



# HAVEL/ BECKETT

Theatres of Conscience



Embassy of the Czech Republic



Trinity College Dublin  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

Tonight's programme of theatre, music, poetry, and discussion marks thirty-five years since the fall of the Berlin Wall. The Department of Drama has been honoured to collaborate with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Ireland, with colleagues both within and beyond our department, and with many current and visiting students to bring these potent plays into lively dialogue with one another. In *Catastrophe* and *Mistake*, two of the twentieth century's most formidable theatre-poets call on us to witness human beings under duress, to attend to games of power, and to model strategies of resistance. Their resonance with today's events does not fade.

—Nicholas Johnson

### Acknowledgements:

Tonight's texts are performed by kind permission of the Estate of Samuel Beckett, as well as by the family of Václav Havel and DILIA Theatre, Literary, Audiovisual Agency.

A new version of Havel's *Mistake* was developed especially for this production, and the team owes a debt to the originally published translation by George Theiner, for *Index on Censorship* (1984) and Faber and Faber.

The artists wish to thank all staff at the Embassy of the Czech Republic, Ireland; Trinity Centre for Beckett Studies, especially Céline Thobois-Gupta; Marc Atkinson Borrull and all artists of the *Ethica* project, 2011-13; Czech School Dublin; Dublin Workwear Centre; Edward Beckett; Emily Johnson; students and staff of the Department of Drama and School of Creative Arts, especially Karen Edmonds.

Welcome address: H.E. Pavel Vošalík, Ambassador of the Czech Republic

Introduction: by Dr Jana Fischerova

*Catastrophe* by Samuel Beckett

*Chvála Bohu, že jsem sa narodil* (Traditional Moravian)

*Ruka / Co zde sním a co zde vypiju* (Two short poems by Ivan Wernisch and Karel Hynek Mácha, music by Mejla Hlavsa)

*Mistake* by Václav Havel, in a new translation by Jana Fischerova

*Go! Move! Shift!* (Ewan Mac Coll)

Award ceremony: Bill Shipsey, Medal of Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Decorated by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jan Marian

Reading of *Laudation* by Seamus Heaney on Václav Havel: Dan Monaghan

*The Parting Glass* (Traditional Irish, additional verse by Noel O'Brien)

### Chvála Bohu

*Thanks be to God*

Chvála Bohu, že jsem sa narodil,  
Že jsem svojich mladých roků užil  
Měl jsem v světě ty jedny jediné  
Odešly ně, nebudu mět jiné

Rozpomeň sa, ó človeče na to,  
Že nic nejsi, len popel a blato  
Keď ty prideš na sud Pánů Pána  
Nepomože ti výmluva žádná

Ke by nebe za peňáze bylo  
Málo by v něm chudáků pobylo  
Ale nebe za peňáze není  
Tam je chudák cíсарovi rovný

*Thanks be to God that I was born  
and enjoyed the flower of youth,  
the only youth I ever had,  
now it is lost and forever gone*

*Remember, O man, the words I say  
you are nothing but lowly ash and clay  
and when you face the Lord of Lords,  
there will be no excuse, no empty words*

*If Heaven could be bought for gold  
the poor would never be there found,  
but Heaven's grace, 'tis not for sale,  
there Emperor and pauper equals are.*



# CATASTROPHE

by Samuel Beckett

## Protagonist

Mark Gordon

## Assistant

Zoë Powell

## Director

Mats van Sluis

## Luke

Daniel Gorman



Scan the QR code to read cast biographies and further information on the performance.

## Ruka

*Hand*

Po stole poplolézá ruka  
Uskakuje stranou  
Obrací se na hřbet  
Má bílé břicho  
Napuchlé bílé měkké břicho  
Jejích pět nožek se škube  
Je po ní

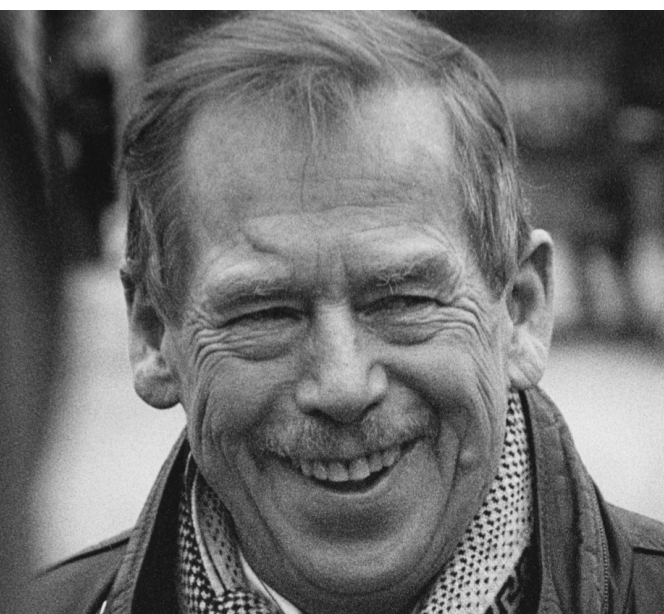
*A hand crawls on the tabletop  
It wriggles aside  
It turns on its back  
It has a white belly  
A swollen, soft, white belly  
Its five legs are jerking  
It's dead*

## Co zde sním a co zde vypiju

*What I eat and what I drink*

To, co zde sním a co zde vypiju,  
To jediné je, co v světě užiju.  
A co po smrti mé tady zůstane,  
Bůh nebo čert ví, kdo to dostane.

