

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

In conjunction with Stanford Continuing Studies Program, SST will host a day-long symposium featuring Martin Esslin (author of the groundbreaking *Theater of the Absurd*), Herbert Blau (co-founder of the Actor's Workshop of San Francisco), members of the Stanford faculty, and a special performance of Ionesco's *The Bald Soprano* by members of SST. Info: call (650) 725-2650 or go to: [www.continuingstudies.stanford.edu](http://www.continuingstudies.stanford.edu)

About The Theater Discovery Institute

The Theater Discovery Institute (TDI) is an intensive three-week college-credit course open to high-school students, offered every summer and taught by members of the Stanford faculty and Stanford Summer Theater. This summer's Theater Discovery Institute faculty includes:

Rush Rehm  
Jarek Truszczyński  
Tom Freeland  
Tony Kramer  
Chad Bonaker  
Róisín O'Gorman  
Connie Strayer  
Annie Abrams

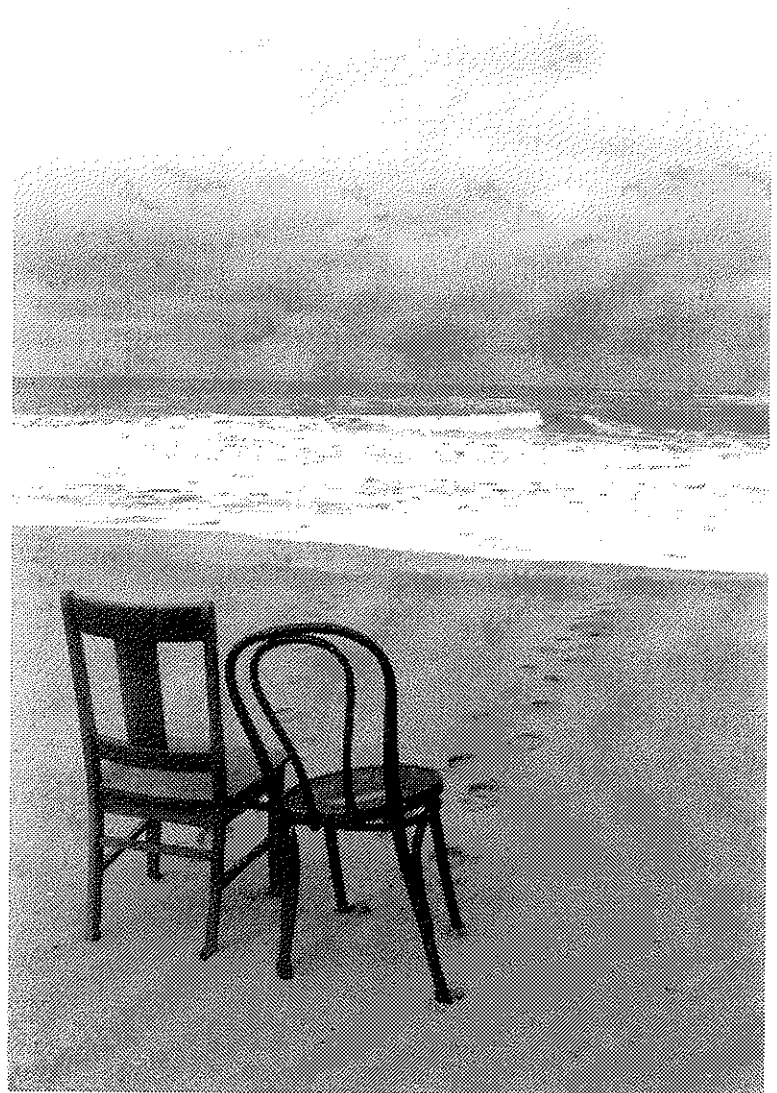
Information is available at our TDI website:  
<http://summerinstitutes.stanford.edu/theater.html>

After the performance of *The Chairs* on Saturday, August 11, audiences will be invited to stay and watch the work of SST's Theater Discovery Institute. Students taught by the members of Stanford Summer Theater will present an hour-long performance in Pigott Theater drawing on different strands of the Absurd.

Sunday, July 22 is a benefit for the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center.

