

Stanford Summer Theater  
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Stanford Summer Theater Presents  
Ionesco's The Chairs

Announcing its fourth season, Stanford Summer Theater (SST) presents Eugène Ionesco's comic-absurdist masterpiece The Chairs, directed by Aleksandra Wolska, featuring Geoff Hoyle, Jarek Truszczyński, and Rush Rehm. Opening July 19, The Chairs runs four weeks at the refurbished Pigott Theater on the Stanford campus.

On an island in the provinces, an old married couple (Truszczyński and Hoyle) prepare for the evening of their lives: an Orator (Rehm) will deliver the Old Man's message to posterity. A horde of guests--both invited and unexpected--overwhelm the couple's home, as society gathers to hear the revelations of a lifetime. Joining physical humor and verbal wit, The Chairs captures the pretensions and poignancies of one of the theater's great couples.

With The Chairs, SST reunites the artists responsible for last summer's acclaimed Waiting for Godot. Director Aleksandra Wolska returns from Minneapolis, where she recently staged Strindberg's Dream Play. Earlier, Wolska developed SST's Brecht-Weill cabaret When the Shark Bites, which traveled to the Experimental Theater Festival in Shanghai, China, after its run in the Bay Area.

Geoff Hoyle (Old Woman) returns to SST after his memorable performance as Didi (opposite Truszczyński's Gogo) in SST's Godot. Hoyle is known for his marvelous one-man shows, his work with ACT, Berkeley Rep, the Pickle Family Circus, Cirque du Soleil, on Broadway (The Lion King), and in film (Altman's Popeye). Jarek Truszczyński (Old Man, and set designer), formerly of the Polish National Theater in Warsaw (and Brecht in SST's When the Shark Bites), brings to The Chairs a theatrical spontaneity rooted in East European tradition. The creative alchemy of Wolska, Hoyle, Truszczyński, and Rehm (last summer's Pozzo) promises to unfold The Chairs as a comic-absurdist tour de force.

The Chairs opens on Thursday July 19 (with reception) and runs through August 12. Performances are Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m., Sunday at 7:00 p.m., with a matinee scheduled Saturday August 11 at 2:00 p.m. The Chairs plays at Stanford's Pigott (formerly Little) Theater (a 190-seat charmer) next to Memorial Auditorium on the Stanford campus (lots of free parking).

For tickets (\$20, \$15) visit Stanford's Tresidder Box Office (650-725-ARTS), or order online by logging on to our SST website, [www.stanfordtheater.org](http://www.stanfordtheater.org). For additional information (press comps, photos, opening night reception, after-hour tickets, directions) call SST at 650-725-5838, or Rush Rehm directly at 650-723-0485.