



CONTINUING  
STUDIES  
PROGRAM

STANFORD  
UNIVERSITY

## 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 Truszczyński	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*.