*What I eat and what I drink -  
The only things in this world I'll know  
And what is left after I die  
Only God, or the Devil, know where  
it'll go.*



# MISTAKE

by Václav Havel  
in a new translation by Jana Fischerova

## Xiboy

Mats van Sluis

## King

Mark Gordon

## First Prisoner

Daniel Gorman

## Second Prisoner

Zoë Powell



Scan the QR code to read cast biographies and further information on the performance.

# MUSICAL ENSEMBLE

## Pepa Janíček

(vocals, keyboard, piano)

## Katerina García

(vocals, shruti box)

## Jonathan Tennant

(bouzouki, harmony vocals)

## Aleš Bajgart

(vocals, bass guitar)

# CREATIVE TEAM

## co-directors

Nicholas Johnson &  
Mauricio Quevedo

## dramaturg & translator

Jana Fischerova

## production manager & scenography

Michael Canney

## producers

Tim Scott &  
Nicholas Johnson

## assistant producer

Zoë Powell

## stage manager

Rebecca King

## lighting design

Daniel Gorman

## costume design

Chang Cao

## sound design

Nicholas Johnson

## sound engineer

Aaron Sullivan

## AV design

George Hooker &  
Néill O'Dwyer

## run crew

Shannon Gillett &  
Chang Cao

## Go, Move, Shift!

Words and music Ewan McColl

Born in the middle of the afternoon  
On a horse drawn carriage on the old A5  
The big twelve wheelers shook my bed  
"You can't stay here" the policeman said  
"You'd better get born in someplace else"

*Chorus:*

So, move along, get along, move along, get along  
Go, move, shift

Born on a common by a building site  
Where the ground is rutted with the trailers' wheels  
The local people said to me  
"You lower the price of property  
You'd better get born in someplace else"  
[Chorus]

Born at potato picking time  
In a canvas tent near the tattie field  
The farmer says "Your work's all done  
It's time that you were moving on  
You'd better get born in someplace else"  
[Chorus]

Born at the back of a blackthorn hedge  
When the white hoar frost lay all around  
No eastern kings came bearing gifts  
Instead the order came to shift  
You'd better get born in someplace else  
[Chorus]

The eastern sky was hung with stars  
And one shone brighter than the rest  
The wise men came so stern and strict  
And brought the order to evict  
You'd better get born in someplace else  
[Chorus]

Wagon, tent or trailer born  
Last night, last year or in far off days  
Born here or a thousand miles away  
There's always men nearby who say  
"You'd better get born in someplace else"  
[Chorus]

## The Parting Glass (Trad.)

*Of all the money e'er I had,  
I spent it in good company,  
And all the harm that e'er I've done,  
Alas! it was to none but me.  
And all I've done for want of wit  
To mem'ry now I can't recall  
So fill to me the parting glass  
Good night and joy be with you all.*

*Oh, all the comrades e'er I had,  
They're sorry for my going away,  
And all the sweethearts that e'er I had,  
They'd beg me one more day to stay,  
But since it falls unto my lot,  
That I should rise and you should not,  
I will gently rise and I'll softly call,  
Good night and joy be with you all.*

*[Additional verse by Noel O'Brien:]*

*Of all the songs that e'er I've sung  
There is not one to me more dear,  
And this refrain I'll sing you now,  
Please gather round these words to hear.  
Let music be your one delight  
And in your hearts let peace remain,  
And keep the moment still and quiet,  
Farewell until we meet again.*

---

**Please join us in the foyer after the performance for refreshments.**

---

## TCD DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA

The Department of Drama Studies at Trinity College Dublin combines elements of literary, cultural, historical and sociological studies with a practical understanding of the various performing arts. The strong developmental emphasis of its courses requires a particular blend of both practical and academic skills. The aim is to explore the relationship between the theory and the practice of theatre, to discover how and why theatre works, and to advocate for human creativity. The Department of Drama at the Samuel Beckett Centre is ideally placed to study Irish theatre in an international and interdisciplinary context.

## THE SAMUEL BECKETT THEATRE

Named after one of the most innovative playwrights of the twentieth century, The Beckett Theatre was opened in 1993 to celebrate the quatercentenary of Trinity College Dublin. It is the campus theatre of the School of Creative Arts, as well as a key Dublin venue for showcasing both creative arts and performance-based research to a wider public. During university term time, it generally showcases the work of the School and its courses, while outside term time it hosts visits from some of the most prestigious dance, theatre, and music companies from Ireland and abroad.