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**THE GATE THEATRE OF DUBLIN BRINGS SAMUEL BECKETT'S
ENDGAME AND THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF *WATT*
TO ZELLERBACH PLAYHOUSE
THURSDAY–SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17–20**

Acclaimed Beckett interpreter Barry McGovern stars in *Endgame* and the one-man show *Watt*, created from Beckett's novel of the same name

BERKELEY, October 24, 2011— Ireland's **Gate Theatre of Dublin** returns to Berkeley **Thursday—Sunday, November 17–20** with two works by Pulitzer and Nobel Prize–winning Irish author and dramatist **Samuel Beckett** and starring renowned Irish actor and Beckett interpreter **Barry McGovern**: the play *Endgame*, and a staging of texts from the novel *Watt*. Both productions will appear on the Zellerbach Playhouse stage on a single bill on **Thursday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m.**; and independently *Endgame* will be performed by itself on **Friday and Saturday, November 18 and 19 at 8:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, November 20 at 3:00 p.m.**; *Watt* will be staged on **Saturday, November 19 at 2:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, November 20 at 8:00 p.m.** The Gate Theatre's production of *Watt*—which was originally written as a novel and adapted for the stage by McGovern, who stars in the one-man show—makes its West Coast premiere.

Endgame is the tragicomic tale of an aged and blind man named Hamm and his servant Clov; the two exist in a mutually dependent and fractious relationship, with only Hamm's parents—legless and living in garbage cans—for company. The one-act *Endgame* was published in 1957 and is, as its title suggests, the dramatic equivalent of a chess match. (Beckett played chess frequently and well.) The Gate's production, directed by **Alan Stanford**, was called "amusingly sad and achingly funny" by the *Irish Times*.

Beckett wrote the novel *Watt* while serving as an underground messenger for the French resistance during World War II. The absurdist black comedy follows a shabby, itinerant servant named Watt who wanders into the employ of Mr. Knott and proceeds to observe, and comment at length on, his employer and the workings of his house. This one man show is directed by **Tom**

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Creed. McGovern also wrote the music for the production. This production of *Watt* premiered on September 29, 2010 at Gate Theatre's BPM (Beckett Pinter Mamet) Festival and was hailed as "quite simply outstanding" (*Guardian*). Beckett's novel is sometimes described as semi-autobiographical and always regarded as hilarious.

GATE THEATRE OF DUBLIN

The **Gate Theatre of Dublin** was established as a theater company in 1928 to introduce Dublin audiences to the world of European and American theater and to the classics of modern and Irish repertoire. Noted actors including **Orson Welles, James Mason, and Michael Gambon** began their acting careers at the Gate, and other famed performers including **Ralph Fiennes, Barry McGovern, Liam Neeson, and Nick Dunning** have appeared in its productions. In its more than 80 years of operation the Gate has had just two artistic directors; the current director, **Michael Colgan**, took the post in 1983. In 1991 the Gate was the first theater in the world to stage all 19 plays of **Samuel Beckett**; the theater also played a central role in the 2006 Beckett Centenary Festival. In addition to performances in its landmark 250-year-old building—part of the historic Rotunda Hospital complex—the Gate's productions tour throughout Ireland and worldwide, including appearances at the Sydney Festival in Australia, the Lincoln Center Festival in New York, London's West End, the Edinburgh International Festival, on Broadway in New York and at Cal Performances in Berkeley.

BARRY MCGOVERN

Barry McGovern is recognized worldwide for his informed and knowledgeable portrayals in the works of **Samuel Beckett** and critically praised for diverse performances on the large and small screen. He starred with Johnny Murphy in Gate Theatre's acclaimed production of *Waiting For Godot* that played at Cal Performances in 2000 and 2006; the *San Francisco Chronicle* called that production "crystalline" and hailed "the performers do Beckett without a speck of varnish. They play the two famously stalled tramps as real people snared in a heartbreaking real world." McGovern, born in 1948, has given many readings of Beckett's prose and poetry, and recorded complete versions of Beckett's novels *Molloy*, *Malone Dies*, and *The Unnamable*. He has wide experience in stage, film, radio, and television: in addition roles in many Beckett plays, he has acted in dramas ranging from *Hamlet* to *Alice in Wonderland*. His

film work includes the acclaimed 2001 production of Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, directed by Michael Lindsay-Hogg. A composer, McGovern has written music for many shows, co-written two musicals, and directed plays and operas for several companies. He has also performed with the RTÉ Players and the Abbey Theatre Company.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Gate Theatre of Dublin** performing Samuel Beckett's *Endgame & Watt* (Texts from the novel selected by Barry McGovern) on **Thursday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m.** are priced at **\$80.00**. Performances of *Endgame* on **Friday and Saturday, November 18 and 19 at 8:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, November 20 at 3:00 p.m.** are priced at **\$65.00**. Performances of *Watt* (Texts from the novel selected by Barry McGovern) on **Saturday, November 19 at 2:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, November 20 at 8:00 p.m.** are priced at **\$65.00**. All performances are in Zellerbach Playhouse. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.org.

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior, and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced three hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20.00 for all other community members. Information is available on Cal Performances' Facebook page and at 510-642-9988; press 2 for the rush hotline, three hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation,
and Bank of America for their major support of the Season.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Thursday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Theater

Gate Theatre of Dublin
Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*
Samuel Beckett's *Watt*

Program: Ireland's Gate Theatre of Dublin returns to Berkeley with two works by Pulitzer and Nobel Prize-winning Samuel Beckett and starring renowned Irish actor and Beckett interpreter Barry McGovern: the play *Endgame*, and the staging of texts from the novel *Watt*.

Tickets: \$80.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

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Fri. & Sat., Nov. 18 & 19 at 8:00 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 20 at 3:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Theater

Gate Theatre of Dublin
Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*

Program: Ireland's Gate Theatre of Dublin returns to Berkeley with *Endgame*, a work by Pulitzer and Nobel Prize-winning Samuel Beckett and starring renowned Irish actor and Beckett interpreter Barry McGovern.

Tickets: \$65.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

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Saturday, November 19 at 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 20 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Theater

Gate Theatre of Dublin

Samuel Beckett's *Watt* (Texts from the novel selected by Barry McGovern)

Program: Ireland's Gate Theatre of Dublin returns to Berkeley with the West Coast premiere of *Watt*, a work by Pulitzer and Nobel Prize-winning Samuel Beckett and starring renowned Irish actor and Beckett interpreter Barry McGovern. The production is a staging of texts from the novel by the same name.

Tickets: \$65.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

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