Fool's Gold: Ionesco and the Theater of the Absurd
July 28, 2001

8:30  Registration/Coffee and pastries (outside Pigott Theater)  
      Bald Soprano I

9:00  Welcome: Rush Rehm

9:05  Martin Esslin—“Why Ionesco Now?”

10:05 William Eddelman—“Absurd Design”

10:45 Bald Soprano II

11:00 Coffee Break (outside Pigott Theater)

11:20 Alice Rayner—“The Ghosts[s] in The Chairs”

12:00 Bald Soprano III

12:15 Lunch (the Left Bank of Memorial Auditorium)

1:45 Bald Soprano IV

2:00 Aleksandra Wolska—“Theater as the Absurd”

2:40 Geoff Hoyle—“The Commedia Roots of the Absurd”

3:10 Coffee Break (Left Bank, Memorial Auditorium)

3:30 Herbert Blau—“The Faith-based Initiative of the Theater of Absurd”

4:10 Jean-Marie Apostolides—Final Questions: Panel Discussion 
      with Martin Esslin, Herbert Blau, Alice Rayner, Geoff Hoyle, 
      Aleksandra Wolska

5:00 Bald Soprano  Finale

5:15 Break

8:00 The Chairs performance (Pigott Theater)
**Cast List for “The Bald Soprano”**

(in order of appearance)

| Margaret Allen | Mrs. Smith |
| Jeff Schwartz  | Mr. Smith  |
| Annie Abrams   | The Maid   |
| Melissa Mitchell | Mrs. Martin |
| Rush Rehm      | Mr. Martin |
| Jarek Truszcynski | The Fireman |

| Róisín O’Gorman | Director |
| Connie Strayer  | Costumes |
| Chad Bonaker    | Lighting |

**Speakers**

**Jean-Marie Apostolides** – William Bonsall Professor of French and Drama.

**Herbert Blau** – Byron W. And Alice L. Lockwood Professor of Humanities at the University of Washington; co-founder of the Actor’s Workshop of San Francisco and the Lincoln Center Repertory Theater in New York.

**William Eddelman** – Associate Professor of Design and Theater History.

**Martin Esslin** – Professor of Drama Emeritus; former head of Radio Drama, BBC; author of seminal works on the Absurd, Brecht, Beckett, Pinter, and others.

**Geoff Hoyle** – San Francisco actor, clown, and mime, has written and performed his solo shows *Feast of Fools, The Convict’s Return, and The First Hundred Years* in New York, San Francisco, London, and elsewhere.

**Alice Rayner** – Associate Professor of Drama.

**Rush Rehm** – Associate Professor of Classics and Drama, Founder of Stanford Summer Theater.

**Aleksandra Wolska** – Assistant Professor of Theater, University of Minnesota; directed the Stanford Summer Theater 2000 production of *Waiting for Godot*, and this year’s production of *The Chairs*. 