Special thanks to: Margaret Allen, Rania Heghazi, Mark Guirguis, Connie Strayer, Chris Verducci, Corinne Barrows, Alice Louise Dickinson, Clarissa Chun, Lisa Mangan, Andrew Hinderaker, Palo Alto Fire Department, Laura Selznick and the Stanford Summer Research College, and our wonderful friends at Stanford Summer Session and Continuing Studies Program, including Charlie Junkerman, Carie Fasholz, Terry Shtob, Robin Wallace, Ingrid Hertel, Barbara Arroyo-Cabbab, and Lenor Urbain.

Stanford Summer Theater



The Chairs  
by  
Eugène Ionesco

# The Chairs

Directed by Aleksandra Wolska  
Produced by Rush Rehm

## The Cast

Geoff Hoyle\*  
Jarek Truszczyński  
Rush Rehm

Old Woman  
Old Man  
Orator

## Production

Stage Manager/Assistant Director  
Set Designer  
Costume Designer  
Costume Construction  
Wig Construction  
Lighting Designer  
Board Operator  
Assistant Stage Manager/House Manager  
Website Design  
Press and Publicity  
Poster Design  
  
SST Administrator  
Front of House

Róisín O’Gorman  
Jarek Truszczyński  
Connie Strayer  
Birgit Pfeffer  
Kerry Rider-Kuhn  
Chad Bonaker  
Joel Heinschel  
Annie Abrams  
Rania Heghazi  
Stephanie Greene  
Jarek Truszczyński,  
Mark Guirguis  
Ron Davies  
Jisha Menon,  
Gauri Gill

\*Appears through the courtesy of Actor’s Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

*The Chairs* by Eugène Ionesco, translated by Donald Allen, is presented by agreement with Samuel French, Inc.

*The Chairs* will be presented without Intermission.  
Please turn off all cell phones, beepers, etc.  
Photography and videotaping are prohibited.

A reception follows the preview performance, Wednesday, July 18, and the opening-night performance, Thursday, July 19, outside in front of Pigott Theater. Please join us.

# The Chairs

On an island in the provinces, an old married couple prepares for the culminating evening of their lives: an Orator will deliver their message to posterity. A horde of guests—both invited and unexpected—overwhelms the couple’s home, as society gathers to witness the revelation. Written in 1951, *The Chairs* is a classic example of the “theater of the absurd,” capturing the pretensions and poignancies of one of the theater’s most memorable duos.

## About the Cast

### Geoff Hoyle (Old Woman)

Hailed by the *SF Chronicle* as “one of the great performers,” Geoff has clowning with Cirque du Soleil and the Pickle Family Circus, written and performed acclaimed one-man shows (*The Convict’s Return*, *Feast of Fools*, and *The First 100 Years*), created the role of Zazu in *The Lion King* on Broadway, and starred in productions at ACT and Berkeley Rep. Most recently he appeared as Bottom in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at Seattle Rep. Geoff returns to SST after his memorable performance as Didi (opposite Truszczyński’s Gogo) in *Waiting for Godot*.

### Jarek Truszczyński (Old Man)

Director of Stanford Summer Theater and the Performance Workshop of Stanford’s Theater Discovery Institute, Jarek is a veteran performer with the Polish National Theater in Warsaw. He directed SST’s inaugural production of *Uncle Vanya*, starred as Bertolt Brecht in the Brecht/Weill *When the Shark Bites*, and as Gogo in *Waiting for Godot*.

### Rush Rehm (Orator)

Associate Professor of Drama and Classics and founder of Stanford Summer Theater, Rush appeared as Astrov in SST’s *Uncle Vanya* and Pozzo in *Waiting for Godot*. He directed Euripides’ *Suppliant Women* (Stanford Lively Arts/Folger Theater), *The Wanderings of Odysseus* (Mark Taper Forum/Getty Museum), and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (TheatreWorks).

### Aleksandra Wolska (Director)

Assistant Professor of Theater Arts at the University of Minnesota, Aleksandra recently staged Strindberg’s *Dream Play* in Minneapolis. Aleksandra also directed last summer’s production of *Waiting for Godot* and *When the Shark Bites* for SST’s Brecht Centennial.