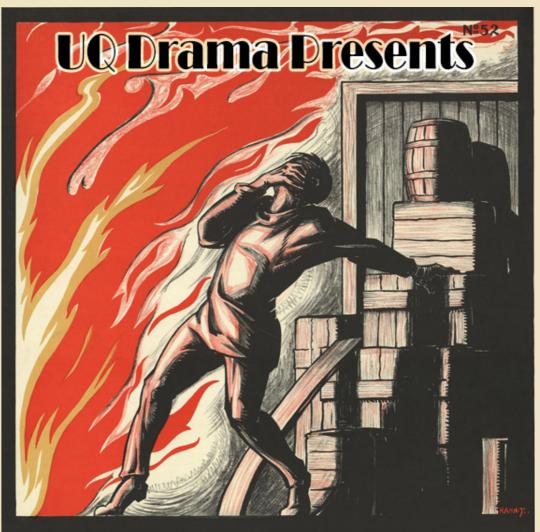


# THE FIRE CAUGHT FIRE!

A Season of Absurdism



## 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

Mrs Smith Leah Mustard

Mr Smith Oliver Osborne

Mary Larrisa Lae

Mrs Martin Rebecca Bray

*Mr Martin* Jason Slack

The Fire Captain Chad Terry

Stage Manager Rose Foran Foley Artist 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

**Doctor of Philosophy** Tadhg Parker

**Biedermann** Max Bickle / Joel Perry

Chorus Leader Elton Jun

Chorus One Joel Perry / Max Bickle

Chorus Two Samuel Rees

Bailey Seymour-Smith

Anna Kiera Lee / Isabella Rix

Schmitz Isabella Rix / Kiera Lee

Babette Bella Schwarzenecker

Eisenring Bailey Seymour-Smith

Samuel Rees

Policeman Douglas Taylor

Widow Knetchling 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**

Production Manager Peter Carroll

Stage Manager Rose Foran

Assistant Stage Manager Kiera Lee

Set Desingers Max Bickle

Samuel Rees

Costume Designer Larrisa Lae

Costume Assistant Joel Perry

Hair & Makeup Isabella Rix

Lighting Designer Leah Mustard

Sound Designer Bailey Seymour-Smith

Assistant Director Douglas Taylor

**Dramaturg** Tadhg Parker

*Marketing Team* Rebecca Bray

Elton Jun

Bella Schwarzenecker

Live Streaming Crew Oliver Osborne

Jason Slack Chad Terry

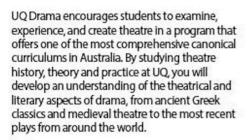
#### With Special Thanks To...

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



### **UQ** Drama

School of Communication and Arts



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

QS World University Rankings 2020



85 in the world for arts and humanities

QS World University Rankings 2020

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