

- WALL PLAQUES
 - CUFF LINKS
 - PENDANTS
 - JEWELLERY, ETC.
- Mr. LAWN

These articles are for sale. Enquire Box Office.

Craft :

MACRAME AND WEAVING — EXHIBITION ONLY

—Mrs. VAL. D'ANGRI

(Craft Teacher Ballarat Girls' High School)

THE BTV 6 BRUCE JACKSON MEMORIAL

'ACTORS' AWARD, 1971

ALL PLAYERS APPEARING IN

"WAITING FOR GODOT"

are eligible for Selection as Winners of this Annual Award which will be made to the TWO BEST ACTORS appearing on the stage of the Little Theatre during our 1971 Season of Plays.

A NEW VENTURE FOR THEATRE

To help Leaving H.S.C. Students in this area — wonderful co-operation and enthusiasm from all Schools in District.

READINGS FROM SET PLAYS WILL BE GIVEN BY :

High School	ANTIGONE: KING LEAR, Aug. 12, 13
Queen's C. of E. Grammar School	SUMMER OF SEVENTEENTH DOLL (Date not finalized)
Loreto Abbey, Mary's Mount	IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, Aug. 16
St. Martin's in the Pines	THE GOOD WOMAN OF SETZUAN, Aug. 16.
Ballarat Teachers' College	GLASS MENAGERIE, Aug. 13
Girls' High School	THE SHIFTING HEART, Aug. 13
Central Technical School	NED KELLY, Aug. 12
Clarendon College	UNCLE VANYA, Aug. 13
Ararat High School	ANTIGONE: THE FLAQUE, Aug. 16
East High School	(To be arranged)
Ballarat College	(To be arranged)

TEACHERS FROM VARIOUS SCHOOLS WILL ACT AS PANEL MEMBERS AND WILL BE PREPARED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. WE KNOW THIS WILL HAVE AN EXCELLENT SUPPORT. CHARGE 20c PER PERSON.

Four readings plus panel discussion each night. Public as well as students very welcome.

BALLARAT LIGHT OPERA COMPANY
"THE COUNT OF LUXEMBOURG"
31st JULY - 7th AUGUST, 1971
Delightful Music. Superb Settings.
Directed by: MAX BARTLETT

Are you a Financial Member of this Theatre? Join Now!

Enquire in Box Office.

Alex. King & Sons, Print., Ballarat.