



# THE DUMB WAITER

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By Harold Pinter

Adapted by Anny and the English Department of Bama University  
present

## THE DUMB WAITER

A Play by Harold Pinter



# Harold Pinter

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- born in 1930 in East London
- began his writing career in his teens
- studied acting



# Harold Pinter

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- opposed war
- began writing plays in 1957
- died in 2008

# 1957

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Some interesting facts:

- May 15<sup>th</sup> → Operation Grapple
- June 27<sup>th</sup> → link between tobacco smoking and lung cancer
- October 30<sup>th</sup> → government unveils plan to allow women to join the House of Lords

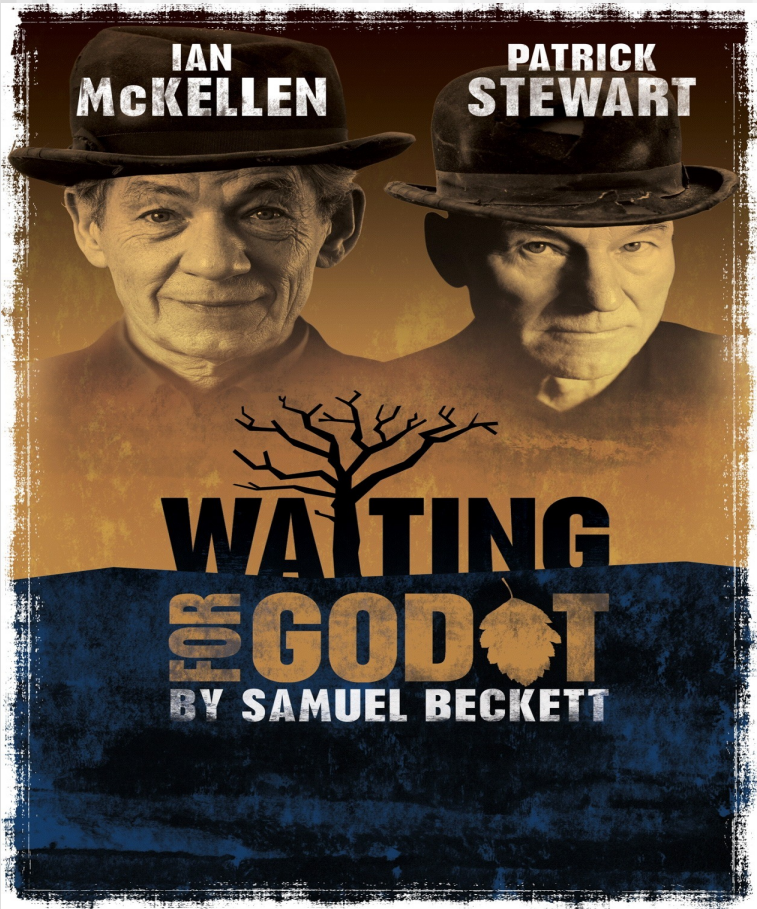
# Influences

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- Ernest Hemingway
- Franz Kafka
- Samuel Beckett

# Samuel Beckett



- *Waiting for Godot*
  - Silence
  - Important character never arrives
  - Time isn't known
  - Two men, one dominant and one submissive

# CHARACTER ANALYSIS

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## ■ GUS

- Submissive
- Childlike
- Connects with audience
- Imprisoned in routine

## ■ BEN

- Dominant
- Silent
- Violent
- Sees himself as fortunate





# WILSON

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- Unseen Authority figure
- God-like
- Sadistic?
- Paranoid, gives tests.





# SILENCE & VIOLENCE

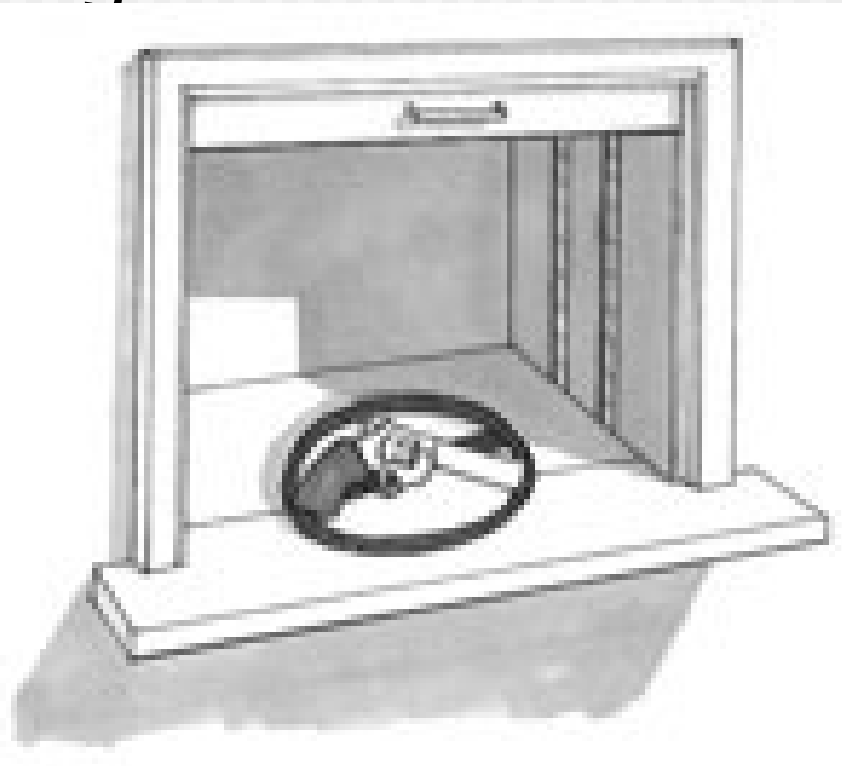
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- “Speech is a strategy designed to cover up the nakedness of silence.”-H.P
- Silence filled with anticipation of violence
- Gus<Ben<Wilson

# DUMB WAITER

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- Broken Communication
- Climbing social ladder



# SOCIAL CLASS

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- Ben is content with given circumstances
- Gus constantly questions the “boss.”
- Cricket vs. Soccer
- Working class vs. Upper class
- Dumb Waiter scene
- Gus < Ben < Wilson

# ACTING METHODS

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- Pinter as former actor
- Stanislavsky method
- Goals, objectives, and obstacles
- Making choices as opposed to playing emotions

# The Dumb Waiter

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- Animated adaptation

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yr5aCcJ7>