

UQ Drama Presents



THE FIRE CAUGHT FIRE!

A Season of Absurdism

UQ Drama Presents

Nº52



The Bald Soprano

by Eugène Ionesco

Translated by Tina Howe

19TH & 20TH OF JUNE, 2020

ARRANGEMENT WITH ORiGiN™ THEATRICAL, ON BEHALF OF SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

The Bald Soprano

by Eugène Ionesco

translated by Tina Howe

<i>Mrs Smith</i>	Leah Mustard
<i>Mr Smith</i>	Oliver Osborne
<i>Mary</i>	Larrisa Lae
<i>Mrs Martin</i>	Rebecca Bray
<i>Mr Martin</i>	Jason Slack
<i>The Fire Captain</i>	Chad Terry
<i>Stage Manager</i>	Rose Foran
<i>Foley Artist</i>	Peter Carroll

Director	Douglas Taylor
Assistant Director	Chris Hay

Synopsis

The Smiths are normal, just as normal as can be. They live on the outskirts of London, and their name is Smith, after all. They've got a perfectly normal maid, and perfectly normal friends coming for dinner.

What more do you want? A story? Well if it's a story you want, that's what you're going to get. But how can you tell a story when words fail you? And what good is a story when the world is on fire...

The Bald Soprano runs for fifty-five minutes without an interval

UQ DRAMA PRESENTS

THE ARSONISTS



BY MAX FRISCH

translated by Alastair Beaton

19TH & 20TH JUNE 2020

THE ARSONISTS

by Max Frisch

translated by Alastair Beaton

<i>Doctor of Philosophy</i>	Tadhg Parker
<i>Biedermann</i>	Max Bickle / Joel Perry
<i>Chorus Leader</i>	Elton Jun
<i>Chorus One</i>	Joel Perry / Max Bickle
<i>Chorus Two</i>	Samuel Rees
	Bailey Seymour-Smith
<i>Anna</i>	Kiera Lee / Isabella Rix
<i>Schmitz</i>	Isabella Rix / Kiera Lee
<i>Babette</i>	Bella Schwarzeneker
<i>Eisenring</i>	Bailey Seymour-Smith
	Samuel Rees
<i>Policeman</i>	Douglas Taylor
<i>Widow Knetchling</i>	Jason Slack
Director	Chris Hay

Synopsis

Gottlieb and Babette Biedermann are good people – at least, that's what they tell themselves. Smart people, too: not the kind to allow strangers to move into their attic, bringing with them the unmistakable odour of petrol, especially while there are arsonists all over town. And yet here they are, welcoming in the very thing that will destroy them, sitting down to dinner just as the world catches fire...

The Arsonists runs for eighty-five minutes without an interval

Director's Note

We are presenting this double-bill in an identical form to the Old Tote Theatre Company, the legendary Australian company that emerged out of the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in the early 1960s, who presented these two plays as their second-ever production on 17 April 1963. This wasn't the introduction of Ionesco to Australia – that honour appears to rest with the Canberra Repertory Theatre's production of *The Bald Soprano* in 1960 – but the Old Tote's double-bill marked the arrival of the absurdism into mainstream Australian theatre.

In introducing this radical new form of theatre to an Australian audience in 1963, the director John Clark wrote “the Theatre of the Absurd is a new type of entertainment which sets out to communicate, in theatrical terms, the uncertainties and contradictions in modern society”. Given the uncertainties and contradictions that surround us today – even more numerous now than when we started rehearsing these plays in February – it feels an appropriate time to offer up this evening of absurdism for your unsettling entertainment.

These shows are taught as part of our coursework offerings in Drama at the University of Queensland, under the course code DRAM2200 Live Theatre Production. I would like to acknowledge here the critical support of Professor Bronwyn Lea and the School of Communication and Arts, which ensures that we can offer our students this experience of a full production on an annual basis as an integral part of their training in examining, experiencing, and creating theatre.

The students you see on stage tonight have put up with a lot – not least rehearsing online with no guarantee of performance! They have all gone above and beyond to pull these shows off, but I would like to specifically acknowledge Peter Carroll, Rose Foran, and Douglas Taylor, without whose contributions no performance could have happened at all. My colleagues Stu Cochrane and Paul Smith similarly contributed their enormous expertise, not to mention hours of their time, to realise this season technically in ways brand new to UQ Drama.

Production Crew

<i>Production Manager</i>	Peter Carroll
<i>Stage Manager</i>	Rose Foran
<i>Assistant Stage Manager</i>	Kiera Lee
<i>Set Designers</i>	Max Bickle Samuel Rees
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Larrisa Lae
<i>Costume Assistant</i>	Joel Perry
<i>Hair & Makeup</i>	Isabella Rix
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Leah Mustard
<i>Sound Designer</i>	Bailey Seymour-Smith
<i>Assistant Director</i>	Douglas Taylor
<i>Dramaturg</i>	Tadhg Parker
<i>Marketing Team</i>	Rebecca Bray Elton Jun Bella Schwarzenecker
<i>Live Streaming Crew</i>	Oliver Osborne Jason Slack Chad Terry

With Special Thanks To...

Olivia Brown, Weston Bruner, Stephen Carleton, Bernadette Cochrane, Tracy Davies, Robert Kidd & Macgregor Industries, Alex Kidman-Jones, Julia Mant, Underground Productions, and Jennifer Yared.



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

UQ Drama

School of Communication and Arts

UQ Drama encourages students to examine, experience, and create theatre in a program that offers one of the most comprehensive canonical curriculums in Australia. By studying theatre history, theory and practice at UQ, you will develop an understanding of the theatrical and literary aspects of drama, from ancient Greek classics and medieval theatre to the most recent plays from around the world.

You'll critique professional performances, review plays, compare the classics with contemporary scripts, and craft your career on a broad base of knowledge and experience. As you progress through your major, you'll also get to write, perform in, and direct plays for assessment.



1 in Queensland for arts and humanities

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85 in the world for arts and humanities

QS World University Rankings 2020

For further details, please contact:

School of Communication and Arts
communication-arts@uq.edu.au
communication-arts.uq.edu.au/contact