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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS THE RETURN OF THE GATE THEATRE OF
DUBLIN IN SAMUEL BECKETT'S *WAITING FOR GODOT* NOVEMBER 1 – 5 IN
RODA THEATRE**

**SIGHTLINES: *WAITING FOR GODOT* POST-PERFORMANCE DISCUSSION WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2 IN RODA THEATER**

BERKELEY, September 26, 2006 – Celebrating the centenary of Samuel Beckett's birth, Ireland's esteemed Gate Theatre returns with encore performances of one of the greatest 20th-century dramas, *Waiting for Godot*, **Wednesday – Friday, November 1-3 at 8:00 p.m;** **Saturday, November 4 at 2:00 and 8:00 p.m;** and **Sunday, November 5 at 3:00 p.m.** at the Roda Theater in Berkeley. Cal Performances originally presented this production in fall 2000. Directed by **Walter Asmus** and once again starring **Barry McGovern** as Vladimir and **Johnny Murphy** as Estragon, this landmark production also features memorable scenic design and lighting by **Louis le Brocquy** and **Robert Murray**. Written originally in French (*En attendant Godot*; 1953), *Waiting for Godot* is today perhaps Samuel Beckett's most famous work. At the time of its American premiere in 1956, a *New York Times* critic described the play as “a mystery wrapped in an enigma.” Today, however, *Godot* is widely recognized as a powerful allegory of the human condition; a play charged with humor, pathos and ironic wit that makes Beckett an international favorite. “Definitive, not just in Irish but in global terms...the closest we will ever get to the perfect official *Godot*” (*The Irish Times*). The play is presented in association with Berkeley Repertory Theater A free *Sightlines* post-performance discussion will be held November 2 at Roda Theater.

THE GATE THEATRE

Dublin's **Gate Theatre** was founded in 1928 by **Hilton Edwards** and **Micheál MacLiammóir** offering Dublin audiences an introduction to the world of European and American avant-garde theater, as well as vibrant productions from the modern and classic Irish repertoire. During its seventy-year existence, the theater has had only two artistic directors, the

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founders and the current artistic director, **Michael Colgan**, who was appointed in 1983. For the past decade, the Gate has been inextricably linked to the work of Ireland's foremost theatrical writer of the 20th century, Nobel laureate **Samuel Beckett**. *Waiting for Godot* was first performed at the Gate Theatre in 1988 following a meeting between Colgan and Beckett, when he asked if the Gate would be interested in mounting a production, directed by **Walter D. Asmus**. Since then, the Gate production of *Godot* has toured extensively both at home and abroad, from Cork to Chicago and from Toronto to Tralee. Beckett, who died in 1989, is credited with creating some of the most challenging and controversial theatre of the modern era, blending an absurdist perspective with remarkable poetic texts that speak to the nature of existence and what it is to be human.

The theater's international reputation has been enhanced recently by ambitious productions and worldwide touring, notably the staging of all 19 of Beckett's plays at the Beckett Festival. The Festival premiered in Dublin in 1991, then traveled to the 1996 inaugural Lincoln Center Festival in New York and London's Barbican Centre in 1999. Also in 1999, Colgan formed Blue Angel Films, expressly to produce the Beckett Film Project. Each of Beckett's stage plays is being filmed, enlisting the participation of internationally renowned screen directors and actors.

Over the years the Gate Theatre has developed unique relationships with many playwrights including Beckett, Brian Friel, Conor McPherson and Harold Pinter. In October 2005, the Gate marked Harold Pinter's 75th birthday with a celebration of his work, producing *Old Times* and *Betrayal*, and, on the weekend of his birthday, the Pinter Landscape—a selection of plays, poetry and prose—which was later presented at the Albery Theatre London and was seen in Turin in March 2006 as part of the European Theatre Prize event.

THE ARTISTS

Waiting for Godot, first produced in Paris in 1953, features a cast of Beckett veterans, reuniting the original 1991 Dublin company. **Barry McGovern** (Vladimir) first appeared at the Gate Theatre as Lucky in *Waiting for Godot* in 1972. In 1982, he first played Vladimir and has

played it ever since. Other Beckett roles include Willie in *Happy Days* with Rosaleen Linehan (directed by the late Karel Reisz) and *Krapp's Last Tape* at the Samuel Beckett Theatre in Trinity College. On radio he has played Henry in *Embers*, Fox in *Rough for Radio II*, directed *All that Fall* and presented a documentary on Beckett and Paris. He has toured throughout the world with his award-winning one-man show *I'll Go On*, and his many film credits include *Billy Bathgate*, *Braveheart* and *The General*, among others. **Johnny Murphy** (Estragon) totes extensive Gate Theatre experience, but is probably most well known to American audiences as "The Lips" in Alan Parker's film *The Commitments*. He previously appeared in *Waiting for Godot* during the 1991 Beckett Festival at the Gate Theatre in Dublin, as well as during the 1996 Festival in the Lincoln Center, New York and BITE: 99 Festival at the Barbican Centre in London. He also appeared in *Ohio Impromptu* and *Catastrophe* as part of the Beckett Festivals.

Stephen Brennan (Lucky) began performing in 1976, working in the Abby Theatre, the National Theatre of Great Britain, and almost exclusively since 1988 at the Gate. Most recently, Brennan completed *A Piece of Monologue* and *Waiting for Godot* for the Beckett Film Project.. **Alan Stanford** (Pozzo) has performed and directed to critical acclaim at the Gate Theatre for the past 20 years, and notable film performances include Salieri in *Amadeus* and Valmont in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. **Dan Colley** (Boy) has appeared as the Boy in the Gate's production of *Waiting for Godot* in Toronto and London. The production is directed by **Walter Asmus**, who worked with Beckett on many occasions for the stage and for television, and served as Beckett's assistant director on the famous 1975 production of *Waiting for Godot* at the Schiller Theatre in Berlin. Scenic design is by distinguished visual artist **Louis le Brocquy**, and **Rupert Murray** has created the lighting design for this production.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for *Waiting for Godot* at Roda Theatre **Wednesday - Friday, November 1- 3 at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, November 4 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.; and Sunday, November 5 at 3:00 p.m., are \$65.00.** Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association

members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Thursday, November 2
SIGHTLINES

Roda Theater
2025 Addison St., Berkeley

A post-performance will be held on Thursday, November 2 at Roda Theater.

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Wednesday-Friday, November 1-3 at 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 4 at 2:00 & 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 5 at 3:00 p.m.

Roda Theater
2025 Addison St., Berkeley

Special Event/Theater

The Gate Theatre of Dublin
Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*
Walter D. Asmus, director

Program:

One of Europe's most progressive theaters, The Gate Theatre of Dublin brings Samuel Beckett's definitive work, *Waiting for Godot*, an existential tragicomedy that defies dramatic convention. Barry McGovern takes on the role of Vladimir. Johnny Murphy, who appeared in the Gate Theater's Beckett Festival at Lincoln Center in 1996 and starred in the hit film *The Commitments*, plays Estragon.

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